**CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & SAINT JOSEPH**

**23 ST JOHN’S STREET, HERTFORD SG14 1RX**

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**Parish Priest: Monsignor Séamus O’Boyle**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Prayers & Readings for this Sunday’s Mass can be found on p. 264 in the Parish Mass Book.**

**Please note that there is a Loop system in the Church**.

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**View from the Presbytery**

This week began with news on Monday from the Cardinal’s Office that the Holy Father has appointed a new Auxiliary Bishop for service in our Diocese. His name is Monsignor Jim Curry – currently the Parish Priest of Our Lady of Victories in Kensington. He has been a priest of the Diocese for thirty-eight years, ministering in various parishes. He also acted as Private Secretary to both Cardinal Basil Hume and Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor. As Cardinal Nichols wrote on Monday: ‘Please keep Bishop-elect Curry in your prayers. Appointment as a Bishop is a call to service in a new and demanding way. Let us accompany him with our prayers as he prepares for his Episcopal Ordination.’ The Bishop-elect will be ordained in Westminster Cathedral on Tuesday 18th June.

In other more mundane news, the Parish Finance Committee having received the full Survey Report on the physical state of both the Church and the Presbytery carried out in February, have now instructed a Conservation Architect to draw up a detailed specification for the phased remedial works that need doing. Once this is obtained, we will be able to put the project out to tender. Then we have a further couple of hurdles to jump before the actual works can begin. We will first have to ask the Finance Board of the Diocese for permission to proceed. Then, since both the Church and Presbytery are Grade II listed buildings, we have to get special consent from Historic England, the Historic Churches Committee of the Diocese, and also from the local Council before we can do anything! Patience will be needed!! When any works are planned on a Church building there also has to be a bat survey carried out – I kid you not! Please say a prayer that no rare bats are roosting in the belfry!!

*Fr Séamus*

**REPOSITORY:** There are now First Holy Communion cards and gifts on sale in the shop at the back of the Church.

**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY:** thank you everyone who contributed to the Priest Training Fund last weekend – just over £1000 was collected. The formation of priests is a top priority for the Diocese – it is our future. May God bless you for your generosity.

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES:**

**Friday 19th – Friday 26th July 2024**

Our pilgrimage to Lourdes led by Cardinal Vincent is one of the most significant pastoral events in our annual Diocesan calendar.

This year, the initial application for a place on the pilgrimage will be via the online application form – see the link below - whether booking for the full package with the Diocese or planning to join the pilgrimage directly in Lourdes.

https://forms.rcdow.org.uk/booking-for-westminster-diocese-lourdes-pilgrimage-2024/

**PRAYERS ASKED PLEASE –**

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:** Elizabeth Barnes, Ursula Partner, Jan Kracinski, Stephen Carey, Paul Cox, Malcolm Gilbert, Enzo Andrean, Miriam Matthews, Ruth Featherstone, Stephen Judd, Mary Ward, John Sweeney, Pam Gates, Juliet Davis, Phyllis Read, Jo Black, Robbie Robinson, Fr Terry, Angela White, Manuel Lopez, Linda Abeysundera, Julia Rochford, Gerry Goss, James Monaghan, Jennifer Rademeyer, Teresa Morris, David Pearson.

**FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY:** Maggie Maslinski, Maria Zielicka, Fr John Warnaby, Fr David Williamson. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

**POPE FRANCIS’ PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY**

*FOR THE FORMATION OF MEN AND WOMEN RELIGIOUS, AND SEMINARIANS*

*Let us pray that men and women religious, and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.*

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

**Saturday 27th April**

**6.00pm:** Peter & Becky Kiely (Int.)

**Sunday 28th April** *V of Easter*

**8.30am:** People of the Parish

**10.30am:** Private Intention

**Monday 29th April**

**NO MASS**

**Tuesday 30th April**

**12.15pm:** Private Intention

**Wednesday 1st May**

**10.00am:** John O’Brien RIP

**Thursday 2nd May**

**12noon** Funeral of

Maggie Maslinski RIP

**Friday 3rd May**

**12.15pm:** Private Intention

**Saturday 4th May**

**6.00pm:** People of the Parish

**Sunday 5th May** *VI of Easter*

**8.30am:** Theresa McCarthy (Int.)

**10.30am:** Eimear ni Chonghaile RIP

**Confessions: Saturday 5.15.- 5.45pm**