**AD CLERUM EASTER 2018**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At our meeting a few weeks ago, the Society Bishops spent quite a lot of time analysing the statistics that Mrs Anne Gray has accessed for us through the good offices of Church House in London. Many of you who saw her initial presentation at the National Assembly last November commented on how for the first time we were able to gain an accurate overview of our constituency and its relative strength in relation to the rest of the Church of England. Some of her findings we know all too well. That we are privileged to serve in some of the most deprived areas in the country, that we still conscientiously prepare our people for confirmation and our worship remains centred on the Eucharist. We could also see how, although there are clusters of parishes in some of our towns and conurbations, many of our churches are isolated and there are swathes of the country where there is nowhere to worship within our tradition. Communication, therefore, is so important so that we can get our message out, support those who have become isolated and encourage the faithful. I have been making a real effort to keep the website up to date and to make sure that Richborough events are published well in advance. I would be grateful if you could look at it on a regular basis, suggest items to be added and help correct any mistakes or inaccuracies. I’m also planning to have the website refreshed later in the year, so any ideas or suggestions would be appreciated.

I would particularly like to commend to you this year’s Youth Pilgrimage at Walsingham, entitled, ‘Generation Hope. Into God’s future with Mary’. The Shrine website has some good news about catering which might tempt you back for what is a hugely important week of catholic mission for our young people.

‘For the first time ever, the Shrine is able to offer a catering option during the annual Youth Pilgrimage. Instead of having to do all the shopping and transport cooking equipment, for those who opt in for the Catering Option, two meals a day (lunch & supper) will be provided by outside caterers and served in a special dining marquee. No more cooking or washing-up on site! All groups will need to do is provide breakfast for themselves’.

The Guild of All Souls is hosting another day conference at Walsingham entitled ‘Pastoral care in the immediate aftermath of sudden death’ on Thursday 21 June (www.guildofallsouls.org.uk) and the Annual Requiem for the Catholic Societies at Saint Stephen’s Gloucester Road, London is booked for Thursday 8 November at 7.00pm followed by a buffet reception.

The National Pilgrimage to Walsingham is on Monday 28 May and the Glastonbury Pilgrimage on Saturday 7 July.

I will be hosting drinks after the Richborough Mass at noon in Saint Albans Cathedral on 4 August and if the weather allows, giving a short Bible study in my garden while we eat our picnics!

Don’t forget that the National Assembly of Forward in Faith is at Saint Alban’s Holborn on Saturday 17 November.

Some very good news! The Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament has kindly offered to help fund a second Richborough Clergy residential in Walsingham this November. Entitled ‘How Holy this Feast’ it will be on the same lines as two years ago focusing on the Mass and Eucharistic Adoration with some theological input. Numbers are limited so I’d advise early booking. Because of generous funding from CBS and the reduced Walsingham November tariff it will only cost £70 per person.

Keep the Fast as we prepare for the Feast of feasts,

and I look forward to seeing you at a Chrism Mass.



Richborough Eucharistic Conference

Sunday Dinner 4th November to Tuesday lunch 6th November.

Cheques for £70 payable to ‘The Bishop of Richborough’ asap to secure a place.

Stop Press. Walsingham Chrism Mass Wednesday 28 March at Noon

The Shrine are offering two lunch options this year.

Two course lunch with wine in the refectory for £12

Soup and sandwiches in the refectory for £5

To be booked through Hospitality at the Shrine 01328 820239