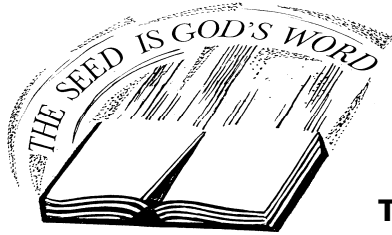


Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Sunday 16th July 2023



204, High Street
Waltham Cross
Herts EN8 7DP
01992 623156

<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/walthamcross>
walthamcross@rcdow.org.uk

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THIS WEEKEND'S LITURGY

Today's Gospel begins with the words, "Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside." Many of us may wish to do the same thing on this midsummer day. We can imagine the feeling right now, leaving our home and finding a nice refreshing spot where we can relax. We can further imagine being part of the crowd that walked down to the seashore to listen to Jesus as he got into a boat and preached. May we take this opportunity today to take a break, to listen to the Lord, and to absorb his message for you.

On this day in the middle of summer, our readings take us outside and into nature. In both the first reading and the Gospel, we hear of seeds and their potential within. Isaiah's focus is on the rain that nourishes the earth, enabling the seeds planted there to bear fruit. Jesus' focus is on soil where seeds can either fail or be fruitful. Both Isaiah and Jesus explain that the seed represents God's word, which can be fertile and fruitful. Let us listen to God's word today, imagining it as a seed that will take root in us, grow in us, and bear fruit in us, yielding a rich harvest for the kingdom.

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MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 15th July
Sunday 16th July

The Fifteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Monday 17th July
Tuesday 18th July
Wednesday 19th July
Thursday 20th July
Friday 21st July
Saturday 22nd July

Apollinaris

6.30pm Jim Loftus RIP
8.30am Jack & Bridie Plunkett RIP
11.30am Anthony Chukwuma RIP
6.30pm People of the Parish
10.00am Doris Alderson RIP
10.00am People of the Parish
10.00am Shirley Willis - Intentions
10.00am Alex Nicolaidis RIP
10.00am Eucharia Mbonu RIP
6.30pm Helen – Thanksgiving



TODAY'S READINGS:

Isaiah 55:10-11
Psalm 64
Romans 8:18-23
Matthew 13:1-23

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Wisdom 12:13.16-19
Psalm 85
Romans 8:26-27
Matthew 13:24-43

LIVE STREAMING FROM THE CHURCH

The live stream runs twenty-four hours a day, so you can 'visit' the Church whenever you wish. There is a link on the Parish Website and it is also accessible at <http://www.churchservices.tv/walthamcross>.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

During Ordinary Time, we are asked to pray for: A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Those who Suffer Persecution; Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Europe; Human Life; Seafarers.

For those who are ill: Nicola Harker, Linda Tank, Lily Barber, Natasha Papet, Rodney Imbert, Lisa Thorogood, Tina Figueria, Margaret Reynolds, Kath Spalding, Shirley Willis, Siobhan Treacey, Iris Waters, Bridie Herity,

For those who have died recently: Patricia Slimforte, Eucharia Mbonu, Ellen Lindsell, Angela Ricotta, Elisa De Lellis, Stella Lister,

And for those whose Anniversaries are at this time:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for your last week's Offertory Collection which came to £973.10, plus the Regular Standing Orders

With the new Banking Regulations, could you please make all cheques payable to WRCDDT Waltham Cross

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

On Saturday from 10.30 – 11.00am and from 5.45pm – 6.15pm.

FUNERAL THIS WEEK

The Funeral Mass for the late Angela Ricotta, will be celebrated on Monday 17th July at 11.30am.

BAPTISMS THIS WEEK

Sunday 16th July at 1.00pm – Summer-Reign Smith
Sunday 23rd July at 11.30am – Kalani Price

APF SUMMER COLLECTION

We have started the collection for the APF. The Red Box Holders should find a brown envelope with their name in the box at the back of the church. Please take the envelope home, fill it with the contents of your APF box, and return it to the Parish Office next Sunday. The APF is the charity that helps Catholic missionaries to continue to work in countries across the world. We thank you for all the money you give to this important work. If you have any questions, please contact Terry O'Sullivan - thrums55@googlemail.com.

