



11th May 2022

To all members of the Bishops' Conference

Dear Fathers,

I write to remind you that we are fast approaching *World Communications Day* which this year falls on 29th May. We are advised that a second collection on this day is one of just three mandatory collections agreed by us in the Bishops' Conference. I fully appreciate that there are many other important collections requested throughout the year and so many worthy causes are in particular need in these turbulent times of pandemic and economic uncertainty. I can only ask that you encourage the parishes of your diocese to make the collection, which is important for supporting several of our initiatives.

In addition to promoting the Church's and the Bishops' message in the local, regional, national and international mass media, the Bishops' Conference Media Office (CCN) helps journalists with their queries and to a better understanding of the Church's activities and witness.

CCN also runs the Bishops' Conference website, which has been the primary source of information throughout the pandemic, online Masses and spirituality and ways to assist charitably (whether through foodbanks, caring for the elderly and vulnerable, assisting refugees and the homeless etc). Record numbers of people have used this website www.cbcew.org.uk over the past two years of the pandemic as a principal means of Church communication and as a provider of information and resources. As we emerge from the pandemic, communications will become even more important as we seek to re-establish more regular patterns of worship and continuing to promote our Gospel values in assisting the vulnerable in our midst.

Pope Francis has set a theme for this day: *Listening with the ear of the heart* (or as Pope Francis puts it: *The apostolate of the ear*). His message can be accessed here:

www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/communications/documents/20220124-messaggio-comunicazioni-sociali.html

Please encourage all priests and parish communities to promote our communications service, and to hold the mandatory second collection at weekend Masses of 28th/29th May.

"Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey"

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "+ John S. Arnold".

Rt Rev. John Arnold
Bishop of Salford