ST JOHN BOSCO COLLEGE ISSUE 111/16 November 2026

IN TOUCH



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

This week's edition of In Touch has a reflective tone as we look back on our recent Remembrance events. It was especially moving to see former pupils, current students and members of our wider community come together for our Annual Remembrance Sunday Mass, and for the school to mark the 11 November with prayer and reflection. These moments remind us of the importance of gratitude, peace and learning from the past.

There is also much to look forward to in the weeks ahead. Our students continue to benefit from a wide range of opportunities, including the recent Year 10 RE visit to the National Gallery, while this Friday sees our Big Sleepout and next week our KS4 Music Showcase.

As we begin to look ahead towards Christmas, I would particularly like to invite all our families to join us for our Festival of Lessons and Carols at Sacred Heart Church, Trott Street, on Wednesday 16 December at 5.30pm. This is always one of the most special evenings in our school calendar: a chance for students, families, staff and friends of the school to come together, enjoy traditional and contemporary Christmas music, and share in the joy and hope of the season. Whether you join us every year or have never attended before, you will be very warmly welcome, and I hope we can fill the church with members of our Bosco community. Refreshments will be served afterwards, providing another opportunity to spend time together before the Christmas break.

Finally, this edition includes a reminder about our wide range of extracurricular clubs. I would encourage parents, particularly of younger students, to talk to their children about what is available and support them in getting involved in at least one activity beyond the classroom.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."
John 15:13

As we reflect on Remembrance Day and continue through this month of remembrance, let us take a moment to honour those who gave their lives in the service of others and remember all those affected by conflict and war. Their courage, sacrifice and selflessness remind us of the importance of peace, compassion and unity in our world today. Let us also remember that remembrance is not only about looking back, but about learning from the past and shaping a better future. May we carry forward a spirit of gratitude, kindness and understanding, striving each day to build a community where respect, hope and peace guide our words and actions.



KEY DATES

- **Friday 20 November** - The Big Sleepout! (Until Saturday 21 November)
- **Tuesday 24 November** - KS4 Music Showcase (5pm-6pm)
- **Thursday 26 November** - Staff INSET - school closed for students

sjbc_battersea | St John Bosco College | @SJBC_London | @SJBCWandsworth | St John Bosco College

SJBC REMEMBRANCE DAY MASS

On Sunday 8th November, the old met the new as SJBC came together to commemorate its Annual Remembrance Day.

Our Old Boys, current students and friends gathered to honour the memory of our fallen heroes, keeping their legacy alive with hope, unity and joy.

Through Holy Mass, we remembered and prayed for the brave men and women who gave their lives for the freedom we enjoy today.





At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

Lest we forget.









LEST WE FORGET

On 11 November, our school community, SJBC, joined the rest of the world in remembering those who gave their lives for the freedom we enjoy today.



It was a day marked by gentle rain and cold weather, creating a solemn atmosphere that reminded us, in some small way, of the harsh conditions in which these brave men and women fought – through snow, sunshine, rain and storms.



As we remember their courage, sacrifice and selflessness, we pray that their labour and dreams will continue to inspire generations and bring lasting peace to our country and the world at large.

May we never take our freedom for granted.

We will remember them.
Lest we forget.







THE PASCHAL MYSTERY CHALLENGE - YEAR 10 RE TRIP TO NATIONAL GALLERY

Seventeen Year 10 students visited the National Gallery in the middle of November for The Paschal Mystery Challenge.



It is a topic that comes up regularly on the GCSE paper so a good understanding of it is vital. The challenge at the National Gallery helped students to visualise the last week of the life of Jesus and His post resurrection appearances as well as familiarising themselves with the order of events of the Paschal Mystery.

Students were encouraged to reflect on how the pictures made them feel, so that the exercise was not a pure academic exercise.





The Year 10s entered enthusiastically into the spirit of the challenge, which was very encouraging to see. We even managed a brief visit to the beautiful Brompton Oratory on the way back to school.





SUCCESSFUL PARENT WORKSHOP ON HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

We were delighted with the success of our recent Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) workshop for parents of students attending our Savio and Devereux bases.

The workshop, 'Supporting Your Child to Develop Positive, Healthy and Safe Relationships', focused on helping parents understand the additional challenges autistic young people may face when navigating relationships and adolescence.

Parents explored practical tools and strategies to support their children, including how to approach conversations about friendships, relationships, puberty and sex with confidence and sensitivity.