RCIA

If you are not already a Catholic, or have been away from the Church for some time, or just did not get around to celebrating one of the Sacraments at the 'right age', or would like to discover more about the Catholic Church, then this is the Group for you! For further details, please see Fr John.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE

Darren Sylvester, a Solicitor from DJS Law, will be offering the 67th free legal advice surgery. The surgery sessions are in the Parish Office, just ring the doorbell at the Presbytery. If you would like free, independent, impartial and confidential advice, (for example) debt, employment, housing, consumer rights, wills & probate, lasting powers of attorney (the list is not exhaustive) then come along on the last Wednesday of every month between 7.30pm – 9.00pm. The next session is Wednesday, 26 July 2023.

SVP ENGLAND AND WALES SUMMER RAFFLE

The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) is committed to alleviating the effects of poverty and loneliness through its members, volunteers and staff by providing friendship, practical assistance, and daily support to people in need in your local area. With the purchase of each ticket you will support the work of the SVP groups or Support Centre within your local community as well as the work of the national Society. Prizes: 1st £5,000 2nd £1,000, additional prizes: £100. Tickets are £1 each or £5 per book. Tickets are available to purchase from the Parish Office.

All monies and tickets to be returned to Church by Sunday 13 August, allowing time for us to forward them to St Vincent de Paul Society, for Draw to be held in September.

HEAR4U LISTENING TEAM

The Hear4U Listening Team is looking to recruit six more volunteers to help with listening one-to-one with clients who need a listening ear. Would you be interested? You would receive active listening training and support. We will be looking for the following attributes in members of the Listening Team: A naturally good listener; An uncritical spirit; Patience; Perceptive awareness of body language and mood.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Diana Forrest at hear4ulisting@outlook.com

YOUNG ADULTS FORMATION

The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham (COLW) is offering an opportunity to Catholic men and women aged 18 - 35 to live alongside their community in Norfolk for a week this summer. As well as joining community prayers, meals and activities, young adults will receive formation on topics such Prayer, Scripture, Discernment and the Spirituality of Walsingham. There are two choices of dates: 14th - 21st August or 30th August - 6th September. To find out more, please enquire by 31st July by emailing the COLW Sisters at freetobe@walsinghamcommunity.org

Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, House of the Divine Will, Neatherd Moor, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 4AZ. Tel. 01362 421442. www.walsinghamcommunity.org

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Saturday 23rd September, led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Outline programme for the day: 10.00am Arrivals begin, 11.30am Welcoming of parish and other pilgrim groups and banners, 12.00pm Pilgrim Mass, 1.30pm Picnic lunch, 2.15pm Gather for the procession along the Holy Mile, 3.45pm Prayers and Benediction in the Priory, the site of the original Shrine 4.30pm Departures. More details to follow.

No cash? Or prefer to make your offering by phone?

Just scan the QR Code with your smartphone.

If you are a Tax Payer, please complete the Gift Aid Declaration.



We all know the parable of the sower. A farmer sows seed on his land; it falls into four different types of soil and it produces anything from no crops at all to a field full of harvest. Usually we say that God is the sower, the seed is the word of God and we are the various types of soil.

But why should we bother to read or listen to the word of God? How can it help? Isn't it just a collection of old books with limited value in the third millennium? And surely if we're looking for advice on how to live life today then there are plenty of modern books in the library or the bookshops? We put a premium on the bible not because it contains words about God but because it contains the words of God. In fact, it contains the word, the message of God. And scripture is the place that God has chosen to reveal himself. Using human beings as the writers of the bible's books God inspires them with the Holy Spirit. So, Christians believe that the bible is not simply religious opinion or outlook; it is what has been revealed through close faith in God and it comes from a people living cheek by jowl with God. So, scripture is not simply one source about God among many others; it is the privileged place from which God chooses to speak to us. To be ignorant of scripture is to be ignorant of God. And why should we bother to sow the word? The call that God makes to us through his word is compelling. We freely choose to accept it but then we are impelled to tell others about it because it is the most important ingredient in our daily lives. God's call infuses everything we do and cannot be kept as a sideline to be looked at like a stamp collection or played with like a model train set. It is the dynamo of our existence, what gives us hope and provides us with direction to our lives. If Christians don't read and study the word of God then they atrophy, they wither. If Christians don't use every means to propagate the seed of the word then they fail to comply with the conditions of God's call to go out and teach all nations. Today's parable asks us to be both an assiduous farmer and good soil. Without these nothing will grow. Least of all us.