



St. Joan of Arc News

www.stjoanofarcfarnham.co.uk

July 2010

Coming Events

July	
5	Parish Pastoral Team meets 7.00p.m. St. Joan's Centre.
15	Parish Social Walk Meet St. Joan's Car Park 9.30 a.m. More details in Church Porch
20	Book Launch "Fr. Robo's Farnham" St. Joan's Centre 2.00 p.m. Contact 01420 520666
29	Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes begins, returning 6 th August.
Aug	
30	Goan Pilgrimage Picnic The Friars, Aylesford. Details in Church Porch
Sept	
9	Evening of Prayer for Ministers of the Eucharist Holy Family, Alma Lane 7.30 p.m.
16-19	Visit of the Holy Father to England. See www.thepapalvisit.org.uk .
17	Parish Golf Day Farnham Golf Club 10.00 a.m. Contact Andy Owen.
20	RCIA New session begins. Contact Carol Harnett
Oct	
3	Youthgather St. Richard's Catholic College, Bexhill.
9	Wedding Anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Kieran at St. Joseph's, Redhill, 11.30 a.m. Contact Ruth Gerun 01293 651164.

Arcaid News



We wanted to say a big thank you to those of you who responded to the Arcaid pulpit appeal, either by asking for more information or completing donation forms.

It's truly wonderful to know that there are people in the parish willing to support others less fortunate than themselves, even in these tough economic times. As many of you know, Arcaid is never short of requests for funding and we often have to make difficult decisions as to which projects are the more deserving. Every penny donated goes directly to help overseas projects where there is either hardship as a result of natural disaster or grave socio-economic problems.

To give you a flavour of just how Arcaid makes a difference, here are just some of the projects that we have undertaken during the past year:

- (1) Part funding of a borehole to provide clean water for St Joseph's health centre in Uganda.
- (2) Provision of a mushroom shed to enable The Thai Children's Trust to provide a means of income and a source of food for their wards.
- (3) Significant contribution to Action for Children in Conflict to provide basic nutritional requirements for street children in Kenya.
- (4) Vocational training in Tanzania to give students the skills to pursue a career when leaving school, and in many cases provide for large, extended family.

We are in regular contact with all our projects and the feedback that we receive is very warm, but can at times be heartbreaking. There is never a shortage of deserving projects and it is great to know that with your continued donations and support, Arcaid can continue to make a difference. For more information on Arcaid please go to www.stjoanofarcfarnham.co.uk/arcaid.htm.

Father Robo's Farnham

As many of you know, Father Etienne Robo was the founder of the parish of St. Joan of Arc in 1930 and was part of the Farnham community for many years. The Farnham & District Museum is publishing a book written by local author Rosemary Wisbey. Rosemary describes many aspects of Father Robo's ministry and of his involvement with the community of Farnham.

The book will be launched in St. Joan's Centre on 20th July at 2.00 p.m. when Rosemary will be available to sign copies for purchasers of the book. All parishioners are welcome. The work will be on sale at the launch and through the Repository at a price of £10. Contact Mike Mitchell or Nick Hughes

Comedy

The following questions were set in an overseas school exam - these are genuine answers (from 16 year olds)!



Q. Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.

A. Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.

Q. How is dew formed?

A. The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

Q. What causes the tides in the oceans?

A. The tides are a fight between the earth and the moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature abhors a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins the fight.

Q. What are steroids?

A. Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.

Q. How can you delay milk turning sour?

A. Keep it in the cow.

Q. How are the main 20 parts of the body categorized? (e.g. The abdomen).

A. The body is consisted into 3 parts - the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels: A, E, I, O, U.

Q. What is the fibula?

A. A small lie.

Q. What is a seizure?

A. A Roman Emperor. (Julius Seizure, I came, I saw, I had a fit)

Q. What is a terminal illness?

A. When you are sick at the airport.

Q. Use the word 'judicious' in a sentence to show you understand its meaning

A. Hands that judicious can be soft as your face.

Q. What does the word 'benign' mean?

A. Benign is what you will be after you be eight,

Q. What is a turbine?

A. Something an Arab or Shreik wears on his head.

First Holy Communion Programme 2010

After 6 months the communion programme has once again come to a close at St Joan's. The children now take their own independent steps into the church community of their future spiritual life.

The sessions with the children went very quickly and there was a great deal to fit in, but under the guidance of Fr Paul and of all the catechists and helpers especially Domitille Johnson who undertook the main teaching role with Almudena Reeves-Bueno, Julie Crowley, Martine Torjussen, Lin Dickens, Nicola Kitney, Maura Read, Mary Desmond, Antonia Stadler, Donna Fitzpatrick, Natalie McLoughlin, Frances Thompson, Jenny Hepworth, Paula Best and other parents who stepped in when help was required, the children were well prepared and the Communion Day was truly beautiful.

