

CONFIRMATION 2019

Preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, for those young people in Year 9 or above, will commence in November. Application forms are available after all Masses throughout September. Completed forms and copies of the Baptismal Certificate must be returned to the parish office by Monday 8th October.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy, has now recommenced and is an important ministry in our parish. It runs during term time in the Undercroft at the 9.45am Mass. We are looking for new recruits to support running the sessions. Training is provided and you would be part of a team who take turns every 6-8 weeks. If you would like to know more please contact Michelle Lynch. martinmichelle74@gmail.com

NEW PARISHIONERS

We are always happy to welcome new arrivals to our parish, and to take the opportunity to get to know them. One way in which we do this is at the gathering for new parishioners, which is being resurrected. Those who have completed a 'new parishioner' form should have received an invitation to this event which will be taking place on Sunday 14th October, after the 11.30am Mass, in the undercroft. If you haven't received an invitation, or are new to the parish, and would like to attend, please let the parish office know. Everyone who is new to the parish is most welcome to attend.

THE JOY OF LOVE

In 2016 Pope Francis in his document, Amoris Laetitia, The joy of Love, reflected on marriage and family life, the beauty and blessing, the joys and challenges of marriage and family life. The Diocese has now prepared a booklet, 'Holy Families', with six sessions for prayer and discussion on these themes. These suggestions, similar to the Lent Groups, can be used individually or in small groups. The booklets are on sale, price £3 each.

SCHOOL FORMS

It's that time of year again when applications are being made for secondary school places next September. Canon Dwyer will be available in the church on these dates: Tuesday 16th October, 6.00pm to 7.00pm. Saturday 20th October 11.30am to 12.30pm, to sign **forms for secondary schools**. Please make sure you bring the priest's/ministers reference form with you; Certificates of Catholic Practice, where needed, will be provided.

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Two the ago the National Eucharistic Congress took place in Liverpool. For the 10,000 plus who attended it was a powerful experience. If you would like to hear, or read, some of the excellent talks on the Eucharist, please see below: Most talks can be viewed or heard at <http://www.shalomworldtv.org/adoremus#lates-t-episodes> Hard copies of most can be downloaded at www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Special-Events/Adoremus-National-Eucharistic-Pilgrimage. There are beautiful images of the three days at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/catholicism/albums/72157673157676628/page1>



CALLING ALL CHILDREN

To celebrate the Feast of St. Francis on 4th October, all children are invited to produce an A4 poster on the theme of CREATION. These will be displayed in church. You can use any media and the poster should celebrate God's gift of creation or suggest ideas for protecting our world. You can put your poster in a box at the back of church on the week-end of 22nd/23rd September.



LIVESIMPLY /LAUDATO SI

As part of the parish LiveSimply initiative we are asking parishioners to join with us in making a simple 'Pledge' to care for "our common home", as Pope Francis calls the earth, God's creation.

You can write (anonymously) on a card on the table in the porch a promise to do something simple which will protect the animals, or land, or seas, or people of our common home (eg. by using less water or energy, or plastic). All the Pledges will be taken up as part of the offertory during the **Mass of praise and thanksgiving on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on Thursday 4 October to which everyone is invited**. The Pledge is also part of the Global Catholic Climate Movement and has been endorsed by Pope Francis. You can also add your name to the Laudato Si Pledge on-line at: <http://livelaudatosi.org/the-pledge/>

CHURCH CLEANING

In recent weeks we have been asking for volunteers to assist with keeping our Church clean. However, there has been hardly any response. If we are to keep the church clean, and worthy, for our liturgy then we do need more volunteers to assist. As there are a number of teams it's not a weekly commitment, if you can help please leave your details at the Parish Office.



FUNDRAISING FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY

Our parishioner, Aoife Morris (a former Head Chorister here), will be putting on a concert in Our Lady of Lourdes Church in the late afternoon/early evening of Sunday, 14th October to raise funds to go to the World Youth Day in Panama in January 2019. The concert will feature harp pieces and other music. No tickets, but there will be a retiring collection for donations. The time of the concert will be confirmed in due course.

WALK IN THE PARK

Our next walk in Rothamsted Park will be on Wednesday 3rd October. Meet outside Church at 10am and after the walk, enjoy a coffee in a nearby cafe. If weather is bad, it's straight for coffee! Look out for future walks held first Wednesday of every month.



LA TRAGEDIE DE CARMEN 17TH NOV 2018

Pop Up Opera's performance of La Tragédie de Carmen, Lourdes Hall 17th Nov. This professional touring opera company are staging a version of the very popular 'Carmen' right on your doorstep. Tickets are already selling and we expect a full house. Please email dennis29@virginmedia.com to reserve tickets at £27.50 per person. Profits go to the parish Developing World Fund project.



THE CATENIANS

7th October Catenian Sunday Lunch. Local Catenians are booked in for lunch at Harpenden Common Golf Club at 1pm and have limited availability to extend an invitation to parishioner families who may like to join in this friendly gathering. To give the caterers time to prepare, the deadline is Friday 28th Sept; for further details please email Dennis Cooper at dennis29@virginmedia.com

HOW CAN I BE HOLY (WHEN I AM SO ORDINARY)?

Saturday 29th September, 10am - 12 noon: An open discussion led by members of the Newman Association's Hertfordshire Circle. All are welcome to share thoughts on Pope Francis' recent apostolic exhortation 'Gaudete et Exsultate'. Venue: The Church of the Resurrection, 9 Henry Wells Square, Hemel Hempstead HP2 6BJ.

REFLECTION

The Grace of the Present Moment--a morning reflection with Sr Regina McGarry OP & Monika Cleaver. Give your spirit time as another month unravels and allow God's grace to soothe you. **Thursday, 27 September** (10.00 am - 12.30 pm). Suggested donation £6; registrations welcome. Niland Conference Centre, Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath WD23 4EE. Information: nilandcentre@gmail.com

FROM ATHEIST TO CATHOLIC

Come and hear the remarkable story of one woman's journey from Atheism to the Faith. Monday, 24 September, 2pm - 3pm. The Convent, 18 Kirkdale Road.