

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

The Sixth Sunday of Easter
17th May 2009



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WELCOME FOR THE NEW ARCHBISHOP

Archbishop Vincent Nichols will be installed as the Archbishop of Westminster on this Thursday at 12.00 noon in the Cathedral. The ceremony will be shown live on BBC 2 from 11.45am.

The Mass here in Waltham Cross on Thursday morning will be at 9.00am

Archbishop Nichols will be celebrating a Mass for all the parishes in Hertfordshire at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26th May.

The Mass will be at SS. Albans & Stephen Church in St. Albans. All are welcome!

Please pray for the Archbishop and for the Diocese as he starts his new Ministry as our Bishop.

INTERNATIONAL PENTECOST CELEBRATION SATURDAY 30TH MAY 2009

The Pentecost Mass and Celebration Party will be taking place on Saturday 30th May at 6.30pm. We would like to invite you all to celebrate with us. What we need from you are flags, national dress, help with music, prayers, food and decorations for the party afterwards. To add your country to the Great Pentecost Celebration please contact Sharon on 07979 800 974 or Denise on 07966 077 529.

NATIONAL PETITION TO THE ADVERTISING STANDARDS AGENCY

You will have read that the National Advertising Standards Agency (ASA), which is responsible for ensuring that no public advertising offends good taste or is untruthful, is proposing to allow abortion agencies to advertise on the radio and television. This will be deeply offensive to many decent people and to all who seek to uphold the sanctity of human life. It will inevitably lead to yet more abortion, yet more damage to women's minds and bodies, yet more promiscuity and yet more sexually transmitted infection. It would be lamentable if the abortion industry were to win this victory and thus be able to corrupt our society yet further. We must do all we can to stop them. Please sign the National Petition to the ASA asking them not to approve this advertising. They are available at the church entrances.

DIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE TO TAIZE, FRANCE – 8-16 AUGUST 2009

Join Bishop John Arnold and other young Adults (18-30s) from around the Diocese on pilgrimage to this unique Christian Community. A 'Holiday' with a difference, meet other young adults from the diocese, meet other people from around Europe and the world, a time for prayer, space and reflection, spend time with the Taize brothers. Take time-out in 'sunny' Central France. Price: £200. For further details, contact Dave Burke, tel: 020 7798 9357, email: davidburke@rcdow.org.uk web: www.taizepilgrimage.wordpress.com

Thought For the Week:

Religious people often see non-religious people as outsiders. This no doubt stems from the fact that to espouse a religion is no light matter; it means taking a step that is the basis of our whole being and orientation. For religion is a life option not a leisure activity.

In the Old Testament the Jewish people considered themselves to be the chosen people of God to the extent that they kept clear of all dealings with the "nations", the surrounding peoples and cultures. When prophets like Isaiah came along and in God's name foretold that all these pagan nations would be welcome to offer worship on the holy mountain of Jerusalem, it profoundly shocked the religious sensitivities of their audience.

In the New Testament Peter makes an astounding discovery: that God has no favourites and that anyone who tries to do God's will is acceptable to God. This comes after thousands of pagans have listened to his preaching and have received the same Holy Spirit with which he himself has been anointed.



Things haven't changed that much. We have an inbuilt tendency to think of those who do not share our faith as being on a different plane to us. Yet one thing is clear: God gives his Spirit to anyone he thinks is striving to do his will. And this should make us stop and think: we have no monopoly on truth and goodness. While we know that our Church possesses the gifts of the Holy Spirit, it is patently obvious that the Spirit blows through Jewish people, through Muslims, through Buddhists and Hindus....in fact, even through those who do not even believe. For all goodness and truth comes from God.

Living our faith in the power of the Spirit is a real challenge, because it dares us to look at our surroundings and discern the people and events that God is using today to speak to us. And of course sometimes these people and events are the last ones we would ever expect to be mouthpieces of God. But when it comes to choosing people, God has no favourites. Anyone who strives to do his will is acceptable.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
any my Father will love him, and we shall come to him'.

Alleluia!**TODAY'S READINGS:**

Acts 10:25-26.34-35
Psalm 97:1-4
1 John 4:7-10
John 15:9-17

NEXT WEEKS' READINGS:

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 46:2-3.6-9
Ephesians 4:1-13
Mark 16:15-20

Mass Times

SUNDAY	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.30am 10.45am 12.15pm & 6.30pm
Monday	John	10.00am
Tuesday		10.00am
Wednesday	Bernardine	10.00am
Thursday		9.00am
Friday	Rita	10.00am
Saturday		6.30pm
SUNDAY	ASCENSION OF THE LORD	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: £1,768.04

plus the regular Standing Orders. Thank You!

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.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

There will be a meeting for all who are being prepared for Confirmation on Thursday at 8.00pm in the Church

THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (WESTMINSTER)

The Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) is inviting everyone to celebrate 150 years of the Society by coming together with friends and family to hold a Giant Picnic on 14th June! If you would like to take part in this fundraising event, please register by Friday 29th May 2009 by contacting Elise on 020 8969 5305 or email elisech@cathchild.org.uk. You will receive a Giant Picnic pack with posters, ideas for games, food and fundraising.

ST JOSEPH'S GAELIC FOOTBALL CLUB

There is Football Training every Tuesday evening at 6.30pm at Bulls Cross Pitch. All are welcome, aged 7-18. For more details, please ring Noel On 01992 424673.

NEW EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS ROTA

The New Rota is now available in the usual place in the Sacristy. Please collect a copy.

FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING MEETING

There will be a meeting for the Finance and Fundraising Committee on Tuesday 19th May 8.00pm.

BAPTISMS THIS WEEK

Saturday 23rd May at 4.30pm

Aidan Kelly and Kosisochukwu Okeke

Sunday 24th May at 2.00pm

Ellie & Charlie McFadden

FIRST COMMUNION

The Parish will again be celebrating First Communion this Sunday, we pray for the children and their families. They will take place during the 12.15 Mass each Sunday. The Folk Group will "move" from 10.45 Mass to the 12.15 Mass each week!

There will be a meeting at 10.00am in the Church on Saturday 23rd May for the children and their parents who are celebrating their First Communion on this coming Sunday.

MULBERRY MAGAZINE

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

AYLESFORD PILGRIMAGE SUNDAY 7TH JUNE

The Knights of St Columba are organising a coach again for their annual pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Simon Stock at Aylesford in Kent. The programme will be Holy Mass at 12 noon, followed by Rosary, procession and benediction at 3.00pm. Pick up 9.30am at Waltham Cross, adults £12, children £6. Please contact Richard 01992 440968 or John 0208 363 3721.

PEDAL AGAINST POVERTY WITH CAFOD

Join CAFOD for a sponsored bike ride to help raise funds for CAFOD's poverty-fighting work overseas. The family friendly sponsored bike ride will take place on Sunday 7th June in the beautiful Lee Valley Country Park, For further details and a registration form, please contact CAFOD on 0208 449 6970 or email Westminster@cafod.org.uk. You can also download a registration form from CAFOD's web page www.cafod.org.uk/pedalagainstopoverty. Closing date for applications 22nd May.