

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Third Sunday of Easter
8th May 2011



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THE NEW PARISH CENTRE

The Oak Floor has been laid in the Main Hall and the Meeting Room – it looks wonderful. The Balcony and the stairs are ready for their covering (corded carpet and vinyl respectively). The stairway has been plaster-boarded, and is ready for plastering. The lights in the toilets are working (no switches, they are controlled by movement sensors – no more going back to put forgotten lights out when you are locking the hall!), as are the hand-dryers! All the cisterns have been connected and the cubicles are being completed. The Link Corridor is now plastered, and the zink roof is completed. The floor screed will be laid at the end of this coming week. The electrician has started work in the new sacristy. When the window is installed, the old side entrance door and panel will be removed, and the boiler will be relocated. The new access to the link corridor will then be opened up.

We have banked £6,737 to date (Thursday evening). from The Parachute Jump. There is still about £1,000 of sponsorship on the sheets which we have here in the Parish to be collected. If you have not yet made your donation, or still have a Form or money at home, we ask that you return them as soon as possible. When all the forms are returned, we will be able to make the (quite sizeable) Gift Aid Claim. Thank You to all those who have donated.

PENTECOST CELEBRATION

The Pentecost celebration this year will take place at 6.30pm Mass on Saturday 11th June. It is hoped that this will be the First Parish Celebration in the New Hall. The Builders are doing every thing possible to have the Hall ready, so keep your fingers crossed and keep praying that all goes according to plan! If you wish your home nation to be represented please speak to Margaret or Jacqueline so that we know which country's flags and food to expect! A contact number would also be helpful. The Annual Spring/Summer Raffle will be drawn during the Celebration. The tickets are available at the entrance to the Church.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

The second meeting of the Baptism Preparation Course will be today at 2.30pm in The Convent, Longlands Close

FIRST COMMUNION

The Parish will be celebrating First Communion for four weeks beginning Sunday 15th May. They will take place during the 12.30 Mass each Sunday. The Folk Group will "move" from 11.00 Mass to the 12.30 Mass each week! There will be a meeting at 10.00am in the Church on Saturday 14th May for the children and their parents who are celebrating their First Communion the next day.

"EVER ANCIENT EVER NEW"

Young adults aged 18 plus are invited to consider the call to religious life in the 21st Century by spending a weekend of 13th/15th May with the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham. For further details call 0127 373848 or visit the events page of their website www.walsinghamcommunity.org.

ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE PRIEST TRAINING FUND (WEEF)

The annual collection to raise funds to pay for the training of priests takes place next weekend. We now have over 40 men training for the priesthood in our seminary and this really is an answer to our prayers. But it also means that more money needs to be raised, as it costs £50 a day to train a seminarian. Please take one of the donation envelopes and return it with your contribution next weekend.

CLERK TO THE GOVERNING BODY - ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

We wish to appoint an experienced administrator as Clerk to St Mary's Catholic School Governing Body. This will involve taking the minutes at full Governing Body meetings and some committee meetings which are held in the evening and administrative tasks in order to ensure the smooth running of the Governing Body. Training will be available and you will be expected to work towards gaining a recognised qualification for Clerks to Governing Bodies. You need to be available to attend Governors meetings which follow a published calendar. The salary for the year is H2, point 14 pro rata, which equates to £1,011 per annum. This is currently paid on a monthly basis. The estimated number of hours required for this role is 120 per year, including the writing of minutes and preparation of documentation, as well as attending the specified meetings. St Mary's Catholic School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. A CRB disclosure will be required. An application form together with job description, and other information can be found on our website at www.stmarys.net under the "staff" section. Only applications on the school application form can be considered. Closing date 13th May 2011.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
 I say to the Lord: "you are my God."
 O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
 it is you yourself who are my prize.

