

### Vocations Sunday

There are many vocations in which people serve the community, but the ones we concentrate on today are vocations to the priesthood and religious life. When I was ordained (a long time ago now!!) there were 481 active priests working in the diocese, with 16 retired. Today there are only 151 active priests (many of them over the retirement age of 75) with 64 retired priests (including our own Canon Firth and Canon Mullen)... those numbers speak for themselves. - The need for prayers is obvious. Have you ever asked your children if they have ever thought of being a priest.... go on, ask them! I wonder do the Schools Career Service ever ask the same question.

And it's not only priests who are disappearing... Religious Sisters (nuns) are few and far between. The FCJ Sisters are organising a weekend for young women who might think of a "vocation" (27 – 29 May). I have some "free" tickets to cover expenses of the weekend which will be held in Kent... anyone interested... get in touch.

The 'World Day of Prayer for Vocations' as it's called officially is also 'a clear reminder that all of us, whatever our status and stage in life, are called by Jesus to become ever better echoes of himself'... have a read of the articles over...

#### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April

9.30am Connie Walmsley (A)  
11.00am Joseph Kenyon (birthday)  
6.30pm Frank Smith (birthday)

#### Weekday Masses

Mon. 8.30am George Walker (A)  
Tues. 8.30am Andrew Evans (A)  
Wed. 8.30am Desmond Doherty (LD)  
Thurs. 8.30am Mary Crawford (LD)  
Fri. 8.30am Thomas Hannigan (LD)  
Sat. 8.30am Bill Barnes' Intentions

#### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April

9.30am Joe Robinson (A)  
11.00am Barbara Cross (Birthday)  
6.30pm Stephen Rainford's Intentions (FM)

#### Please pray for our sick brothers and sisters

Jayne Hodge · Kathleen Reynolds · Bridget Cain · Hazel Lee · Mary Patten · Agnes Martindale · Robert Stretton · Hilda Haworth · Mildred Bridge · Margaret Wood · Harold Sutton · Josie Down · Mary Campbell · Margaret Bower · Thomas Moss · Winifred Marshall · Gerard Baker · Hugh O'Daly · Margaret Dearden · Maureen Jackson · David Lynch · Dorothy McDonald (Howarth) · Howard Lin · Maureen McIver · Bill Burns · Tony Hardiman · Alan Lythcoe

Sadly we record the death of Fred Wood last Sunday. The funeral mass will be celebrated here on Thursday at 12 noon. Fred and Margaret had only recently celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. We offer our sympathy to Margaret. May he rest in peace.

#### Offertory

Many thanks for last week's collection of £1011.

#### Baptism

We welcome in baptism today Annabelle Mary Lowe and remember her and her family in our prayers.

#### Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to Barbara Cross who will be 85 on Saturday.

#### Vocations Sunday

There will be a special collection taken after mass.

#### Dial-a-Ride

Apologies from the Dial-a-Ride team – taxis were ordered for last Sunday, but there was some confusion at Yellow Cabs. They have apologised and promised it won't happen again...

#### Spring Flowers

You may have noticed the flower beds on entering the car park and new cemetery – these have been entirely stocked with plants which were originally in pots on the graves and presumed dead, but have now been recycled. Nothing is thrown away! Thanks to the grounds team who provide colourful display for us throughout the seasons.

#### Employment/Volunteering Opportunities

The Diocese is advertising the post of an Evangelisation Fieldworker (17.5 hours p/wk, three year project) based at Liverpool. See the notice board for further details.

The VMM (Volunteer Missionary Movement) offer short term volunteering programmes in Africa (4 weeks) for all ages over 18, no skills required. Further information from [recruit@vmminternational.org](mailto:recruit@vmminternational.org).

#### St. George

Saturday is the feast of St. George, Patron Saint of England. George was a soldier in the Roman army and was executed because he refused to recant his Christian faith in c. 303 AD.

#### Ministering to the Assembly

**Counters** (18<sup>th</sup> April) David Chadwick and Madge Martin

**Rotas** (24<sup>th</sup> April, Fifth Sunday of Easter)

**S.A.S.** Janet and Pauline Critchley

**Dial a Ride** Taxi and Rick Gillett

**Readers** Bill Hogan

Carla Blears

Paul Tate

**Ministers** Edward Brierley

Paul Thompson

Caroline Straw

Catherine Todd

Clare Meredith