

ST AGNES' CHORAL SOCIETY – will host a Ceili in The Balmoral Hotel on Friday 18th May from 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10 which also includes your supper. Tickets can be obtained by contacting Maeve on 07753 222003. This promises to be a great night with a live ceili band led by caller Deirdre McLoughlin. All welcome.

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES AND PAPAL MASS – An Garda Siochána have limited numbers to 400,000 for the Papal Mass on **Sunday 26th August** so the only way to guarantee a ticket is to attend one day at the Congress in the RDS the week before. A day ticket plus coach to the RDS will be around £50. Local parishes are organising a coach on **Friday 24th August** and there are a few spaces left. Tickets for the Papal Mass will be free (but there will be a cost for transport). Please contact the St Oliver Plunkett Parish Office on 90618180 **ASAP** if you would like to go to the Congress in the RDS on the Friday and to the Papal Mass on the Sunday.

CEMETERY SUNDAYS IN BELFAST

MILLTOWN CEMETERY – SUNDAY 13th MAY @ 3pm

CITY CEMETERY – SUNDAY 20th MAY @ 3pm

HANNAHSTOWN CEMETERY – SUNDAY 27th MAY @ 3pm

TULLYRUSK CEMETERY – SUNDAY 3rd JUNE @ 2pm

THE ROCK CEMETERY – SUNDAY 3rd JUNE @ 3pm

HANNAHSTOWN COMMUNITY FESTIVAL WILL TAKE PLACE FROM THURSDAY 14th JUNE – SUNDAY 17th JUNE.

BOTH LIVES MATTER - is a collaborative movement of individuals & organisations that seeks to re-frame the abortion debate in Northern Ireland. We are hosting an evening on Monday, 14th May @ 7.30 in Radisson Blu Hotel, to look at abortion, the law and the implication of any changes to abortion law North & South. We want to re-humanise this debate and create a life affirming culture that values each woman and her unborn child. We would love you to join us on this evening.

Parish of Hannahstown - St Joseph's & St Peter's
13th MAY 2018 – THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION The children from Ballymacward Primary School, our parish school will make their First Holy Communion today. This is a day of great rejoicing for us as a parish as we witness Ethan, Declan, Angelina, Andre, Sarah-Jayne, Adah and Aaron come to the altar to receive the Body of Christ for the first time; to welcome the real presence of Jesus into their hearts and souls. On this very special and sacred day in their lives may we the faithful pause and reflect on the wonderful privilege for us as Catholics to be able to receive the real presence of Jesus in Holy Communion. On this sacred occasion let us reflect on these words of Pope Francis:

“Dear friends, we don't ever thank the Lord enough for the gift He has given us in the Eucharist! It is a very great gift and that is why it is so important to go to Mass on Sunday. Go to Mass, not just to pray, but to receive Communion, the bread that is the Body of Jesus Christ who saves us, forgives us and unites us to the Father. It is a beautiful thing to do! And we go to Mass every Sunday because that is the day of the resurrection of the Lord. That is why Sunday is so important to us. And in this Eucharist we feel this belonging to the Church, to the People of God, to the Body of God, to Jesus Christ. We will never completely grasp the value and the richness of it.

Let us ask Him then that this Sacrament continue to keep His presence alive in the Church and to shape our community in charity and communion, according to the Father's heart. This is done throughout life, but is begun on the day of our First Communion. It is important that children be prepared well for their First Communion and that every child receives it, because it is the first step of this intense belonging to Jesus Christ, after Baptism and Confirmation.

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