

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

The Fourth Sunday of the Year
31st January 2010

Education Sunday



204, High Street
Waltham Cross
Herts EN8 7DP
01992 623156
www.walthamcrossrc.org.uk

One Hundred and Fifty Years!

Archbishop Vincent Nichols will be coming to celebrate Mass with us at 6.30pm next Saturday, 6th February to celebrate our anniversary, and launch *The History of the Church* which has been written by Geoff Kinton at the Social Gathering in Eleanor Hall after Mass.

There will be a "bring and share" supper during the Social, so we are appealing to everyone to share their culinary skills and bring a plate (or two) of something to eat. It would help if people let the Parish Office know what they are bringing, we will then be able to arrange for the gaps to be filled in!



We all have people we look up to and respect. We're prepared to listen and learn from them. But if God were to choose the most mundane, unexpected person to get through to us, who would it be? Who's the prophet in our midst that we're missing because we never give them a second thought?

EDUCATION SUNDAY

Get yourself a good education is advice that we often hear, and sometimes we witness people at the end of their lives regretting that they never gave their education much thought when they were younger.

It's impossible not to have an education; but it's the quality of the education that really counts. I was educated at the university of life, some people say. And they're not far from the truth because education is a womb to tomb experience, not something that just takes place in our earlier years.

Education actually means being led out of something: being led from ignorance to knowledge, from darkness into light, from inability to skill. Educators are people who lead others to greener pastures, to knowledge, to adventure and opportunity.

Because we live in a developed country we are lucky to have such a range of academic facilities available to us. As Christians too we have the luxury of our faith schools. In these schools there is a distinct ethos: Christ is at the centre of our teaching and learning. Faith schools don't simply teach or train; they form people. To form people in the image and likeness of Christ means to make them whole people, people who are rounded in faith as well as in academic excellence.

We're fortunate to have such dedicated staff in our faith schools who recognise their vocation of leading people out of darkness into light. We're fortunate too to have dedicated catechists who prepare people for the sacraments, and skilled teachers who help form people in pastoral ministry. On Education Sunday we acknowledge and celebrate the benefits our Christian education systems bring us, and we pledge to continue supporting them all in the future.

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.

THE BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

Are holding a weekend for those who find themselves alone again through bereavement, divorce or separation. This will take place from 26th to 28th March at the Emmanus Centre, West Wickham. For details telephone Nicky on 01296 488289.

CELEBRATING SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th and 60th+ wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2010. If you qualify, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or phone number, if no email.)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, free me:
pay heed to me and save me.

Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
Free me from the hand of the wicked.

It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, since my youth.
On you I have leaned from my birth,
from my mother's womb you have been my help.

My lips will tell of your justice
and day by day of your help.
O God, you have taught me from my youth
and I proclaim your wonders still.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia
I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord;
no one can come to the Father except through me.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS:	NEXT WEEKS' READINGS:
Jeremiah 1:4-5.17-19	Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalms 70	Psalms 137
1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13	1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 4:21-30	Matthew 4:19

Mass Times

SUNDAY	FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	8.30am 11.00am 12.30pm & 6.30pm
Monday		10.00am
Tuesday	Presentation of the Lord	10.00am
Wednesday	Lawrence	10.00am
Thursday		10.00am
Friday	Agatha	10.00am
Saturday		6.30pm
SUNDAY	FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	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 9.45.

Offertory Last Week: £1493.84 Haiti Fund £1132.89 plus the regular Standing Orders. Thank You!

SVP

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

RCIA

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

LEGION OF MARY

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

LINE DANCING

There is Line Dancing every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in Eleanor Hall.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Confirmation Preparation is at 8.00pm on Thursday evenings in the Church.

HAITI APPEAL

Many thanks for your support for the Haiti appeal during the past two weeks. A Cheque has been sent to CAFOD for £1832.89. Thanks you!

The Prayer groups in the parish are organising a Holy hour for the Haiti earthquake victims on Monday 1st February after the 10am Mass.

FAIRTRADE STALL

Fairtrade stall will be in operation after each Mass this weekend, at its normal place by the Repository.

MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY IN LOURDES

Archbishop Vincent Nichols welcomes all to this Mass, which is also the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. It will be celebrated on Saturday 13th February at 3.00pm in Westminster Cathedral, Victoria Street, SW1P 1QW. The sacrament of the sick will be administered. If you are bringing a wheelchair, please let the Parish Office know so that space for wheelchairs and carers can be reserved.

ST JOSEPH'S FITNESS CLUB

Could this be your chance to lose the extra pounds gained over Christmas!! Anybody interested in joining please ring Stewart 01992 634445 or email stewartbrodiesykes@yahoo.co.uk. Times and dates have still to be arranged.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHESHUNT AND WALTHAM CROSS

There will be a Churches Together in Cheshunt and Waltham Cross Meeting in Christchurch, on the corner of Trinity Lane, at 8.00pm on Monday 1st February. All parishioners are welcome to attend. This replaces the January Meeting cancelled due to the bad weather

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD ('Candlemas Day')

Blessing of Candles, Procession and High Mass @ 5.30pm on Tuesday, 2nd February, 2010 in the Chapel of Saint Edmund's College, Old Hall Green, Ware, Herts - All Welcome (The College 'Schola Cantorum' will be singing at the Mass.)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

There will be a Meeting of the Parish Finance Committee in the Presbytery on Thursday evening at 8.00pm.

ROGER HOARE – R I P

The Funeral Mass for Roger will be celebrated on Friday 12 February at 10.00am followed by burial at Lavender Hill Cemetery.