

EASTER OFFERINGS

The collection at all Masses on Easter Sunday and the Vigil Mass is your personal donation to the priest. It goes together with Christmas to provide for his personal upkeep for the year.

EASTER THANKS

We are enormously indebted to all those who work so hard to make our parish work. Out of sight they may be - out of mind they are not! Things and events could simply not happen without them. Warm and sincere thanks, whether what you do is in the public eye or completely unseen. It would not be practical to list every individual as they are so numerous.

Our liturgical celebrations in Holy Week have been well attended and very prayerful. The Masses, the Walk of Witness, the Children's Stations, and the Prayer at the Tomb and the other events have all been impressive. Thanks so much to everyone who was involved.

LOCAL THEATRE

"The High Street Players proudly present "Visiting Hour" by Richard Harris, produced by Roy and Frances Hall on Wednesday 13th, Thursday 14th and Friday 15th April at 8pm at High Street Methodist Church, Harpenden. Tickets: Wed. £7, Thurs. and Fri. £8 (£9 on the door) available from Manor Pharmacy, by phone (01582 620269) or online at www.hsplayers.org.uk "Visiting Hour" is a series of short plays and monologues, some serious, some comic."

**A very
HAPPY EASTER FEAST
to everyone in our parish and
to our visitors.**

**Monsignor Turner,
And
Bishop Crowley
And
Father Robert**

MASS THIS WEEK

**Please note that Mass this week are
the usual time except Monday which
is at 10.00am.**

**Monsignor Turner will not be
available this week.**

IMPORTANT WORK

From time to time it becomes important to recruit more people to help with serving on the sanctuary at Mass. This is a very special ministry. Those in the First Holy Communion class become eligible once they have received their First Communion. Get your child to start thinking about applying now. The list to apply will be open in May.

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our warmest congratulations to **AUDREY KATHLEEN DEUTROM**, daughter of Scott & Emma who we welcomed in to the Catholic Church last Sunday at the sacrament of Baptism. We wish her and her family every blessing as she begins her new life in Christ.

PIGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

Saturday 9th July. Join Cardinal Vincent Nichols to 'England's Nazareth' during the Year of Mercy. The day includes Mass, Procession with the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham and Benediction. Bring a picnic lunch. Travel is by coach. Like to come. Details please on the list in the vestibule.

SPEED DATING

Austin Forum's Spring Catholic Speed Dating Event at the Augustinian Centre, 55 Fulham Palace Road on 9 April at 7:30pm.

We are looking for men only at this stage, so anyone interested should email Gabriella at gabriella@austin-forum.org to secure a place or register interest.

APRIL FOOLS' DAY

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were this: between midnight and noon on 1 April, everyone is 'fair game' to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a 'fool's errand'.

And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove's milk, or to the bookseller for The Life of Eve's Mother. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London that read: 'Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.' Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished

LEAVE EASTER ALONE!

Way back in 325 AD the Council of Nicaea decided that Easter would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox. Simple (!?!)

Now some people want a 'fixed' Easter. It would be more convenient. Holidays could be planned, school terms would be more sensible, and we could get rid of its old-fashioned religious implications. I suspect, however, that it won't happen.

There's something deliciously ridiculous about a national holiday that can swing dizzily from March to April and which can only be calculated with the help of a complicated Table. I remember as a choirboy ages ago whiling away a dull sermon by calculating when Easter would come in 1984.

As for the religious bit, I think the secularists would be surprised at how deeply attached many people are to the wonderful story of death and resurrection that the season constantly retells. Up and down the land choirs sing Handel's 'Messiah'. People in town centres stand and watch a Good Friday Walk of Witness or even a simple re-enactment of the story. They may not go to church, but at passion-tide and Easter the church comes to them.