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THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

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Prayer, retreats and webinars for the New Year

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Pax Christi - Peace Sunday 2023

Peace Sunday – 15 January 2023

Theme of Pope Francis' World Peace Day:
"No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace."

Once again Pax Christi, the international Catholic movement for peace, has produced a variety of online and paper resources to celebrate the theme.

www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/events



Pray for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity falls from **18-25 January 2023**. The theme this year is Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice.

For this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we seek to explore how the work of Christian unity can contribute to the promotion of racial justice across all levels of society.

Through this resource, the CTBI writers' group has also focussed our attention on the 30th anniversary of the murder of Stephen Lawrence, which we mark in 2023. The work of restoring hope through justice undertaken in Stephen's memory continues to inspire and change lives for the better.

As we join with other Christians around the world for the Week of Prayer we pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as

individuals and communities to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone.

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#Pray24Brum at St Chad's and Online

Each year #Pray24Brum, organised by Birmingham Churches Together, takes place during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and provides an opportunity to celebrate unity across different Christian traditions.

This year's 24-hour prayer relay theme is 'Do Good, Seek Justice' and it will run from 8am to 10pm on Friday 20 and 8am to the 4.30pm Mass on Saturday 21, with each hour of prayer led by a different person/group.

This year #Pray24Brum takes place on **Friday 20 and Saturday 21 January** at St Chad's Cathedral and online.

All are welcome to any hour of prayer they can make.

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Synodality Training Course

For all people of God, this course consists of four stages: three academic modules and a residential meeting.

Register for the course by **Sunday 15 January**.

This course deals with topics related to the synodal process:

What is synodality?

Is it in line with what is expressed in the Magisterium of the Church and Canon Law?

How is it possible to live it in the Church?

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Supporting our brothers and sisters affected by imprisonment: Online Workshop

Pact (Prison Advice & Care Trust) invites you to join them at an online JustPeople Workshop taking place on **Saturday 21 January, 9.00am – 1pm**.

Discern the Lord's call to social justice as we join together to promote the Common Good in our communities, reflecting upon Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching through the lens of people affected by imprisonment. A participant pack will be posted out ahead of the event.

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SYCAMORE

Sycamore 'To Retreat or Not'

Thursday 26 January 7- 8pm online.

This webinar talks about a typical retreat format, including how to lead prayer, but we also discuss alternative approaches for people who don't have the flexibility to run it in a traditional format.

If you've not used this resource before, Sycamore is an informal course about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today. It gives you space to meet other people, share ideas, explore your beliefs, and think about questions that really matter.

www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/events



'Sharing the Church's Story' Conference

Catholic Voices and Word on Fire are hosting a one-day conference called 'Sharing the Church's Story'.

Saturday 11 February 10am - 5pm Westminster

Come and join 1300 Catholics who are passionate about the renewal of the Church in the UK and a host of dynamic speakers including the internationally renowned speaker and author, BISHOP ROBERT BARRON.

So whether you are a volunteer, parent, catechist, clergy, religious, or just want a boost for your faith life, then this conference is for YOU.

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Plan Your Big Lent Walk

Lent begins on **22 February** and attention is turning to Lenten plans and commitments. Across the country, schools, parishes, groups, and individuals are lacing up their walking shoes to walk in faith and solidarity, with CAFOD's Big Lent Walk.

It's an event for a school, a parish, or a group of friends to plan now to walk together. Or simply, a chance to commit to some timeout and quiet reflection along the way.

Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends, have fun or take time to pray and reflect. As a Lent commitment, it's an inspiring way to actively commit to bringing our faith physically into every day of Lent, and support people as they overcome poverty.

www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news

Meet the Office for Mission

Maybe you are looking for some inspiration to help you to share the Good News? Perhaps you seek ideas or programmes for your parish?



The Archdiocese's Office for Mission is here to support you. Find out more about the team and their work on our vocations webpage.

www.vocations.org.uk/office-for-mission



Marriage Encounter and Preparation Courses 2023

Marriage Encounter is a national Catholic organisation that offers two experiences to enriches relationships, improves family relationships and brings God to the heart of your marriage and families.

Their experiences are available in two formats as a live experience help at hotels or online.

The next experiences are:

Marriage Enrichment: Marriage Encounter

- 3-5 March 2023 Swindon
- 13-14 May 2023 Online

Marriage Preparation - Engaged Encounter

- 11-12 February 2023 Sudbury
- 11-12 March 2023 Online
- 22 and 29 April 2023 Online

www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/marriage



Westminster Cathedral Charity Concert

Banish the winter blues!

Join Friends of the Holy Land for an unforgettable evening of uplifting music on **Thursday 16 February** to raise your spirits for the year ahead whilst at the same time raising much needed funds for the most in need of our brothers and sisters.

Featuring the London Welsh Male Voice Choir supported by The Priests in Westminster Cathedral, London, tickets start from £20.

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Supporting your parish

You have asked us how you can continue giving to your parish.

Parishes still greatly need your support.

We do though recognise that many parishioners may be struggling financially, and there is no expectation to give where you are unable to do so.