

WELCOME

This weekend we welcome Fr Michael Doyle, who is on the staff at Allen Hall. He will be celebrating the weekend Masses.

PRIEST TRAINING FUND

Thank you for your contributions last weekend to the Priests Training Fund, £2,340.81 was donated. For anyone who has yet to contribute the fund will remain open until the middle of May you can also donate online anytime at

www.rcdow.org.uk/donations

CHURCH NOTICES

Anyone wishing to display a notice in church is asked to hand it in to the parish office. Under no circumstances are notices to be posted on the glass, or on the walls in the porch because, as can be seen, this damages the paintwork.

WALK IN THE PARK

Spring has arrived at last and the bright green of new leaves and vibrant colour of spring flowers are everywhere! Join a group of parishioners for an hour's walk in Rothamsted Park this Wednesday 2nd May starting at Our Lady of Lourdes at 10am. There will be coffee after in a nearby cafe and if the weather is bad, it's straight to coffee. Look out for further walks every first Wednesday of the month.



SAVE THE DATE – 16TH JUNE!

Join us in our lovely Rothamsted Park on Saturday 16th June to walk a mile! Pope Francis has called on us to 'Share the Journey', an act of solidarity for the rights of people on the move. Cafod is supporting groups from England and Wales and aims to 'collect' 24,900 miles – the distance around the



whole world! Families, singles, buggies, wheelchairs are all welcome from 11am till 1pm to each walk a mile to add to the national total and then enjoy a 'bring your own' picnic. More information to follow.

WE WANT YOU! New recruits are invited to join the ranks of our altar servers. Children who have completed, or will complete their First Holy Communion this year are eligible to join. Please sign up on the sheet in the porch.



HALLELUJAH HARPENDEN

What a joyous occasion it was last Sunday! The unsuspecting public were treated to a wonderful rendition of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. Our choir and band were joined by singers and musicians from some 9 churches around Harpenden, including the Salvation Army on Church Green. We were blessed with glorious sunshine as we gave witness to our Risen Saviour in music and song. Thank you for everyone who participated. This will now be an annual event!



CULTIVATE ARTS FESTIVAL HARPENDEN CHURCHES TOGETHER 21ST – 24TH JUNE 2018

CALLING CREATIVE CHILDREN

All children of the church are invited to produce a small motif, either a flower, bird or butterfly to be included in a display at our exhibition here at Our Lady of Lourdes church on the theme 'Abundance'. The artwork can be any size up to 20cm in any direction, 2D or 3D and in any media. The more varied the results the



better so put out plenty of materials for your children - paints, collage papers, glitter, tissue paper, To make something 3D they could use cupcake cases, egg box compartments, feathers, pompoms or just cut and folded paper. Search online for ideas and have fun! Make sure everything is stuck together securely. I will leave out some boxes in the church entrance to collect the results on Sundays 27 May & 10th June.

LIVESIMPLY PROGRESS UPDATE

Our Lady of Lourdes parish is now well on its way to the Cafod LiveSimply Award, the Registration Certificate for which is displayed in the church porch. All five Interest groups, Liturgy, Environment, Practical/Resources, Justice, Peace, and Care for Creation, and Communications, have now met to map out progress towards achieving their aspects of the parish Action Plan. We are coming together to share what has been achieved so far and explain future plans on Thursday 10th May at 7.30pm in the Undercroft. So why not come along? You can find out more and it is not too late to join in. You are always welcome! Remember Pope Francis has exhorted us all to care for the whole of God's Creation. Laudato Si!

MASS FOR MIGRANTS

The Dioceses of Southwark, Westminster and Brentwood will be holding the Annual Mass for Migrants next Monday 7 May (Bank Holiday Monday), hosted this year by Archbishop Peter Smith at St George's Cathedral Southwark. There is a special invitation for singers! (Please see the posters in the porch.) This is a great opportunity to celebrate the rich contribution migrants make to the strength and diversity of our country and our church.

SLAVES ON OUR DOORSTEPS – TUESDAY 1ST MAY 2018

Join us for an evening of practical advice on combatting human trafficking and modern slavery in your community. Speakers will include: Bishop Paul McAleenan, Mick Duthie from the Santa Marta Group, the Hertfordshire Constabulary, the Shiva Foundation and Caritas Westminster. The event will be held on **Tuesday 1st May, 7-9pm, at Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew's Hall, Hitchin, SG5 1QS.**

Tea and coffee will be available from 6.30pm. Please RSVP to caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk, or call on 0207 931 6077. Alternatively, you can confirm your attendance by going onto the Eventbrite page for the event <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/slaves-on-our-doorsteps-tickets-44588457276>

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

The Bishops of England and Wales are holding a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool on 7th – 9th September 2018 in the Echo Arena in Liverpool. This can accommodate 10,000 pilgrims and will be home to a six-hour stage programme on the 8th September and will include a Congress Mass, keynote speakers Bishop Robert Barron and Cardinal Vincent Nichols, and a drama highlighting the beauty of reverence and devotion. The day will conclude with Adoration. For more information and to enquire about tickets to events, please contact adoremus@rcdow.org.uk or call 07738183829.

CATHOLIC HISTORY WALKS IN LONDON

The King's Good Servant. Tuesday 1st May at 6.00pm – Hear the heroic story of St Thomas More, who bravely defended the faith under King Henry VIII, as we walk around his Chelsea Estate. Meet at the Church of Our Most Holy Redeemer and St Thomas More, Cheyene Row. SW3 5HS. Nearest Tube: South Kensington.