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
 who even at night directs my heart.
 I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
 since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
 even my body shall rest in safety.
 For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
 nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life,
 the fullness of joy in your presence,
 at your right hand happiness for ever.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia
 Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us.
 Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.
 Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS: NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Acts 2:14.22-33	Acts 2:14.36-41
Psalms 15	Psalms 22
1 Peter 1:17-21	1 Peter 2:20-25
Luke 24:13-35	John 10:1-10

Mass Times

SUNDAY	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.30am 11.00am 12.30pm
Monday		10.00am
Tuesday		10.00am
Wednesday		10.00am
Thursday	Nereus & Achilleus	10.00am
Friday	Our Lady of Fatima	10.00am
Saturday	Matthias	6.30pm
SUNDAY	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.30am 11.00am 12.30pm & 6.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation –

Saturday 10.30 – 11.00am & 5.45 – 6.15pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church each Friday morning from 9.15 to 9.45am.

Offertory Last Week: £1,639.71

Easter Offerings: £265.66

Parachute Jump: £1106.95

plus the regular Standing Orders. Thank You!

ST JOSEPH'S MARIAN GROUP

St Joseph's Marian Group meets in the Sacristy at 10.45am on Tuesday mornings.

SVP GROUP

The SVP group meets on Mondays at 8.00pm in the Sacristy.

RCIA GROUP

The RCIA meets on Monday evenings at 8.00pm in the presbytery.

BAPTISM THIS WEEK

Sunday 8th May at 1.45pm Amy Pine

CAFOD – PEDAL AGAINST POVERTY

Riders are needed to take part in CAFOD's annual family friendly sponsored cycle ride. This will take place in the beautiful Lee Valley Country Park, North London/Hertfordshire on Sunday 12th June. Please contact CAFOD for a registration form for either a 10 or 18 Mile Ride by phoning 0208-449-6970. email Westminster@cafod.org.uk or see our web page: www.cafod.org.uk/sponsored-events/bike/pedal-against-poverty.

CHESHUNT URGENT CARE CENTRE

Our local MP is organising a petition to present on the floor of the House of Commons to get the decision to close the Care Centre reviewed. There are copies of the Petition available for signing at the back of the Church. There will be a demonstration march on Saturday 21st May from Theobolds Grove Station at 10.00am.

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER NEEDED

St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School in Stevenage is seeking a Deputy Headteacher. For further details, please see Notice in the Church Porch.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

There will be a meeting for Confirmation Candidates at 8.00pm on Thursday 12th May.

MULBERRY MAGAZINE

The Allen Hall seminary magazine 'The Mulberry' are available at the church porch. **They are free.**

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

The Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet at 8.00pm on Friday 13th May.

WALK WITH ME

The Easter Edition of "Walk with Me", written by Archbishop Vincent Nichols is now available, priced at £1.00 from the back of the Church.

PILGRIMAGE TO AYLESFORD

This will take place on Sunday 12th June, leaving St Joseph's Church at 9.30am returning approx. 7.00pm. Cost £12 adults and £6 for school children. Bookings to be made to Richard Collison on 01992 440968 or John Anthony on 0208 363 3721. For further details, please see the poster in Church.

CYCLE OF PRAYER

During Easter, we are asked to pray for these intentions: New Members of the Church; The Right Use of the Media; Vocations; the Church; Human Work.

Third Sunday of Easter

Psalm to the Counselor Lord

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Amen.

—Psalm 16:7–11

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Sunday, May 8, 2011

A Surprising Stranger

Today's Readings: Acts 2:14, 22–23; 1 Peter 1:17–21; Luke 24:13–35. Imagine that you're grieving the death of a beloved friend, who died tragically young. To make matters worse, he died violently, suffering terribly. Probably the last thing you need as you mourn is a clueless stranger who must hear the whole story. Luke shows us the state of the disciples on the road to Emmaus: "They stood still, looking sad." Paralyzed by grief, they can't move ahead.

