

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.

MONDAY MASS

As tomorrow, Monday, is a bank holiday, Mass will be at the later time of 10.00am

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 5th 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.

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..

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**](mailto:harpenden@rcdow.org.uk).

REST IN PEACE

Please remember in your prayers 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 he 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/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.'

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

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**](mailto:catadmin@rcdow.org.uk)

'GROWING IN FAITH'

The 'Growing in Faith' campaign is continuing in the Diocese. Presently 148 parishioners are supporting this initiative, and £210,647, which includes Gift Aid of £32,060, has been contributed. This money will be used as follows: Sick & Retired Priests, 40%: £84,259, Caritas Westminster, 20%: £42,129, Training of Priests 18%: £37,916, Post-Ordination Training, 2%: £4,213, Parish Project, 20%: £42,129. Thank you to everyone who is supporting this Diocesan campaign. Copies of the 'Growing in Faith' Spring 2017 Newsletter are available in the porch.

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**](mailto:radlett@rcdow.org.uk). For further information please see the notice in the porch.

