

#### Dear People,

Years ago I was speaking with a lady who had just retired. I suggested she might like to visit some of the elderly and lonely in the parish. She laughed. She wanted to enjoy her retirement, she said, and she didn't fancy visiting. A few years later she was ill and I was bringing her Holy Communion. She told me no one from the church had come to see her. What sort of a parish were we? People like you, I thought.

If you don't visit who will want to visit you? As I visit our homes, care homes and nursing homes, so many lonely, I wonder if they visited when they were able to? If they didn't they can't grumble now that no one wants to visit them.

Do we depend upon family and friends, parish, care workers, local authority? Unless we have given do we have the right to expect to receive?

Ours is a good parish, I am constantly told. Look at all that goes on: mass every day, retreat evenings of prayer and reflection, meditation and prayer groups, ecumenical meetings and prayer, Blessed Sacrament Chapel open each day, Question of faith discussions, social events, children's liturgy, pilgrimages to holy places, church choirs and music, St Joseph's Table, our charity and mission works. Wonderful!

Yes, but how well is all that good work supported? Organisation and hard work are required for anything to succeed. Truly, how much do you, reading this letter, contribute? How much have you been involved? To be critical of lack of support or lack of interest is a healthy reaction if it leads to doing something: but if it only settles at the grumble level it is just bad mood and sour grapes.

Today is a day of prayer for vocations in the Church. What is your vocation in the Church? Does it include the parish? Is it only going to mass on Sunday? Do you criticise others for not being involved or interested?

Our parish, like a number of the Leicester parishes, is made up of a large number of small communities from around the world. Whatever is organised may appeal only to a small number - unless we are open-minded to being "church" and then we can be interested for the sake of others. Please come to the next evening of prayer, the next ecumenical service, the next social event, the next discussion meeting, mass during the week, visit the chapel, etc.

Don't say people don't go out in the evenings. They do. Don't say people who work have no time. They have. Don't say people who have retired have all the time. They haven't. We make time for those we love - God and our brothers and sisters in Christ. That's vocation - making time to love and serve God and others.

God bless you, loving fellow servants,  $F_{V} \cup \delta f_{W}$ 

**7th May 2017** (Prayer Week 4) "We live our childhood all our lives"

## Mass Times and Intentions 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

(Saturday) 6.00 pm at St. Joseph's (Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.15 pm)

9.00 am at Rosary Church 10.30 am at St. Joseph's 6.00 pm at St. Joseph's (Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.15 pm) (Intentions for Sunday Mass) for Michelle Louise Kent, John Lawrenson, Thanksgiving, Family Special Intention

MONDAY 8th MAY 7.00 pm at St. Joseph's *for Stephanie Wilson* 

TUESDAY 9th MAY10.00 am at St. Joseph's for Clare Consedine

WEDNESDAY 10th MAY 10.00 am at St. Joseph's *for Peter & Julie James* 

<u>THURSDAY 11th MAY</u> 10.00 am at St. Joseph's Service of Word & Communion

FRIDAY 12th MAY (St Achilleus, St Nereus, St Pancras) 7.00 pm at St. Joseph's Service of Word & Communion

> SATURDAY 13th MAY (Our Lady of Fatima) No Service at the Rosary Church today

## **5th SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)**

(Saturday) 6.00 pm at St. Joseph's (Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.15 pm)

SUNDAY 14th MAY

9.00 am at Rosary Church : 10.30 am at St. Joseph's 6.00 pm at St. Joseph's (Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.15 pm) (Intentions for Sunday Mass) for "In Honour of Our Lady of Fatima", Thanksgiving, Family Blessing, Helen Foreshaw

CONFESSIONS EACH WEEK SUNDAY 5.15 pm at St. Joseph's SATURDAY 10.00 am at the Rosary Church and 5.15 pm at St. Joseph's

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL open every day this week from 10.30 am - 6.30 pm.

### The Parish on Sundays



Hot (and cold) drinks after mass on Sunday mornings at both our churches. (Library, Lourdes Garden, "Home from Home" Shop, Watermead Shop open at St Joseph's).

# Parish Diary This Week

**Tuesday 9th May** <u>St JOSEPH'S TABLE</u> open today from 10.40 am - 3.30 pm. Special menu of the week (see below), along with all the usual hot/cold food and homebakes. A warm welcome awaits all. (*Library, Home from Home shop, Garden, Watermead*) will also be available during opening hours.

WATERMEAD SHOP OPEN 10.30 am-3.30 pm

<u>Wednesday 10th May</u> <u>St JOSEPH'S TABLE open again today</u> 10.40am-3.30 pm (for detail see Tuesday). <u>MEDITATION</u> in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel,10.50 am. All welcome.

WATERMEAD SHOP OPEN 10.30 am-3.30 pm

**Thursday 11th May** <u>PARISH OPEN DAY</u> - hot drinks in Coffee Shop after the morning service (library, Home from Home, Garden). All welcome.

WATERMEAD SHOP OPEN 10.30 am-3.30 pm

**Friday 12th May** THE MIRIAM PRAYER GROUP meet in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 6.00 pm for faith-sharing, Scripture readings and the Rosary. All welcome.

