

WHAT DO I DO?

Lent begins on 18th February - Ash Wednesday. It's a good idea to think now what your Lent resolution will be. Will you give up something? And maybe take on something as well! We always have Lent Faith Sharing Groups. They are perhaps the only time in the year when we can talk with like-minded people about what we believe. They are friendly, encouraging groups. No one is obliged to speak if they don't wish to. You will certainly benefit from the experience. **Sign in TODAY** – just put your name and email. You can opt for day and time that suits you later.

REFRESHMENTS

It is the first Sunday of the month and after the 11.30am Mass today we are pleased to invite everyone to refreshments after Mass. This is a good opportunity. Do take it!

CONFIRMATION

The Candidates begin their preparation in earnest this weekend and on Saturday evening will enrol their names. They are already involved in service projects in the parish. This service demonstrates their willingness to be adults in the life of the church. Please give them the support of your prayers.

BISHOP SHERRINGTON WRITES:

'The Catholic school is called to witness with joy and simplicity to the goodness of each and every person, especially the vulnerable and disadvantaged. The school is called to be a beacon and

witness to God's gracious gift of mercy shown us by the actions and words of Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Christ is at the centre of the Catholic school.

Together with the Cardinal, I thank you all for your dedication and service to the call of Catholic education. We pray that God will answer our prayers and provide for our needs.'

Copies of the whole Bishop Sherrington's letter are available to take away with you today.

PARISH CEILIDH ON SATURDAY 21 MARCH – ALL WELCOME

To celebrate St Patrick's Day (17 March) we are holding a Ceilidh (barn dance) at Lourdes Hall, starting 7.30pm, with music and caller from 'Hedgerow Tipple' Wheathampstead. Irish stew and apple pie to be served, with guests bringing their own drinks. All this for £15 a ticket! Tickets now on sale from Julia Roche (Tel 760295; email: juliaandnigel@gmail.com). Profits from the night and the raffle proceeds will go to the water project in Uganda that the Parish's Development World Group is sponsoring – details on DWG notice board in the vestibule. Donations of raffle prizes welcome to Julia.

BIBLE ALIVE

Published this week. Excellent thoughts and reflections through each day to Easter Sunday.

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

We are terribly fortunate in our Parish having so many people who give their services so generously to make the life

of the Parish run smoothly. There is a simple job for which some volunteers are needed. It is for half an hour every couple of months after the 11.30am Mass.

If you can help please speak to Mgr Turner. It is an enjoyable job!

LIFE ISSUE

On Tuesday 3 February, MPs will vote to amend the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008. Bishop John Sherrington, from the Bishops' Conference department for Christian Responsibility and Citizenship, has issued the following statement:

Many people are rightly concerned about the profound implications of Parliament passing regulations under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act to licence the creation of human embryos using the DNA of three people. These are regulations for the transfer of 'nuclear DNA' into an egg or an embryo to modify its genetic identity. No other country has allowed this procedure and the international scientific community is not convinced that the procedure is safe and effective. It seems extraordinary that a licence should be sought for a radical new technique affecting future generations without first conducting a clinical trial. There are also serious ethical objections to this procedure which involves the destruction of human embryos as part of the process. The human embryo is a new human life, and it should be respected and protected from the moment of conception. This is a very serious step which Parliament should not rush into taking.

Bishop John Sherrington
Department for Christian Responsibility

and Citizenship

[Please petition our MP by next Tuesday, by first-class post to his office in Parliament. The address is: House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.]

ST DOMINIC SCHOOL - Admissions Policy

The Governors are consulting on a proposed change to the Admission Policy for Sep 2016. The consultation will run for 8 weeks from 2nd Jan to 27th Feb 2015. Any responses should be sent to the Governing Body by the closing date. Please see the school website for further details -

www.stdominic.herts.sch.org

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

Applications for the post of Parish Administrator (part-time 25hrs) for the Parish of Harpenden are now being taken. To receive details, please contact the parish office office@parishofharpenden.org Tel: 765524. Deadline for application is 12.00 11th Feb 2015.

CATHEDRAL INVITE

The Cardinal invites all the sick in the Diocese to the annual Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes on Saturday 7th Feb 2015 at 2.00pm in the Cathedral. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass by the bishops and priests. If you will be attending in a wheelchair, you need to email Margaret Erangey (margareterangey@rcdow.org.uk) to ensure that the appropriate space is reserved in the Cathedral.