Now imagine the same scenario with one difference: what if the intruder were Jesus? Cleopas and his companion are stuck; they can't see the cross as anything but failure. All their hopes for Jesus and his reign have dissolved. But somehow this stranger gets them talking and walking again. They are so drawn to him that they urge him strongly, saying, "Stay with us"

Perhaps that should be our prayer too, asking Jesus to be with us in whatever dark trench we find ourselves. If we have lost hope, enthusiasm, or even interest, it doesn't seem to deter Jesus. Somehow, he rekindles the dormant spark so it becomes an inner flame. He gladly joins a long walk and conversation, winding it up, typically, with a meal.

Jesus appears in the guise of a stranger here, suggesting that we may find him where we least expect. When our usual sources of inspiration may disappoint, he seems to delight in surprising us. So stay alert this week!

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Monday, May 9

Birthday of Peter Maurin

Maurin (1877–1949) co-founded the Catholic Worker Movement with Dorothy Day. He came from France to North America, wanting to create a society based on Gospel values. When he met Dorothy in 1932, she was a convert who needed a mentor; she translated his ideas into action. They founded a newspaper, soup kitchens, and houses of hospitality for the poor people of the slums: all "guests" were considered members of the family.

Their work continues today. Is there a Catholic Worker house near you? Explore what they do. Today's Readings: Acts 6:8–15; John 6:22–29.

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Tuesday, May 10

Saint Damien of Molokai

Damien, a Belgian priest, whose optional memorial may be celebrated today, served in a Hawaiian leper colony when the disease was still incurable and highly contagious. He restored the dignity of the people, outcasts from their families and societies, and did not fear contact with them. He gave them a proper cemetery, church, and homes, which transformed them into a proud, happy community. His most famous homily began, "We lepers . . ." after he saw in himself the first signs of the disease. Learn more at <http://www.fatherdamien.com/>. Today's Readings: Acts 7:51—8:1a; John 6:30–35.

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Wednesday, May 11

Another Sort of Bread

In today's Gospel, Jesus is the bread of life. We need all sorts of breads. Try making this banana bread:

Preheat oven to 325°. Melt 1 stick butter or margarine. Add 1 cup sugar, stirring well. In a large bowl, beat 2 eggs together, then add the butter-sugar mix. In another bowl, mash 3 ripe bananas and add the butter-sugar-egg mixture.

Add 1 cup flour, ½ tsp. salt, 1 tsp. baking soda, and mix well. Add another 1 cup flour and 1/3 cup hot water. Pour batter into a greased 9 x 5" loaf pan. Bake for 1 hour and 10 minutes.

Today's Readings: Acts 8:1b–8; John 6:35–40.

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Thursday, May 12

Saint Nereus and Saint Achilleus

Little is known of these first-century martyrs, whose optional memorial may be celebrated today, except that they were soldiers who carried out the orders of a tyrant. After their conversion to Christianity, they left the military, or, as Pope Damasus put it in his epitaph: "they threw away their shields, their armor and their blood-stained javelins." Making peace is still important to Catholics. Visit the Web site for Pax Christi (www.paxchristiusa.org). Today's Readings: Acts 8:26–40; John 6:44–51.

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Friday, May 13

Our Lady of Fatima

Many will celebrate the optional memorial of Our Lady of Fatima today. This day marked the first apparition of Our Lady to three Portuguese children in 1917. Her message was simple: pray for peace. At that time, World War I was raging. As a citizen of all nations, Mary shows no partiality. It must grieve her to see nations warring; to her, they are all beloved children. Today's Readings: Acts 9:1–20; John 6:52–59.

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Saturday, May 14

Feast of Saint Matthias and Preparing for Sunday

Today's First Reading tells how Matthias became an apostle, taking the place of Judas. The Gospel gives us those beautiful words of Jesus: "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love." This gentle tone is a good preview of tomorrow's Gospel, which describes Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Children could make a centerpiece for the table to celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday tomorrow. Using cotton balls and pipe cleaners (or twist ties for plastic bags), create small sheep. Draw eyes and mouths with a marker. Then cut a shepherd figure from cardboard. Today's Readings: Acts 1:15–17, 20–26; John 15:9–17.

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