

### **CONFIRMATION**

Next Saturday and Sunday 42 of our young people will be confirmed, at two Masses, by Bishop Paul McAleenan. This is an important moment for our young people as they take this important step on their journey of faith. We pray that the gift of the Spirit will strengthen their faith, and enable them to be his witnesses.

### **SERVERS FOR CONFIRMATION**

Altar Servers are needed for the two Masses, at 3.00pm next Saturday & Sunday. Any server who can serve at either Mass is asked to add their names to the list in the sacristy, or contact Anna Painter on [annapainter09@aol.com](mailto:annapainter09@aol.com).

### **MISSION APPEAL**

Next weekend, at all the Masses, the annual Mission Appeal will take place. This year it is being made by the Augustinians, and Fr Mark Minihane will be coming to tell us about their work, and seek your support.

### **WALK IN THE PARK**

You are most welcome to join a group of parish walkers on next Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 10am outside Our Lady of Lourdes Church for an hour's walk in Rothamsted Park. Enjoy this season's bright spring green of the tree canopy overhead - and of course, the dappled sunlight! There is delicious coffee after in a nearby cafe and if the weather is bad, it's straight for coffee. Look out for further walks held first Wednesday of every month.

### **STRAWBERRY SOCIAL**

This very popular annual event will be held in the Parish Garden on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June from 5 pm (or at the conclusion of the concert). Tickets will be on sale after next weekend's Masses and will cost £6 for

adults, £3 for school aged kids and free for pre-schoolers. EVERYONE is welcome.

### **REST IN PEACE**

Please remember in your prayers the late John Ramswell who died recently. Reception into the church Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 6.00pm. Funeral Mass is on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 11.30am. May he rest in peace.

### **DATE FOR YOUR DAIRIES**

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 4pm  
A beautiful afternoon of music sung by the choirs of Our Lady of Lourdes, The children of St Dominic School and the Bella Mamas!

### **RECRUITING CHORISTERS & ADULT CHOIR FOR September 2017**

The choir is open to girls and boys from Year 4 and upwards to Year 13. The adult choir is open to singers of all voices - soprano, alto, tenor and bass. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings and a termly schedule of Masses and rehearsal commitments is available in advance. Please contact Katie Metcalfe - [katiemusic@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:katiemusic@yahoo.co.uk) to register your interest.

### **GIFT AID & PLANNED GIVING**

We will soon be putting in a Gift Aid claim asking the Inland Revenue to give us the tax back that you have paid on your donations in the year ended 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017. So, if you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration and no longer pay Income Tax, please would you contact the Parish Office, so that we don't ask for tax if you haven't paid it. We also need to know if you have changed your address. Therefore, if you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration and have moved house in the last 12 months please inform the Parish Office.

### **PARISH GOLF DAY & DINNER 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY**

There was a splendid turnout for the 2016 event, let's make this one even better. It's a really enjoyable parish occasion for golfers and non-golfers alike so do sign-up on the sheet in the porch for dinner only or golf. All are welcome. Can't find anyone to accompany you? Don't worry you will be amongst friends so just sign-up.

### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

The Children's Liturgy Group has an important role in our church community, offering instruction and activity to the younger members of our parish on a Sunday as part of the 9.45am mass. There are 2 groups, younger, aged 5 -7/8 and older, 7/8 - 10. We are always looking for volunteers to help. It is not too onerous, with each team usually helping with a group twice a term. You would be placed in a team of experienced Catechists and lots of support is available. If you would like to help from September, especially if you have children who will attend, please get in touch with Jane Hyman [jane.hyman11@gmail.com](mailto:jane.hyman11@gmail.com)

### **WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE**

Walsingham Pilgrimage for the Sanctity of Life led by Cardinal George Pell – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Adults £15, children & students £7. Pick up point from Harpenden 7.50am. Monsignor Harry Turner is coming on the Pilgrimage. For more information, please see poster. Contact details Emanuela 01582 655246 / 07749881060 / [emanuela.coy@outlook.com](mailto:emanuela.coy@outlook.com)

### **USING OUR VOTE**

Should you need reminding the General Election takes place next Thursday. In preparation for this the Bishops of England and Wales have issued a letter to Catholics

on the forthcoming general election, which will be available in the porch. It can also be found at:

<http://catholicnews.org.uk/election17-bishops-message-news>

The letter is an encouragement to all Catholics to play an active part in the election. While voting for any particular political party is a matter of conscience, the bishops encourage people to use their vote at this pivotal time for our nations, as we prepare to leave the European Union. The letter lays out broad principles to guide our thinking in the run-up to the election, taken from Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium*. The letter then moves from these broad guiding principles to some more specific questions for consideration and to raise with candidates, including questions on how best to encourage and enable families to flourish, promote freedom of religion across the world and care for refugees and asylum seekers. The letter concludes with a prayer: 'Lord grant us wisdom to act always with integrity, seeking the protection and flourishing of all, and building a society based on justice and peace.'

### **ELECTION HUSTINGS**

Churches together in Harpenden have arranged an 'Election Hustings' with the candidates for the parliamentary constituency of Hitchin and Harpenden. This will take place tomorrow, Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 8pm at High Street Methodist.

### **OFFICE EMAILS**

Please note that there is just one email address now for the Office Administrator, and parish office. All email messages should be sent to [harpenden@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:harpenden@rcdow.org.uk).