My thanks go to Maria Mason who gathered last year's communion parents to help prepare and serve drinks on the Communion Day and at the Going Forth Mass. Special thanks to Mary Stevens and all the musicians and singers of the music group many of whom attended both masses, to the Eucharist Ministers and to Patsy Clark whose support to me during this programme is always invaluable.

Cecilia Woellwarth

Parish Social Events

September 17th

Parish Golf Day Farnham Golf Club 10.00 a.m.
Contact Andy Owen 722765

16th October

Parish Quiz Night £10 per head - includes fish & chips supper .Parish Centre 7.30 p.m .Contact St. Joan's Office 716711

November (TBC)

Parish Film Night No Charge. Numbers are limited to 80. St Joan's Centre.

10th December

Oddfellows Choral Concert. St.Joan's Church & Centre 7.30 p.m..

If you want to arrange a Parish social event please let the Office know and we will include this in the monthly newsletter.

Events that help towards fund raising for the parish are greatly appreciated - Michael Maher acts as the fund raising coordinator - please make contact with him with any suggestions -.

"There is no August issue of the Monthly News - the September issue will be the next issue published

Threading Our Way Across Three Commons



Our happy band of walkers had passed Penelope Keith's home where it was situated with several other very nice houses in its own small park, "to the manor born" - as it were - and then we were on our way, following Rob Gilmour, our lead walker, to the three Commons.

The first was Rodborough Common. Everywhere was green! - except the honeysuckle flowers, the pink dog rose, spreading itself generously in hedgerows, the white blackberry blossom and the tall red poppies growing in sunny spaces. Birds sang above us as we threaded our way through woodlands of oak and birch. At our feet, the narrow path was soft and the rich brown soil mixed in with the remains of last Autumn's leaf fall. Trevor spotted a host of ants busily crisscrossing below us. A twig, perhaps three centimetres long, was seen to be moving rapidly across our path! Peering closer, we saw that one ant, convinced of his superior strength, was shifting it at great speed to somewhere nearby; but it all became too much and he gave up the effort. Perhaps he was 'put off' by the 'gawking' giants watching him. We moved hurriedly on when we realized the whole colony was beneath our feet! Whitley Common came next.... a pleasant sunny land of grassy paths linking larger spaces together. Where the turf is short and rabbits had obviously gathered together in large numbers to dine on 'the green stuff'and had left lots of little 'clues' from recent visits!

We crossed the old A3 to Milford Common. Here the trees crowded in on us once more and we followed narrow winding footpaths scattered over with small pine cones. Ferns could be seen ready to unfurl any remaining tightly curled green-stemmed leaves; and the sunshine filtering through the trees had changed the colours of the tree trunks to a deep mysterious mauve. Pine and birch stood tall in the forest. A bee busied itself looking for nectar amongst the many bright flowers. Lichen clung tenaciously to the north side of tree trunks. Purple heather blossomed and a golden layer of Bird's foot Trefoil spread out before us in the open grassy areas.

Thank you so much, Rob for a delightful walk threading our way across the three Commons.

Our next walk will be led by Maria Doland on Thursday 15th July. *Sheila Thorp*

Faith in Focus

Christianity in the Middle East is in danger of becoming a thing of the past.

According to statistics released by Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem, since 1948 Christians in Bethlehem have declined from 85 percent of the total population to 12 percent. In Jerusalem itself, he said, the decline is from 20 percent to 1.1 percent. In Iraq, the 1987 census recorded 1.4 million Christians - now there may be only 200,000. Lebanon has seen Christianity decline by up to 40 percent in 25 years.

As UK Christians, our identity is defined principally by our experience of family and parish life. It is perhaps hard to think of ourselves as part of an international community, each bound to the other through bonds of faith. But now more than ever, we need to reach out in faith across borders, across cultures, across mindsets. During his trip to Cyprus this month [June 2010], Pope Benedict XVI said Christians in the Middle East "endure great hardships". He added: "Christians from the rest of the world [need] to offer spiritual support to their brothers and sisters in the Middle East."

