

# Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Forth Sunday of Easter  
3<sup>rd</sup> May 2009



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## THE ANNUAL WEEF COLLECTION

"The retiring collection today is for the Westminster Ecclesiastical Education Fund. This is the fund that has been set up to raise the money that is needed to pay for the training of the new priests and it is very important that we raise as much money as we can this weekend.

We now have over forty men in training for the priesthood and this is very good news indeed. But, in order to cope with this number, the Diocese has had to upgrade the accommodation at our seminary as, for example, there were not enough bathrooms. They also had to renovate the building itself and, in total, well over £1m had to be spent. In addition, we must ensure that our seminarians receive appropriate training and preparation for the increasingly complex environment in which they will work. As a result, it costs approximately £20,000 a year to train a priest.

What all this means is that there is a real risk that this fund for the training of priests will run out of money within the next few years unless there is an increase in the annual collection. I am, of course, all too aware of the financial pressures on so many of you in the current very difficult economic climate and all that I can ask is that you give as much as you can afford. However, if you are a taxpayer, could I also urge you to complete the Gift Aid form on the back of the donation envelope as this will add 28p to every £1 that you give at no extra cost to yourself. Thank you."

## PEDAL AGAINST POVERTY WITH CAFOD – SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

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 7<sup>th</sup> June in the beautiful Lee Valley Country Park, Hertfordshire. (10 or 19 mile routes available). For further details and a registration form, please contact CAFOD on 0208 449 6970 or email [Westminster@cafod.org.uk](mailto:Westminster@cafod.org.uk). You can also download a registration form from CAFOD's web page [www.cafod.org.uk/pedalagainstopoverty](http://www.cafod.org.uk/pedalagainstopoverty). Closing date for applications 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

## AYLESFORD PILGRIMAGE SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> 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.

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> June! If you would like to take part in this fundraising event, please register by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2009 by contacting Elise on 020 8969 5305 or email [elisech@cathchild.org.uk](mailto:elisech@cathchild.org.uk). You will receive a Giant Picnic pack with posters, ideas for games, food and fundraising.

## MASS IN SUPPORT OF MIGRANT WORKERS

London is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world, home to migrant communities who have come to seek shelter from oppression and to improve their economic position. Many of the new migrants to our city are Catholics. On Bank Holiday Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at Westminster Cathedral, Victoria, London SW1, there will be a Mass in honour of St Joseph the Worker. You are invited to join fellow workers, migrants and civic leaders for a morning of reflection and celebration. The Mass will be held at 11.30am preceded by a procession of representatives from London's diverse communities, occupations and civic organisations.

## 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](mailto:davidburke@rcdow.org.uk) web: [www.taizepilgrimage.wordpress.com](http://www.taizepilgrimage.wordpress.com).

