

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

The Ascension of the Lord
24th May 2009



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When Jesus left this earth by ascending into heaven he did not leave his disciples empty-handed. He left them some parting gifts.

The first parting gift was unfinished business. Ascension is not the end but the beginning for the Church. Jesus did not tell his disciples to sit and reminisce but to go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all peoples. And so it is with the Church today: we do not exist for ourselves but for others. Christians are not simply called to become holy; they are called to tell others about the holiness of God so that they too may come to wholeness and holiness. In a recession the first thing that goes is the advertising budget and the next thing is the business itself. We need to remind ourselves that we exist to make Jesus Christ known and loved. And this proclaiming business is always unfinished.

The second gift that Jesus left at the ascension was an unfathomable love. Many religions and philosophies are a catalogue of thoughts and ideas. They exist by rules and codes of practice. But Jesus never left us any long lists of dogmas or regulations. What he did leave us was an example. At the heart of Jesus' every word and action is love. He tells us that our God is a lover, that he loves us infinitely more than we can ever imagine or comprehend. And ascension is not God's departure from our world but his continued presence in an even deeper way. For we are not left like orphans; we have the gift of God's daily love in the person of the Holy Spirit. In this way God is with us till the end of the world and certainly till the end of our days.

Jesus' final ascension gift to us was an unfailing promise. For this feast is a feast of hope. Jesus promises us that where he has gone we too can follow, and this is both our glory and our hope. Although he has passed beyond our sight we know that one day we will see him in glory and this promise supports and sustains all our Christian activity and faith.

Unfinished business, unfathomable love and an unfailing promise: all of these await us if we dare to celebrate the Ascension of the Lord.

PENTECOST CELEBRATION NEXT SATURDAY 30TH MAY

Please ensure that all national flags are delivered to the parish office during the coming week or to the church from 3.00pm on Saturday, so that they are on display during Mass. We have flag poles at the ready.

All contributions to the shared international food table will be most welcome for the party after Mass as will examples and demonstrations of traditional music, dance and song. Please also bring along any emblems and posters etc. to display in the hall, and wear traditional dress if possible.

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.

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.

PICNIC IN THE PARK

Churches Together in Cheshunt and Waltham Cross will be holding their annual Picnic in the Park on Sunday 14th June from 1.00 – 3.30pm. It will take place at Goffs Oak Playing Fields, or if the weather is wet in St James' Church in Goffs Oak. The Salvation Army Band will be in attendance during the afternoon.

WELCOME FOR THE NEW ARCHBISHOP

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

All peoples, clap your hands,
Cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
Great king over all the earth.

God goes up with shouts of joy;
The Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
Sing praise to our king, sing praise.

God is King of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go, make disciples of all the nations;
I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.

Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS:

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

NEXT WEEKS' READINGS:

Acts 2:1-11
Psalm 103
Galatians 5:16-25
John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Mass Times

SUNDAY	ASCENSION OF THE LORD	8.30am 10.45am 12.15pm & 6.30pm
Monday	Bede	10.00am
Tuesday	Philip	10.00am
Wednesday	Augustine	10.00am
Thursday		10.00am
Friday		10.00am
Saturday		6.30pm
SUNDAY	PENTECOST SUNDAY	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: £1,570.84

plus the regular Standing Orders. Thank You!

LEGION OF MARY

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

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.

BAPTISMS THIS WEEK

Sunday 24th May at 2.00pm

Ellie & Charlie McFadden

Sunday 31st May at 1.30pm

Angel Massaquoi

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. This is the last of the First Communions for this year. We would like to thank all those who have helped, in particular the musicians, who have moved from their normal Masses each week.

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.

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.

MULBERRY MAGAZINE

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

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

FAIRTRADE STALL

The Fairtrade Stall will be open after all the Masses this weekend. It is at the back of the Church in the Repository.

Parish MASS INTENTIONS DIARY

The Parish Diary for Mass Intentions is now open again.

YOUNG PARENTS BIBLE GROUP

Sunday, June 7th at 2.30pm at the Convent, 3 Longlands Close, Cheshunt. Phone 01992 621168.