

## **PRIESTS TRAINING FUND**

This weekend marks Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection to help fund the formation of priests also takes place today; The Priest Training Fund benefits the parishes and the Diocese of Westminster by providing us with new priests striving to follow Christ the Good Shepherd, in the service of God's people. The Priest Training Fund helps us pay for the recruitment of men into priestly vocations, the formation and education of seminarians at our seminary, Allen Hall, and the formation of men who study abroad. It also pays for the on-going education of priests who will serve in specialised ministries and their continuing formation whilst in active ministry.

There are currently 39 seminarians in formation for the priesthood. Last year, six men were ordained priests for our diocese and we look forward to eight priests being ordained this June. It costs on average £25,000 per man, per year of formation – that is about £150,000 to form and educate a new priest, who makes a lifetime commitment to Christ and the Church. Donation leaflets are available today. If you are a taxpayer, don't forget to tick off and complete the claim for Gift Aid which adds 25 pence onto every pound you give, at no extra cost to you.

On behalf of all the clergy of the Diocese, thank you. We ask that you also pray a special prayer for vocations on a daily basis, perhaps with your family. Please take home a

prayer card for vocations, which can be found at the back of the Church. Thank you for both your prayers and generosity in support of the priests, and the Catholic Church, of tomorrow.

## **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 11th and Sunday 12th 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](mailto: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**

Over the next two Saturdays 67 of our children will receive Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time. Please keep the children, their families and Catechists, in your prayers as they prepare for this very special event in their lives.

## **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 John Ramswell who died this week, as well as his wife Loretta. Funeral arrangements have still to be finalised.

Your prayers are also asked for the late Margaret Warne. Her funeral takes place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 11.00am.

May they rest in peace.

## **REFLECTION**

Reflection on the Emmaus Story  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May @ 2.00 pm to 3.00pm at the Convent,  
18 Kirkdale Road

## **CATECHISTS**

Ignite (A one-day conference for all catechists)

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 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)

## **VOCATIONS**

Vocations Weekend for young women (20's and 30's) Discerning God's Call in my life. 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The weekend is organized by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ)

For more information contact:

Sr. Lynne fcJ at

[lynnefcj@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnefcj@hotmail.com) or visit the website [www.fejsisters.org](http://www.fejsisters.org)

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Jump! Primary Schools Team is currently working in four primary schools and has recently been contacted by a fifth requesting our involvement in delivering RE lessons. We cannot commit to taking on another school without more volunteers, as the few we have are already at capacity. I am looking for at least 3 volunteers who can give at least 2 sessions (usually 1-3.30pm) per month, days flexible to suit you, to enable us to take on this new school. For further information please email Natalie at [jumharpenden@gmail.com](mailto:jumpharpenden@gmail.com) or phone 622862 or 07985 960703.

## **THE TABLET**

“The Tablet” is a weekly Catholic magazine with news and articles about the church at home and abroad. For anyone considering taking out a subscription there are now free copies available in the porch.

