

PRIESTS TRAINING FUND
Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the recent collection for the Priest's Training Fund, as well as to those who support this fund through the 'Growing in Faith' campaign. To date £1,842.09 has been contributed. As this fund is such an important one, providing formation for the future priests of our Diocese, the collection will remain open until the end of the month. If you have still to make a donation, you will find envelopes in the porch, and these can be handed into the parish office.

CONFIRMATION PARENTS
As you may remember, it is customary for the parents of last year's Confirmation candidates to provide a simple reception for this year's candidates and their families. This will be held in the Undercroft and take the form of tea, coffee and cakes. There are two confirmation ceremonies this year, on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th June at 3.00pm, so we will require two small groups of parents to help out. Please contact Anna Painter if you are able to help in any way, Tel. 07940 500648 or email annapainter09@aol.com
Do remember that this act of generosity was performed for you last year. So it would be great if you could return the favour.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
This, and last, weekend 67 of our children have received Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time, in three joyful celebrations. Preparing the children, for this special event in their journey of faith, is a great privilege and responsibility. So 'thank you' to their parents for their example, support and encouragement; and also to the Catechists who give their time so generously for this important ministry. And a big 'thank you' too to all those members of the choir who came to lead the singing. Let us remember to pray for the children that they will continue to grow in their love for Jesus in the Eucharist.

WALK IN THE PARK
You are most welcome to join a group of parish walkers on Wednesday 7th 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.

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.

REST IN PEACE

Please remember in your prayers Margaret Warne. Her funeral takes place next Tuesday 23rd May at 11.00am.

Your prayers are also asked for the late John Ramswell who died recently as well as his wife Loretta. His funeral takes place on Wednesday 7th June at 11.30am. May they rest in peace.

USING OUR VOTE

The Bishops of England and Wales have issued a letter to Catholics on the forthcoming general election, which will be available this weekend. Copies can be found at: http://catholicnews.org.uk/election_17-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.'

CATECHISTS

Ignite (A one-day conference for all catechists) Saturday 8th July 2017

10.00am to 4.00pm, at Sacred Heart High School, 212 Hammersmith Road London W6 7DG
Cost £10.00 per person Please bring a packed lunch – teas & coffee provided.

Please email:
catadmin@rcdow.org.uk

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE
London Colney, Radlett and Shenley parishes have a pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 7th October. Pick up points are in Radlett, London Colney and St Albans. Seats, price £25 for adults and £15 for under 12's, can be booked on 01923 635541, or email radlett@rcdow.org.uk. For further information please see the notice in the porch.

