

6. **VOCATIONS WEEKEND  
FOR WOMEN (20S & 30S)**

**Theme:**

**DISCERNING GOD'S CALL  
IN YOUR LIFE**

**Dates: 16-18 February 2024**

**Location: Liverpool**

The weekend is organised by the Sisters: **Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ)**.

**Jesus invites each of us to  
'COME AND SEE'**

**- this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you.**

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.

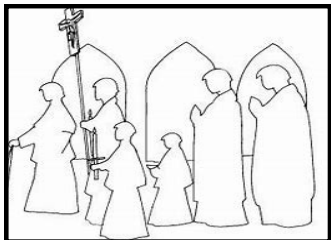
**For more information  
contact Sr Lynne fcj at:**

[fcjvocationerope@gmail.com](mailto:fcjvocationerope@gmail.com)

**or visit our website:**

[www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org)

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**ALTAR SERVERS:  
THE GUILD OF ST STEPHEN**

*At the beginning of  
King Charles the Third's  
Coronation he was welcomed  
by a Boy Chorister:*

*"Your Majesty,  
as children of  
the Kingdom of God  
we welcome you  
in the Name of the King of kings."  
To which he replied:*

*" In His Name, and,  
after His example*

*I COME NOT  
TO BE SERVED  
BUT TO SERVE."*

*"CUI SERVIRE  
EST REGNARE"  
- TO SERVE  
IS TO REIGN!*

*Also: TO REIGN  
IS TO SERVE!*



*Those who serve at the Altar of  
God and in His Sanctuary  
in His Church are like the  
Boy Samuel called and chosen by  
God to listen to and  
serve God Himself  
and to speak to  
and to serve God's people.*

*Samuel's learned response to the  
Voice of God was:*

*"SPEAK, LORD,*

*YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING,"  
which also means:*

*"HERE I AM, LORD!*

*I COME,*

*TO DO YOUR WILL."*

*It is a great privilege to assist at  
Holy Mass, Adoration, and Benedic-  
tion so close to Our Eucharistic Lord  
as an Altar Server - COME AND SEE!*

3.

**DATES FOR  
YOUR DIARIES AND CALENDARS:**

**A WEEK OF PRAYER FOR  
CHRISTIAN UNITY:**

**Thursdays: 18th-25th January 2024**



**CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE at  
St. Mary of the Crays at 6pm  
Sunday 21st January 2024.**

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**A DAY WITH MARY**

**At St Anselm's,  
West Hill, Dartford, DA1  
Saturday 27th January 2024  
A Day of Instruction,  
Devotion, and Intercession  
based on the Message  
given at Fatima 1917**



**+ J. M. J. +  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph.  
The Second Sunday  
in Ordinary Time B  
14th January 2024**

*In "Old Epiphany-Tide"*

**20 + C + M + B + 24**

*Remember your Baptism and your noble &  
yet humble dignity in Christ with the gifts of*

**GOLD,  
for the King of kings;**

**FRANKINCENSE,  
for priests to burn to the honour,  
glory, and worship of  
Almighty God;**

**MYRRH,  
for the healing of mortal bodies  
and embalming them in death.**

**In your Baptism, YOU were  
"CHRIST-ened" in JESUS CHRIST:**

**ANOINTED with  
the OIL OF CHRISM and gifted**

**as ROYAL:  
you became a member of King  
David's Royal Family and  
a sibling of JESUS CHRIST;**

**as PRIEST:  
consecrated and set apart  
to offer daily worship and  
Prayer to Almighty God  
and intercede for His people;**

**and as PROPHET:  
to give witness to GOD and  
to proclaim JESUS CHRIST:  
THE WORD-MADE-FLESH  
THE GOOD NEWS,  
THE GOSPEL OF GOD!**

**4 A SHORTER BLESSING OF HOMES –  
EPIPHANY A. D. 2024**

*The Mother of the household lights a / the  
candle and says:*

May the light of Christ  
shine in our home and in our hearts

*Leader:* In the Name of the Father, and of the  
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *ALL:* **AMEN.**

*Leader:* Blessed be the Name of the Lord.  
*ALL:* **NOW AND FOREVER.**

**READING OF THE WORD OF GOD:**

*Reader:* Brothers and sisters, let us listen to  
the words of the holy Gospel according to  
Luke: (Luke 19:1-9)

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through  
the town when a man whose name was Zac-  
chaeus made his appearance; he was one of  
the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man.  
He was anxious to see what kind of man Je-  
sus was, but he was too short and could not  
see Him for the crowd; so he ran ahead and  
climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of  
Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus  
reached the spot, He looked up and spoke to  
him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because  
I must stay at your house today.' And he hur-  
ried down and welcomed Him joyfully. They  
all complained when they saw what was hap-  
pening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's  
house,' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his  
ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am  
going to give half my property to the poor,  
and if I have cheated anybody, I will pay him  
back four times the amount.' And Jesus said  
to him, 'Today salvation has come to this  
house, because this man too is a son of Abra-  
ham.