St Joseph<sup>3</sup>s Table This Week's Specials <u>Soup</u> - Surprise! served with a white or wholemeal bap <u>Main Dish</u> - Chicken & Mushroom Gratin or Cheese/Onion Quiche with new potatoes mixed vegetables or salad <u>Pudding</u> - Chocolate Brownie or Pineapple Upside Down Pudding with hot custard, ice cream or cream

#### **Religious Education Teacher**

St Paul's School is seeking to appoint a full time teacher of Religious Education in a good department of a fine school. Application packs available from <u>holiver@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk</u> or 0116 241 4057.

**BISHOP'S CHARITY** Bishop Patrick has agreed to be a patron of InterCare, our local charity. He has asked all the parishes to make a donation to InterCare as a sign of our interest. How good to receive such encouragement.

Last week's collection was safely counted and banked. £1,012 \*(Special RASH Collection £208) Thank you. *Counters : Tony* (Next week: Gail & Keith) \*RASH stands for our regular giving for Leicester's Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Homeless.



Fabian, Declan, Jenny, Jonathan, Jennifer, Pat, Mary, Patrick

Prayers for: Fr John Bland, Margaret

The McCann family and all missing children (It is now 10 years since Madeleine disappeared)

The peoples and countries of the world, especially of PORTUGAL & FRANCE

## Novena for Madeleine & all Missing Children



We are praying a parish novena for Madeleine McCann and for all missing children and their families. Each day, a decade of the Rosary and the prayer in honour of Our Lady of Fatima. The final day of the novena is 13th May, the day of the apparition in 1917 to the three children, Lucy, Jacinta and Francisco.

Pope Francis will be canonising Jacinta and Francisco in his visit to Fatima. They represent for us the innocence of childhood open to the love of God and to the words of Our Lady.

#### Novena to Our lady of Fatima

Most Holy Virgin Mary, you were pleased to appear to the three children of Fatima and reaveal a wonderful message. We ask you to inspire us with a great love for the recitation fo the Rosary. By meditating on the mysteries of our redemption which are recalled in them may we grow in holiness through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer - and I ask in praying this Novena that Madeleine may be returned safely to her loving family, for the greater glory of God, for your own honour and for the good of all people, AMEN

(Say one decade of the Rosary to accompany this prayer)

#### **Prayer for Vocations Sunday**

Loving Father, touch and transform us by the joy of your love. Make us missionary disciples, empowered to carry the love of Christ to our neighbour. May young people be inspired by our example to take up the path of Christian discipleship and dedicate their lives to the service of the Gospel. Raise up new vocations by the power of your Holy Spirit to the priesthood and the consecrated life: send us men and women, inspired to be living signs of your mercy. Grant us all an openness of heart, that we might readily respond to your call, and proclaim with joy the Good News to the whole world. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

CHURCH ROTAS FOR NEXT WEEKEND		
	Readers	<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>
Sat. 6.00 pm	Edward	Ann B
Sun. 9.00 am	Alan	-
10.30 am	Ann	Gerry / Sister Lelia
6.00 pm	TBA	Vincent

# **Dates for Diary**

Scripture Study at the Rosmini Centre Saturday 13th May

with Fr Antonio Belsito IC. See notice boards.

Stations of Light "Via Lucis" organised by LACY (our Catholic youth) at St Francis Church, Melton Mowbray, on

**Sunday 14th May** There will be a coach from Leicester. Full details on notice boards or ask Fr John.

#### INTERNATIONAL DANCE AND FOOD EVENT

here at St Joseph's for the Retired Priests' Appeal. Saturday 20th May

Tickets **£2** (or **£5** Family Ticket) (See "Postbag") Details on notice boards and from 07878924190

#### A Day with Mary at Walsingham Sunday 21st May

The day begins at 11.40 am with the crowning of Our Lady at the Shrine. Details on notice board

#### Diocesan PIlgrimage to Walsingham Saturday 17th June

For many years the pilgrimage has been on a Sunday but this year we are trying a Saturday. We shall organise a coach if enough people want to come. Please tell Fr John if you are interested.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 10th - 15th July 2017 By air: £649, by train: £569 Details on notice board

#### March for Life Saturday 20th May, Birmingham

This day is almost here, and we would like as many people as possible to come. If you are struggling to afford the £10 cost for the bus

please don't let this put you off! If you're unwaged or otherwise unable to afford the ticket please be assured you'll still be welcome on the bus. We ask £10 donation for the coach ticket from those who can afford it to cover transport costs. Please contact me, Francisca, for

further information on 07943 711549.

## Catholic Papers

Last year I advised regular readers of the Tablet that a year's subscription was better than buying a weekly copy from church. Now I advise the same with regard to the Catholic Herald. Its price has increased quickly over the last year and is now £2.50: but for a subscription of £90 you would have a copy delivered to your home each week. The address is: Catholic Herald, Lambs Passage, Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8TQ. (The Universe and the Catholic Times are still £1.30 each.)

Watermean shop Now on display - a large selection of Holy Communion Gifts and Cards



OPENING TIMES Tues, Wed, Thur from 10.30 am-3.30 pm Sun 11.45 am-12.15 pm More nformation from 0116 220 7880 www.watermead-apostolate.com