It was wonderful to see such positive engagement from all parents who attended. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the workshop such a valuable and supportive experience. Working together with families is essential in helping our young people develop safe, healthy and positive relationships.

RED WEDNESDAY



ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO GET INVOLVED – SCHOOL CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES



We have a fantastic range of extracurricular clubs running at St John Bosco College, and we would really encourage all parents and carers to support their children in getting involved.

From Model UN, Journalism and Media Club, Cooking Club and Sparks to Maths Club and Maths Pathway Society, there are plenty of opportunities for students to explore new interests and discover hidden talents.



Taking part in clubs offers so much more than simply learning something new. It helps young people build confidence, make friendships, develop independence and strengthen important life skills, including teamwork, leadership, communication and problem-solving. These experiences can also strengthen future applications for sixth form, university, apprenticeships and employment.

We know that some young people may feel hesitant about trying something unfamiliar, so please encourage your child to give at least one club a go next half-term. Sometimes the activities we least expect to enjoy turn out to be the most rewarding!

The full clubs timetable is available to students on Teams, and Mr Hay, **hhay@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk**, can provide further information.

Thank you for helping us encourage students to make the most of the opportunities available to them beyond the classroom.

Autumn 2 Term Extra Curricular Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Pop-rock Band – Mr Carli – 3.10	Art – Ms Duah – Lunch - Savio	Choir – Mr Berner – Form Time	Access Oxbridge – Ms. Coppinger – Break / Form Time In	Choir – Mr Berner – Form Time
Girls Basketball – Coach Ife – Sports Hall	Choir – Mr. Berner – Form Time	Literature and Arts Club – Ms Mlejkovic – 1.30	Choir – Mr Berner – Form Time	Dungeons and Dragons – Ms Donaldson – 0.18
Yr 7 - 8 Football – Mr Rowland + Mr Sia – MUGA	U14 Boys Basketball – Coach Ife – Sport Hall	Jazz Band – Mr Berner – Music Practice Room	Cooking Club – Ms Maddix – Food Tech Room	Debate Mate – Ms. Hallmark – Board Room
Homework Club – St Francis	Yr 9 - 10 Football – Simani, Wood, Philips – MUGA	Open Basketball – Coach Ife – MUGA	Girls Football – Ms Louis – MUGA	SEED Club – Mr Hay – 1.29
	Homework Club – St Francis	Robotics Club – Mr Smith – 1.10	U16 Basketball – Coach Ife – Sports Hall	Badminton – Mr Khendebettu – Sports Hall
		Touch Typing – Mrs Wojciechowska – 8:00am Library	Homework Club – St. Francis	
			Maths Past Paper Society – Ms Pickett – 1.08	
			Model UN – Mr Bentley – 3.07	
			Sparx Club – Ms Pickett – 1.31	

Clubs on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday start at 3:40pm and finish at 4:40pm.

Clubs on Friday will start at 2:50pm and finish at 3:40pm.

Creativity | Justice | Media | Lifestyle | STEAM | Access Oxbridge

FUTURE LEADERS

Apprenticeship Webinars



Explore apprenticeship opportunities with three leading UK organisations and hear directly from their recruiters and current apprentices.

SIGN UP TODAY!

METROPOLITAN POLICE

Metropolitan Police Apprenticeships

16th November | 5-6pm



Ofcom

Ofcom Apprenticeships

24th November | 5-6pm



LEONARDO

Leonardo Apprenticeships

25th November | 5-6pm



No camera needed

Attend just 1 or all 3 webinars

Free to attend

Register as soon as you can as spaces are limited!

NHS South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust

Education Wellbeing Service



Education Wellbeing Service Webinar

Understanding and Supporting Teen Sleep

This webinar will look at some of the research and science around sleep hygiene, teenage sleep and thinking together about the challenges with some options for supporting from the perspective of parents or carers.

DATE / TIME

Tuesday 17th November
12.30-1.30pm

Scan the QR code or click here

LOCATION

Online - Hosted on Teams

Sign up to either event for free on Eventbrite by scanning the QR Code.

You can also check out our other events by clicking here

wellbeinginschoolsevents@swlstg.nhs.uk

DATE / TIME

Tuesday 17th November

Scan the QR code or click here

Wandsworth Family Hubs

Online Workshops for Parents & Carers

Grab yourself a cuppa and enjoy some helpful tips and support on a range of topics aimed at **under 5s** from Wandsworth colleagues and partners, **all online and interactive**.