Emigration is a key reason for the decline of the Christian presence there. There is a growing intolerance towards Christianity, perceived as linked to an allegedly interfering West. On June 3rd Bishop Luigi Padovese of Turkey was stabbed in his own home. Was it the act of a madman or did religious hatred play a part? Exactly three years earlier, Fr Ragheed Ganni was gunned down close to his church in Mosul, Iraq. Both priests were supported by the Catholic charity I work for - Aid to the Church in Need. What will be the news three years hence? Whatever happens, we must renew our commitment - in prayer and action - for those among our fellow Christians who suffer for their faith. They need us now more than ever.

John Pontifex

For more information about Aid to the Church in Need (UK) visit www.acnuk.org or contact 020 8642 8668.

St. Joan's 200 Club

Recent winners were:-

May No.16 Mr. C.B. Ward and June No.105 Mr. R. J. Farrant.

There are still some vacancies in the Club and the subscription is only £12 per year. Contact Liz Owen.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

Here at St Joan's we have had an RCIA group each year for a number of years now. It has generally been run under the name of "Journey in Faith" but sometimes people have not known exactly what that means.

The RCIA is a process by which those who are interested in finding out about the Catholic faith can learn more in informal safe surroundings. A number of people join each September for various reasons; some are married to a Catholic or are about to marry a Catholic and would like to know more about the faith of their spouse. Some come because they are practicing Catholics who feel they need to know more about their faith in a structured way, or missed out on the Sacrament of confirmation. Some are baptised Catholics who have never practiced their faith; some come because they are pretty sure they would like to become a Catholic; some come because they may be interested in becoming a Catholic. There is no compulsion to join the Church at the end of the year, and each year there are those who come along and decide they are not ready or do not want to join. Some people come for two or more years before they make a decision. So you can see that the journey is as individual as each person who comes along.

The next season of the RCIA will begin on 20 September 2010. Every year the group grows as people bring along their friends, as they enjoy exploring the teaching of the Church. If you feel that this is something you would like to come to, either as someone who would like to know more about the faith, or as someone who could help in the running of the group, please contact Carol Harnett for more details.
carol.harnett@btinternet.com or a word with Fr. Paul.

The Priesthood 3

Called Through the Church

The path to ordination begins with the feeling that you would like to be a priest, that you are being called by the Lord. You explore the idea, pray about it and test it with time. But you still ask, "How can I be sure it is what God wants?" On your own, you cannot, no matter how strong the feeling inside you. God's call comes to your heart in a very personal way, but it comes to you as a member of the Church, through the Church and for the service of the Church.

Personal but not Private: Some people see the bond between us and God in very individualistic terms, as something rather private. They think of God calling people directly, without the

Church. A vocation is something very personal, but it is never private. We need to go back to St Paul's great vision of the Church as the Body of Christ. We are all vital members, needing and needed by each other. Jesus comes to us through the life of his Body, his community of faith. His gifts are for building up the Body of Christ. That community itself is the 'fullness of Christ', it is the way Jesus reaches the world and the way we ourselves meet him as his disciples. This is a very important point. We should not expect Jesus to call someone to be a leader in the Church in a way which excludes the Church itself.

(From "The Catholic Priest")

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Weddings: Rebecca Keany & Warren Daniels, Juliet Holdsworth & Andre Szpitalak.

Funerals: Saveria Gardner, John Croll.

Baptisms: Erin Jae Caldwell.

Contacts

<i>Pastoral Team</i>	Contact Parish Office
<i>ARCAID</i>	Jenifer Davis
<i>Organist</i>	Josie Dobson
<i>Bereavement Support</i>	Lily Cloughley Jane Pontifex
<i>Badminton Group</i>	Carol Tutte
<i>Divorced & Separated</i>	Madeleine Stanford
<i>Parent & Toddler</i>	Ildi Evans
<i>Sunday Lunches</i>	Susie Banks
<i>200 Club</i>	Liz Owen
<i>St. Joan's Centre</i>	Julie Crowley
<i>APF</i>	Sallie Wheater
<i>Lifts to Mass</i>	Contact Parish Office
<i>Safeguarding Co-Ordinator</i>	Marie O'Donnell
<i>Children's Liturgy</i>	Nicola Kitney, Frances Thompson
<i>First Holy Communion Programme</i>	Domitille Johnson
<i>Fund-Raising</i>	Michael Maher
<i>Web Site</i>	Mary Nolan
<i>Publicity</i>	Tony Tunstall
<i>Gift Aid</i>	Mike & Margaret Stafford

Submissions and letters about the 'News' should be addressed to the "Monthly News" and e-mailed to stjoansoffice@btinternet.com with Monthly News in the subject line or placed in the box under the rota noticeboard by the Wednesday before the last weekend before publication on the first Sunday of the month. Submissions may be edited.

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