

PRIEST TRAINING FUND

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend. It's not too late to make a donation if you wish. Today, we have 29 men in formation at Allen Hall Seminary for our Diocese. The numbers of seminarians has increased in recent years which is a blessing. But with it comes the need for more resources to cover the cost of formation. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood.

SERVING AT MASS

In a big parish like ours there should be no shortage of people to serve when Mass is celebrated. After the First Holy Communion this year we will begin some training sessions. But we will need some offers of help. Please give this some thought. Anyone who has received the First Communion is eligible. We will have a list to sign in May.

WALK IN THE PARK

One of our Parish Lent Groups has been inspired by their study of Pope Francis' encyclical, 'Laudate Si': care for our Common Home, to arrange a walk in Rothamstead Park. You are warmly invited to join them on Tuesday 3rd May, outside the Church at 9.45am, after the 9.15am Mass. After a walk around the Park, the group will have coffee at a nearby coffee shop! Pope Francis calls us to consider the importance of our environment, to care for it and the people who live in it, and then to respond.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Pope Francis has appealed to Catholics in Europe to undertake a collection in their churches for humanitarian aid for Ukraine on Sunday 24 April 2016. The purpose of this collection is to show support and compassion to victims of this all but forgotten hybrid war that continues unabated in the east of the country. Some 1.7 million people have been internally displaced. A million refugees have fled to neighbouring countries. Half a million do not have basic food and hundreds of thousands do not have access to safe drinking water. The proceeds of this collection will be joined to a substantial offering to be made by His Holiness as a sign of his own. In order to ensure that this aid is effectively and properly managed, the Holy See will organise specific projects for the most urgent humanitarian emergencies, overlooked by a special Commission. Please give generously.

FLOWER POWER

The meeting of the Flower Group has been transferred from 25th April to 9th May at 7.30pm in the Undercroft.

SISTERS OF ST CLARE

The next Solitude Saturday will be held on 30th April at St. Clare's Convent, 3 Abigail Close, Luton LU3 1ND. Telephone (01582) 424518.

WALSINGHAM INVITE

Walsingham has been a place of pilgrimage since the 11th century.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols wants to invite you to join him on such a pilgrimage on 9th July this year. It is to mark the Holy Year of Mercy. If you would like to join the group from our parish, please add your name to the list in the vestibule. If enough people put down their names we will order a coach.

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our warmest congratulations to **HEIDI LILIBETH SHARPE**, daughter of Adam and Georgina, and **ETHAN FINLEY McGRATH**, son of Gavin & Cindy, whom we recently welcomed in to the Catholic Church at the sacrament of Baptism. We wish them and their families every blessing as they begin their new life in Christ.

SPOTLIGHT BALL

Harpenden Spotlight on Africa celebrates its 10th Anniversary of working to help a poor community in Uganda by holding a Black Tie Ball at Sopwell House, St Albans, on Friday 20th May 2016, 7.15 to 12.30. Tickets are £65pp, with tables of 8,10 or 12 to include Drinks Reception, 3 Course fine dining, Live and Silent Auctions and dancing to The Soulmates Band. Please come to this special occasion and at the same time raise funds for HSoA to continue their work in education, clean water, health care and economic development. Contact Colette on colette.usher@hsoa.org.uk

ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE

Open Mornings for St Edmund's College and Prep on Friday 22nd and Friday 29th April 2016 in Ware, Hertfordshire – this is a great opportunity for families to discover how

their Catholic education truly stimulates mind, body and spirit at England's **oldest Catholic school.**

There are scholarships available based on entrance exam.

www.stedmundcollege.org

For children moving to secondary education in September 2017

A good opportunity!

RUN FOR ST. JOSEPH

Caritas St Joseph's Pastoral Centre who work to support people with learning disabilities is looking for runners to take part in the London 10k on Sunday 10th July 2016. For more information contact thushari@stjoseph.org.uk or maggie@stjoseph.org.uk or visit www.stjoseph.org.uk or call 020 8202 3999.

MASS FOR MIGRANTS

Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May 2016 in Westminster Cathedral, Victoria, London, SW1 in honour of St. Joseph the Worker and celebrated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

10am Banner Procession. 10.15 Witness Testimonials. 10.30am Mass.

LONDON ACCOMMODATION

Allen Hall Seminary in Chelsea offer comfortable rooms in central London in July and August. Beautiful gardens and chapel. Rooms from £50 per night (including breakfast).

Website : www.allenhall.org.uk

Email : allenhall@rcdow.org.uk

Telephone : 020 7349 5600 (option 0)