

## FIRST COMMUNION

Please remember the children of our parish who are making their First Holy Communion at this time. Please keep the children, their families and Catechists, in your prayers as they prepare for this very special event in their lives.



## SATURDAY MASS

Due to the First Holy Communion Masses taking place, there will be no Mass at 10.00am next Saturday and neither will there be morning confessions.

## PRIESTS TRAINING FUND

Thank you for contributions already made to the Priests Training Fund, £2,390.81 has been donated. For anyone who still wishes to contribute the fund, it is not too late to do so. We will be sending off your contributions during the coming week.

## SICK OR HOUSEBOUND?

For those who are sick or housebound the Parish Priest is always happy to bring Holy Communion and, or, to arrange for one of the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to do so. If you are unable to attend Mass, or know of someone in that situation, please contact the Parish Office on 01582 712245 to make suitable arrangements.

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018. 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.



## REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Brian Tate who died recently. Brian's Requiem Mass will be here on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 12.00pm.

Please keep Brian's family in your prayers at this time.

## 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



## REFLECTION

Reflection on 'The Holy Spirit in our Lives,' led by Margaret Drummond, will take place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 2.00pm – 3.00pm at the Convent, 18 Kirkdale Road. Everyone welcome.

## WALK IN THE PARK

Join a group of parishioners for an hour's walk in Rothamsted Park. Our next walk will be Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 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.



## CALLING LAST YEAR'S CONFIRMATION PARENTS!

As you may know, it is customary in our parish for the parents of last year's Confirmation candidates to provide a small reception for this year's candidates and their families. This year, a large cake will be provided after each of the two Masses, and so we simply need a small group of parents to volunteer to help



serve teas and coffees. We are very grateful to Ruth Bignell who has kindly offered to organise this for us. If you are able to offer help on the day, Saturday 16th June, after one of the two Masses, 11am or 3pm, please contact Ruth on [ruth\\_okeeffe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ruth_okeeffe@hotmail.co.uk).

## CULTIVATE ARTS FESTIVAL HARPENDEN CHURCHES TOGETHER 21<sup>ST</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018

Arts events at churches throughout the town on the theme "Beauty, Abundance, Order". At Our Lady of Lourdes this will include live music in the church and an art exhibition in the Undercroft Thursday 21st - Saturday 23rd and our Summer concert on Sunday 24th June. Full programme to be announced.

## 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. 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.



## MIGRANTS MASS

Next Monday, 7th May, the Annual Migrants Mass at St George's, Southwark, and next month 15th June, just before Refugee Week, the Lampedusa Cross Service at Westminster Cathedral.

## THY KINGDOM COME

Thy kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for people to come to know Jesus Christ. Here in Hertfordshire, Thy Kingdom Come culminates in a Beacon celebration at St. Albans Cathedral on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm. The Archbishop of Canterbury will be joining us to celebrate and pray together. Come along and invite others too. There is more information on the Diocese of

St Albans website [www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/thy-kingdom-come/](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/thy-kingdom-come/).

## SISTINE CHOIR

The Sistine Chapel Choir, The Holy Father's personal choir, performs a sacred choral music concert from the repertoire they sing in the Vatican on Saturday 26th May 2018 at 8pm in Westminster Cathedral. The concert will last an hour, and is free of charge (no tickets required). Come and experience this world-famous choir singing in the beautiful setting of Westminster Cathedral. All are welcome.



## IRISH REFERENDUM

In their Spring Statement, the Irish Bishops wrote, "Article 40.3.3 is a declaration of equality and respect for human life. It represents, at the very foundations and substructure of our laws, a conviction that all human life is worth cherishing equally. To repeal this Article would leave unborn children at the mercy of whatever permissive abortion laws might be introduced in Ireland in the future. We invite people of faith to pray earnestly that Ireland will "choose life" and that the lives of all women and their unborn children will always be loved, valued, welcomed and respected in this country."

For more information visit <http://www.chooselife2018.ie>

## EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

The Bishops of England and Wales are holding a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool on 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:adoremus@rcdow.org.uk) or call 07738183829.