Date & Time	Workshop	Delivered by:
Monday 23 Nov 1 to 2.15pm	**Sleep Hygiene** for children with SEND	**SEND Allkind**
Monday 7 Dec 1 to 2.15pm	**Learning Through Play**	**Early Years Team**

To book onto a workshop you can scan the QR code or click on the link below
https://forms.office.com/e/qXdqNSEn20

For more information contact
Hannah.skaife@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

BEST START IN LIFE

Wandsworth Council

Education Wellbeing Service

wellbeinginschoolsevents@swlstg.nhs.uk

NHS
South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust

Parent/Carer Webinars

Secondary Schedule 26/27

To view further event details and descriptions, and to book on to any of the webinars, please scan the QR Code or follow the link to our Eventbrite collection. Click here

- Understanding and supporting teen sleep
- Supporting your teen to cope with exams (Years 11-13)
- Screen time, social media and gaming - what parents need to know
- Conflict, communication and compromise - the teen years
- Healthy habits in teenagers with Autism
- Managing exam and assignment stress (Years 7-10)

We also provide free 1:1 early help support programmes for young people to support with anxiety or low mood. Speak to your school to find out more.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DISCORD

AGE RESTRICTION 13+ (with a 17+ app rating on app stores)

Launched in 2015, and with over 90 million daily active users, Discord has become one of the main ways gamers communicate – with text, voice, and video chat helping people connect around shared interests. For many young people, Discord can be a useful way to talk with friends, join communities, and explore hobbies. However, like any online platform built around communication, it also carries risks around strangers, inappropriate content, spending money, and time spent online. This guide looks at what parents and educators need to know.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A CHANNEL FOR EVERYTHING

While Discord is strongly associated with video games, it also hosts communities for almost anything you can imagine, such as books, music, influencers, cooking and sport. Some large servers focus on popular games like Minecraft or Fortnite, but many are private, invite-only spaces where friends or communities with shared interests can chat across phones, computers, and gaming consoles.

REAL-LIFE DISTRACTION

Like many social platforms, Discord can become a real time-sink. Although it does not rely on endless scrolling in the same way as some apps, constant messages, group chats, and voice channels can keep young people engaged for long periods, especially in larger servers. As Discord is closely linked to gaming, it may also increase the time they spend playing games.

STRANGER DANGER

Users can choose to stay within private servers with only people they know, but joining public servers will most likely bring them into contact with strangers. Many users are just friendly enthusiasts, yet others could have harmful intentions, including grooming, extortion, or radicalisation. In these types of environments, anyone can claim to be another teenager, which can make it harder for young people to judge who is safe to talk to.

A HARASSMENT RISK

There is also a risk from people a young person already knows in the real world. Bullying in the real world can continue online, and Discord servers can make this feel more intimidating, especially if someone uses anonymous or multiple accounts to carry out threatening behaviours. Because Discord works across computers, phones, and gaming consoles, unwanted contact can follow young people into online spaces that should feel safe and private.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

This huge amount of choice can help young people "find their tribe", especially when they have niche interests. However, because users can create servers around almost any topic, younger users may still encounter unsuitable or distressing content. Even in spaces linked to child-friendly games, Discord cannot directly control every conversation, image, or video shared by other users.

A MONEY DRAIN

Discord is free to use, but users can still spend real-world money on it. This may include Discord 'Nitro', a monthly subscription that unlocks customisation features and larger media uploads, or purchases through the 'Shop' for profile cosmetics and game-related items. Small purchases can add up quickly, especially if spending controls are not in place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE FAMILY CENTRE

Parents and carers should make use of Discord's 'Family Centre', which gives an overview of a younger user's activity while respecting their privacy. Messages are not shared, but adults can view an activity feed and receive weekly email summaries. Discord says this is designed to support conversations about online behaviour, rather than be about constant monitoring.

MANAGE TIME ONLINE

Agree clear expectations around when and how Discord can be used, especially during homework, bedtime, and family time. Encourage young people to turn off unnecessary notifications and leave servers that feel overwhelming. If Discord is mainly used alongside gaming, discuss healthy limits for both activities so that schoolwork, sleep, and offline friendships are not affected.

CHECK, TALK, REPORT

Review Discord's privacy settings together, including who can send them friend requests or private messages. Use this as a chance to talk to them about strangers, privacy, and personal information, making sure young people know to question suspicious behaviour, such as requests to keep conversations secret. Show them how to block and report these kinds of users and reassure them that asking for help will not get them into trouble.