*Reader:* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*ALL:* **PRAISE TO YOU,  
LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

**PRAYER OF BLESSING:**

*Leader:* Lord God of heaven and earth,  
You revealed Your only-begotten Son  
to every nation by the guidance of a star.

Bless this house and all who live here.  
Fill them with the Light of Christ, that their  
concern for others may reflect Your love.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*ALL:* **AMEN.**

The home and all present in it may  
be sprinkled with **HOLY WATER**  
**from the Baptismal Font on the**  
**left of the Sanctuary in St Mary**  
**of the Crays' Church.**

*During the sprinkling*  
*the minister / leader may say:*  
*Leader:* Let this water call to  
mind our baptism into Christ,  
Who by His death and resurrect-  
-tion has redeemed us.

**CONCLUSION:**

*Leader:* May Christ live with us,  
keep us free from all harm,  
and make us one in mind  
and heart, now and forever.

*ALL:* AMEN

*Epiphany-tide is a time for blessing homes  
and other buildings by marking the lintels of  
the doorways with blessed chalk. The tradi-  
tional marking commemorates the three  
Magi (traditionally named:*

**Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar)**  
*and gives the calendar year already recently  
begun. The markings for this year are:*

**“20 + C + M + B + 24”**

*(the three initials of the magi's names be-  
tween the number of the year, separated by  
four crosses). The letters could also stand for  
a Latin blessing:*

*a Latin blessing:*  
**CHRISTUS, MANSIONEM BENDICAT.**  
*in English:*  
**MAY CHRIST BLESS THE HOUSE.**

**“20 + C + M + B + 24”**

**5. PEACE SUNDAY 2024**

When I wrote to promote Peace Sunday  
2023, I said that 2022 had been a year of war  
and rumours of war. As we approach the end  
of 2023, the last twelve months have been no  
different. The war between Russia and  
Ukraine continues, as do conflicts around the  
globe. As I write this, the conflict in Palestine  
and Israel has erupted once more into terri-  
ble violence and suffering with thousands  
dying, injured and displaced.

Advocating for a just peace in Palestine and  
Israel is a part of the ongoing work of **Pax  
Christi**, alongside building a culture of non-  
violence, campaigning against war, nuclear  
weapons and the arms trade. Supporting its  
members and the Church, **Pax Christi** pro-  
duces resources on peace and nonviolence  
issues, organises events and vigils, represents  
the Catholic church in the peace movement  
and works with young people in both schools  
and churches.

Each year **Pax Christi** makes resources  
available for churches and groups to mark  
Peace Sunday which, **in 2024, will take  
place on Sunday 14th January.** With this  
letter you will find some of the resources that  
have been produced for 2024 which I hope  
you will be able to use as you plan for Mass  
that Sunday.

The theme for Peace Sunday is Pope Francis'  
theme for the World Day of Peace -  
**'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'**. I am  
sure you will agree that it is a highly relevant  
theme as Governments across the world, in-  
cluding our own, wrestle with the ethics and  
consequences of significant and potentially  
dangerous developments in technology. Pope  
Francis' overriding concern is that artificial  
intelligence should be used in the service of  
humanity and the protection of our common  
home and not to further injustice and ine-  
quality or to fuel division and violent conflict.

Finally, Peace Sunday is an important oppor-  
tunity for **Pax Christi** to raise funds. Our  
small team of staff and volunteers are highly  
dedicated and work hard to support and en-  
courage us all in working for peace. I greatly  
appreciate the support our parish communi-  
ties give through collections and donations

and would ask that you take this opportunity  
to support us this year.

With every blessing,

+ *Malcolm McMahon OP*

Most Rev Malcolm McMahon OP  
National President of Pax Christi  
England and Wales

**INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY**

“The Bishops of England and  
Wales invite us to make today a day of  
prayer for world peace, using the theme  
proposed by Pope Francis: **'Artificial  
Intelligence & Peace'**. It might seem a  
strangely technical, rather abstract title,  
of limited interest except to experts. But  
new technologies are developing so  
quickly that we need to think about their  
consequences for our freedom, peace and  
security. Who is gaining power through  
AI – and who is being disempowered?  
We also need to think of the risk of Arti-  
ficial Intelligence, which will only have  
as much soul and ethical vision as those  
who programme it, calling the shots on  
the battlefield, deciding who lives and  
who dies – and possibly one day even  
triggering wars automatically.

Today's Scriptures put us in touch  
with what makes us most fully human,  
what distinguishes us from machines –  
identity, belonging and calling. God calls  
Samuel by name and he has to learn how  
to reply. Our individual uniqueness al-  
ways belongs within a larger identity,  
that of the Body of Christ (as St Paul re-  
minds us). And to each of us, Jesus ex-  
tends the invitation **'Come and see'**.  
Let us ask him to guide us through the  
**'Brave New World'** which we have  
created and **to forgive us for the ways in  
which we fail to live out our calling.**”

**Other resources from PAX CHRISTI on  
the Peace Sunday page of our website  
here:**

[https://paxchristi.org.uk/  
peace-sunday/](https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday/)