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THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

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## Rejoice! Two new priests for the Archdiocese



### Prayerful congratulations to Frs Steven Fleming and Toby Duckworth

Steven Fleming and Toby Duckworth were ordained to the Sacred Priesthood by Archbishop Bernard Longley on Saturday 23 July.

Surrounded by family and friends the ordination service took place at St Chad's Cathedral.

During the ordination rite, the candidates promised 'to celebrate the mysteries of Christ, faithfully and religiously... for the glory of God and the sanctification of Christ's people'.

[Ordination Service](#)



### Vocations and Mission in the Archdiocese

Supporting the *Diocesan Vision* and building on the outcomes of the Synodal journey are key priorities for the new team working from the Vocations Office.

The new-look Vocations Team is based at the Vocations Office in the grounds of St Mary's College, Oscott.

They are: Fr Craig Szmids, Deacon Owen Gresty, Natalie Orefice, Paul Northam and Kathryn Bayliss.

[Meet the Team](#)

**Welcome to the Commonwealth Games**



The Games are launched tonight (Thurs) with an opening ceremony and will run across our region until Monday 8 August.

Events will be taking place across Birmingham and the West Midlands, in Warwickshire and south Staffordshire.

A Service of Praise was held at St Chad's Cathedral on Sunday (24 July) and saw the churches of Birmingham welcoming the Games.

Please be mindful of a potential increase in visitors to your parish community and attending Mass over the next few weeks. Please do extend the hand of friendship.

We pray for the success of the Games, the safety of all involved and an increase in society of the friendship that the Games represent.

### Catholic churches within the vicinity of Commonwealth Games venues



## SVP Festival Mass and Gathering

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) members across the Archdiocese are invited to St Chad's Cathedral on Saturday 24 September.

The SVP Birmingham Central Council, in conjunction with Archbishop Bernard Longley and Mgr Timothy Menezes, Dean of the cathedral, has organised a Festival Mass and Gathering.

Elaine Heyworth, incoming National President, will also talk about her SVP journey and take part in a question-and-answer session.

### SVP celebration



## Bishops present Reflection on the Synodal National Synthesis

'Seeking Our Hearts' Desire' is a Reflection from the Bishops of England and Wales following the compilation of the Synodal National Synthesis document.

The National Synthesis document will now go forward, together with the reflection, to form part of the European continental synodal phase.

Both documents are now available to read.

### Latest Synod news

## Aid to the Church in Need Pilgrimage, Hednesford

On Sunday 14 August all are invited to join us at the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Hednesford, for Mass at 3pm where we will be praying for our



persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world.

After the Mass we will have refreshments, followed by a presentation given by Dr Caroline Hull, the National Director of the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need.

Dr Hull will share with us the experiences and situations of those the charity supports. There will be an opportunity for discussion, questions and answers.

Join the Pilgrimage this August



## The Samaritan Woman - new Episode of Women in Scripture Podcast

This week a new episode of the Women in Scripture podcast has been released. In this episode, evangelist Alex Parker speaks to Natalie Orefice about the Samaritan woman at the well.

Find all episodes on the podcast's page.

Podcasts: Women in Scripture



## For Catholics in Health and Social Care: New Resources from the Anscombe Bioethics Centre

The Anscombe Bioethics Centre is an organisation which does research on behalf of our Bishops and education for the Catholic community on moral matters in medicine.

They have a new website which has resources which will benefit parishioners who are doctors, nurses or others who work or study in fields related to health and social care.

You can access and benefit from their work through their website and social media.

You can also [sign up to their monthly digest](#) for the latest news, events and accessible briefings on moral matters in medicine.

Anscombe Bioethics Centre



## Memoirs of a Platinum Jubilarian

In our latest blog, Sister Lucy, Kidlington Oxford, shares some reflections of her journey in the service of our Lord.

"I feel very grateful that in my latter years I had the great blessing of serving in this parish. I have seen so much good will, such collaboration between groups, a deep faith and love for the Church.

"This experience has left me feeling profoundly blessed and enriched."

## Memoirs of a Platinum Jubilarian

### Dates for your diary: the month ahead

Fri 29 July: [Carmelite Friars- Encounter Festival](#)

Mon 1 - Fri 5 Aug: [New Dawn in the Church Conference](#)

Wed 3 - Sat 6 Aug: [Society of St Gregory Summer School](#)

Thu 4 - Sun 7 Aug: [Catholicism & Contemporary Culture](#)

Sun 14 Aug: [Aid to the Church in Need Assumption Pilgrimage](#)

Fri 19 Aug: ['Encounter' Weekend- Summer Residential Conference](#)

Fri 26 - Mon 29 Aug: [Youth 2000 Sumer Festival](#)

Fri 26 - Mon 29 Aug: [Summer Course: The Search for Happiness](#)

Sun 4 Sep: [Harvington Pilgrimage](#)

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### More Events



### 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.

You can donate via standing order or single donation.

### Support your Parish



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### Please follow us online

If you are on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram please follow the Archdiocese of Birmingham online.

Our accounts are being used more than ever before to share news, events and information.

[Twitter/](#) [Facebook/](#) [Instagram/](#) [Web/YouTube](#)

We hope you are finding this e-newsletter useful. **Please share with anyone you think will benefit, and encourage them to subscribe via the website.**

If you have any news, events or information you'd like to share this way please email it to [communications@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:communications@rcaob.org.uk) marked 'For Newsletter'.

It's great to see information coming into us which we can share with others, please keep it coming!

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