REVIEW SPENDING CONTROLS

Talk openly about paid features such as Discord Nitro, profile cosmetics, and in-game purchases. Make sure the young people in your care understand that digital items still cost real money. Check payment settings on the device they use, avoid storing card details where possible, and consider adding approval requirements for purchases, particularly for younger or more impulsive users.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, and The New Statesman.

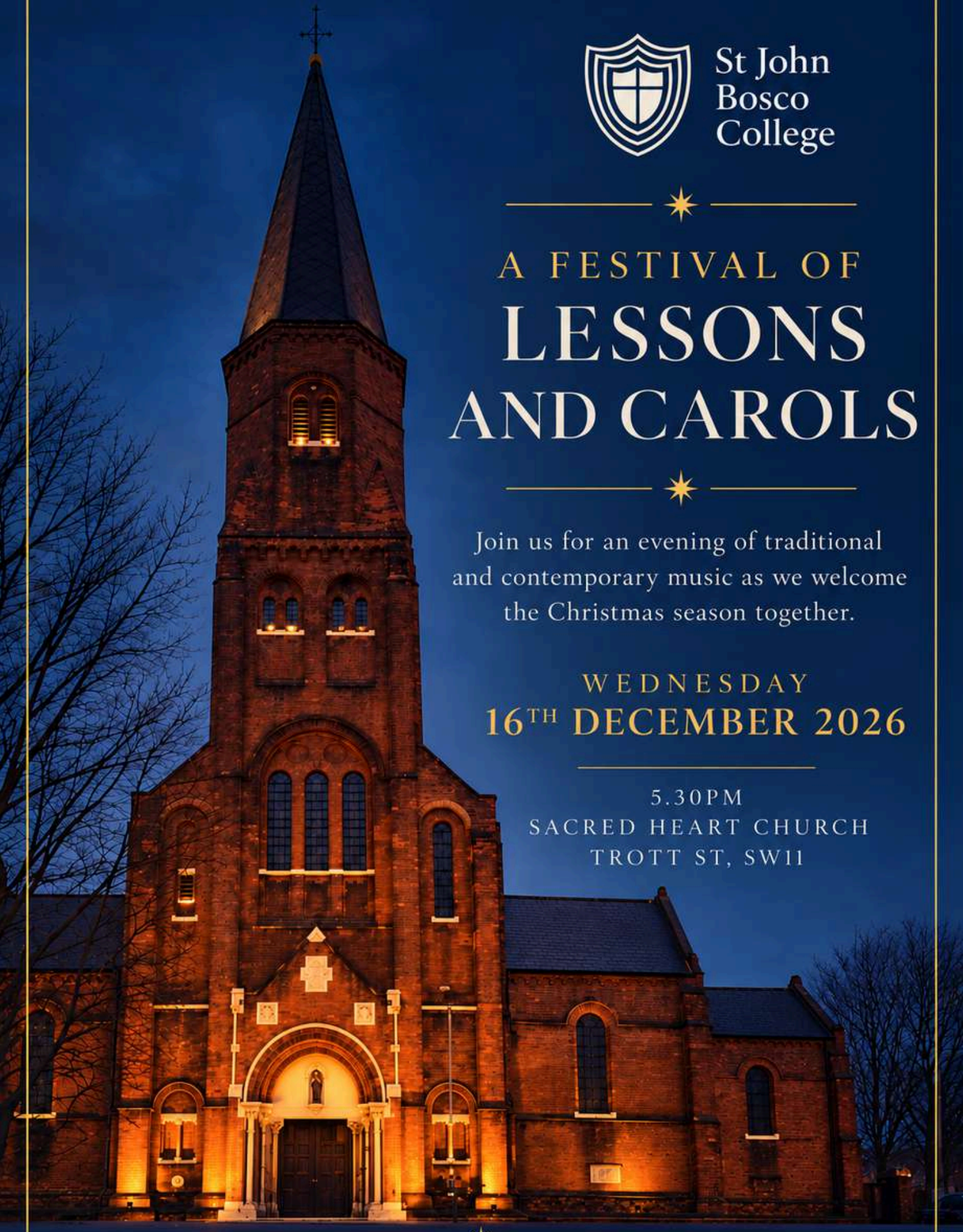


#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

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St John Bosco College

A FESTIVAL OF

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Join us for an evening of traditional and contemporary music as we welcome the Christmas season together.

WEDNESDAY

16TH DECEMBER 2026

5.30PM

SACRED HEART CHURCH

TROTT ST, SW11

Craft Fayre in the Parish Centre from 5.30pm

Service begins at 6.00pm

Refreshments afterwards