

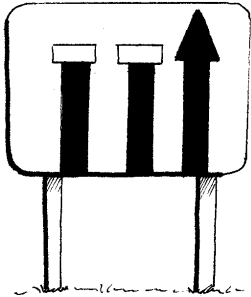
Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Third Sunday of the Year
25th January 2009



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

www.walthamcrossrc.org.uk



The very first words of Jesus recorded by St Mark are "The time has come and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the Good News." Jesus' whole life would turn out to be an invitation to enter God's kingdom through repentance. And the Good News was precisely that: we have a God who does not want to lose us but wants us to be happy with him now and forever. Our first problem is usually in believing that God really means what he says. We live in a society that encourages litigation. We are urged on to get our rightful due, to press for what we are entitled to and to live in a compensation world. Yet God laughs in the face of this. Who could claim the all-time record payout when it comes to compensation? God, of course! Yet God's time is not spent getting his own back but looking of ways to forgive. But God's forgiveness is not automatic; it demands repentance. Repentance originally meant regret. But it's not enough to regret our sins; we need also to take action to ensure that they don't happen again. In the Old Testament, repentance included a physical action. The Hebrew word "shuv" means to turn. Repentance for the Jewish people was like doing a U-turn and deciding to go in a different direction. In the New Testament, the Greek word used is "metanoia" which means having a change of mind and deciding that we have to start looking with a fresh outlook on the way we behave. Later the Romans would use the Latin word "conversio" from which we get our word conversion. But conversion wasn't just a religious word. It meant to turn around, to transform and to return. Whatever way we choose to think about repentance, it is at the heart of the Christian gospel and it forms the basis of Christ's preaching. Repentance means changing our mind about the way we behave and turning our lives around. If, like the people of Nineveh in the days of Jonah, we want to experience God's forgiveness then we need to repent. For repentance is the hallmark of being a Christian. It's something that never ends.

100+ CLUB MEMBERS FOR 2009

Please collect your card giving your number(s) for 2009 from the box at the front entrance to the Church.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

If you are able to help with fundraising and social events in any way you are invited to attend either of two brief meetings planned for Sunday 25th January after 10.45am Mass or Tuesday 27th January at 8pm.

SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Annual Service of Prayer for Christian Unity will be today at 3.00pm here in St Joseph's. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

UNCLAIMED RAFFLE PRIZES

5th Prize Bells No. 2332 **10th Prize** Roses No. 3242.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Confirmation will be celebrated here on Thursday 2nd July. There will be a Meeting for the Candidates who have signed up for the Preparation and for their Parents on Thursday 12th February at 8.00pm in the Church.

3RD WALTHAM CROSS CUBS NEEDS YOU!

Calling all 8-10 year olds, we need you! We do lots of cool stuff like fun and games, we work towards badges and also go camping. It's on a Friday night and runs from 6.15 pm – 7.45 pm, in St, Joseph's Hall. For more information, please call Ian on 07984 401159 or Sarah on 01992 627895.

ME... A PRIEST

Have you ever considered becoming a priest? If so you're welcome to come to St. Paul the Apostle Church, Bradley Road, Wood Green N22, for a cup of tea, a tour of the church, and some prayer. Please contact for more information, Fr. Philip 020 8886 9568, Fr. John 020 8888 2390, and Fr. Chris (Vocations Director) 0207 7798 9083.

ST PAUL'S SUNDAY MISSAL

St Paul's 2009 Sunday Missal is now on sale in the shop, price £4.50. Please note that the Missals are free to those who are on the Reader's Rota.

The Hunter Family wish to thank everyone for their prayers for Bernard at the time of his illness and for the family. A Mass is to be offered for you on Sunday 15th February at 10.45am.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
For you are God my saviour.

Remember your mercy, Lord,
And the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray .
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia !
The kingdom of God is close at hand;
Believe the good news !
Alleluia !

TODAY'S READINGS: NEXT WEEKS' READINGS:

John 3:1-5.10 Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 24 Psalm 94:1-2.6-9
1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Corinthians 7:32-35
Mark 1:15 Mark 1:21-28

Mass Times

SUNDAY	THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	8.30am 10.45am 12.15pm & 6.30pm
Monday	Timothy & Titus	10.00am
Tuesday		10.00am
Wednesday	Thomas Aquinas	10.00am
Thursday		10.00am
Friday		10.00am
Saturday	John Bosco	6.30pm
SUNDAY	FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	8.30am 10.45am 12.15pm & 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 9.45.

Offertory Last Week: £1,472.70 plus the regular Standing Orders. Thank You!

The banking rota for Spring 2009 is now available.

SVP

The SVP Group meets on Monday evenings at 8.00pm in the Sacristy.

LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary meets in the Sacristy at 10.45 on Tuesday mornings.

RCIA

The RCIA Group will meet on Tuesday evening at 8.00pm in the Presbytery.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

A Baptism Preparation Course will begin on Sunday 1st February at 2.30pm at the Convent in Longlands Close. If you wish your child to be baptised in the near future, please contact Father John.

BAPTISM THIS WEEK

Sunday 25th January - Sean McDonagh
Saturday 31 January - Niall Pyment

FUNERALS THIS WEEK

The Funeral Mass for the late Jimmy Holland will be celebrated at 10.00am on Monday 26th January.

The Funeral Mass for the late Maggie McElligott will be celebrated at 11.45am on Tuesday 27th January.

FRENCH CLUB

The French Club has now restarted in Eleanor Hall on Wednesday for age 5-7 and Thursday Age 8-11 both from 3.45-4.45pm. Encourage your children's language skills in a fun way through songs, games and the interactive website. Please contact Pauline on 07983 045050.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED!

To become one of the Altar Servers in the Parish, you must have received your First Communion, and be attending Mass here. If you celebrated your First Communion last year or have recently moved into the Parish, and would like to join the Altar Servers, please see Fr John.

ARCHBISHOP'S MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

The Cardinal will be inviting all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 50th and 60th + wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2009, to a thanksgiving Mass. This will be held on Saturday 30th May 2009 at 3.00 pm at Westminster Cathedral. If you qualify, please don't delay in telling the parish clergy. He will need: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email if you have one (or if not, a phone no.). The address is Dept for Pastoral Affairs, Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN, email cathmacgillivray@rcdow.org.uk, or phone 020 7931 6064.

VOLUNTEERING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

CAFOD is looking for volunteers to inspire children and young people to explore global justice issues, their faith and how they can act to make the world a fairer place. We urgently need volunteers to give presentations and lead workshops either in schools or parish confirmation groups in the Westminster Diocese. If you are passionate about social justice and enjoy public speaking and working with young people, please contact CAFOD Westminster for an application form and to book a place on our 31st January Understanding CAFOD induction day by calling 020 8449 6970 or emailing westminster@cafod.org.uk. Full training given. Volunteers will be accepted on successful completion of interview and Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check.