

## ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Next Thursday, 40 days the feast of the Ascension of the Lord. This is a holyday of obligation; one of the few days, other than Sundays, when we are obliged to attend Mass. Masses will be celebrated at 9.15am and 6.00pm.



## MASS TIME CHANGE

Please note that as Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May is a bank holiday, Mass will be at 10.00am.

## FIRST COMMUNION

Over the next two Saturdays, at three Masses, 76 of our children will be receiving Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time. Please keep the children, their parents and Catechists in your prayers at this very special time.



## SATURDAY MASS

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

## REFRESHMENTS

Refreshments will be served in the undercroft today, after the 11.30am Mass please join us, everyone welcome



## 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



## LIVESIMPLY

Leaflets containing ideas for living simply



were distributed last week-end. If you didn't get one, there are still plenty available in the porch. This week, we have a card with a prayer for Live simply. Please take one home.

## 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 16<sup>th</sup> June, after one of the two Masses, 11am or 3pm, please contact Ruth on .

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> - Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and our Summer concert on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.



## NEWMAN ASSOCIATION TALK SUNDAY 13 MAY

All are welcome to hear Father Simon Chinnery sharing his experiences of "The Life of an Ordinatee Priest" within Hemel's Ordinatee Mission. The talk begins at 8pm, and will be held at the Parish Centre, Ss Mary and Joseph, St John's Road, Boxmoor HP1 1NR.

## CAFOD

Thank you for your support to the CAFOD Lent Fast Day appeal. Donations to CAFOD until 12 May will be doubled by the UK Government. We have planned a £5 million programme to combat malnutrition - and with it we hope to be able to reach 245,000 people. But we need the full amount of match funding to make it happen. You can help us reach the full amount needed for this crucial programme. We still have some way to go yet! To donate please go to [cafod.org.uk/lent](http://cafod.org.uk/lent)

## MIGRANTS MASS

Next Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> May, the Annual Migrants Mass at St George's, Southwark, and next month 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Christians from all denominations and every generation across Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire 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/).

## 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.