

CELEBRATION

This month we celebrated the First Holy Communion of 76 of our children in the parish. Congratulations to them for this very big step in their lives and we pray that they will draw strength from the regular participation in this wonderful sacrament.

Much gratitude to Ginny St Glew and her team of helpers who led the children through their preparation with great generosity and skill.

Also, thanks to the parents for their support and encouragement at all times.

SECONDARY SCHOOL

Many children from Harpenden – approx. 40 have been allocated secondary school places in St Albans. I do not know the figures for Wheathampstead. Often some people forget to update the County Council and let them know if they have changed their minds about the place they have been offered. So I am reaching out to ask the community to think of each other. If a secondary place is no longer required by a family then please make that call to the County Council.

OPEN GARDEN

You are invited to an Open Garden on 20th June at 1 Lavendon, Aplins Close, Harpenden in the afternoon. There will be opportunities to buy plants and to enjoy tea and cakes in the garden and even to buy a cake to take home. Do join us if you can. The beneficiary of John and Sheila's hospitality will be the Developing World Group.

EVER THOUGHT?

Several people have begun the process of being initiated as full members of the Catholic Church.

The process is interesting, enjoyable and enlightening.

What about you? Has the thought gone through your mind? Ever thought you might become a full member of the Catholic Church? If so, have a word with Mgr. Turner.

ARBORETUM TRIP

Day Trip to the National Arboretum 18th July 2015.

Set in 150 acres of beautifully laid out park and maturing woodland this poignant and beautiful place is definitely worth a visit. It's a place in which to remember, enjoy the walks, perhaps have a picnic, but whatever you do don't miss it. Organised by Luton Catenain (Catholic) Assoc (who's moto is faith, family, friendship) it will cost approx £20 pp return coach travel for adults, (less for children) depending on numbers. You are invited to join us, so please email denniscooper238@btinternet.com to reserve places or to seek more information.

ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL SUMMER FETE

St Dominic's Summer Fete is on Sunday June 14th from 12 noon to 4pm. It is expected to be a great day out for the family. This year includes a Bike Festival within the grounds of the school with lots of activities organised for little ones right up to grandparents so the whole family can join in! There will be

a BBQ, cream teas, raffle prizes and donkey rides and much more. Please come along and support this great event.

GIFT AID AND 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 5th April 2015. 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.

FRIDAY 19th JUNE, 7PM – A DATE FOR THE DIARY

Bishop John will celebrate his Golden Jubilee with Mass and a reception in Dominic School. If you would like to make a gift of a 'dish' for the reception add your name to the list in the church vestibule. If you can't do that a donation would go towards the event.

THE ALBAN PILGRIMAGE

Join the crowds in St Albans as the city comes together to celebrate Britain's first saint, Alban on Sat 20th June. The Procession starts at 11.00am at St Peter's Church. Further info: www.stalbanscathedral.org

LIFE & GOD'S LOVE

Friday 5th June, in the Parish Hall of SS Alban & Stephen Church, Beaconsfield

Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB. Talk by Robert Colquhoun, International Outreach Director, 40 Days of Life. Through his pro-life work Robert has travelled extensively and regularly featured in the media. He is the author or 'A Pure Heart Create For Me: Theology of the Body Today'. www.robertcolquhoun.com

FINDING SILENCE DAY

Saturday 6th June, at SS Alban & Stephen Parish Centre, 14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB. 10.45am – 3.15pm. Inspired by the BBC TV series 'The Big Silence', the monastic tradition of finding silence can teach us about the importance of silence and meditation. The day will include time in silence. Bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided. ALL WELCOME. For further info email krystyna@faithknowledge.org

WORLD YOUTH DAY, KRAKOW

Mission week in Krakow, 18-31 July 2016, with the largest youth gathering in the world. Contact youth@rcdow.org.uk.

REFRESHMENTS SUNDAY

You are invited to refreshments in the Undercroft (Our Lady's Hall) after the 11.30am Mass TODAY. Do join us.

DR. MARTIN PHELAN R.I.P.

We received the sad news this week of the death of Dr. Phelan last Thursday. He was formerly of this parish and known to many people. His funeral will be celebrated on 8th June in London. The family would appreciate a prayer for him, please.