

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

Dr. David Black is here at the parish on 15th and 16th August to speak at Masses on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need. He will be talking about the work of this Catholic charity throughout the world.

CHOIR

Choir rehearsals start back on Thursday 3rd September

7pm Choristers

8pm Adult choir

New members welcome at the first rehearsal - please contact Katie in advance at katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk

LOURDES

You're welcome to join our short pilgrimage to Lourdes next February- 9th -12th . Just put your name on the list to show interest.



DEVELOPING WORLD

6 July-12 August: cash donations amounted to £292, while standing order donations totalled £306 in July (only monthly figures are available). On 21 July we were able to send over £2,100 to our current project. This is provide £7,100 towards a dormitory plus sanitation block for a Catholic girls secondary school in Mupo, South Sudan. We plan to provide the remaining £5,000 of funding by early 2016. We will receive an on site report in November on how work on the school stands. Thanks for your great generosity.

SURVEY

Thanks so much to those who completed the survey forms about children not at Catholic School.

Twelve people responded. Without Catholic teaching, how can their Faith survive? The survey cards will be distributed once again when families are back from holiday.

SKELETON STAFF

We were really short of altar servers in our parish last Sunday. Thank goodness we have had 25 new recruits who are in training. We look forward to a full house.

MASS WITH PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 13th September 2015 at St Dominic's School, Southdown Road. The occasion will start at 2.30pm with hymns followed by Mass at 3.00pm. Afterwards there will be refreshments and the afternoon will end at about 5.30pm. Everyone is welcome and if you know of anyone who would like to come please let them know about the Mass. To assist with catering numbers, we would be grateful for RSVPs to Lorna Harris on 01582 769754 or lorna.harris80@ntlworld.com.

MARRIAGE HELP

Retrouvaille is an excellent programme designed to help couples experiencing marital problems. The next programme commences with a residential weekend on 18-20 September 2015 in Hatfield. For further information and to speak with someone in confidence, call 0788 729 6983.

email; info@retrouvaille.org.uk

www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Please don't hesitate to contact the organisers on 0788 729 6983 or email info@retrouvaille.org.uk.

SPONSORED BIKE'N'HIKE

This annual event in aid of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust, takes place this year on Saturday 12th September between 10.00am and 6.00pm. So walkers and cyclists please note this date in your diary. Sponsor forms and lists of visitable Churches will be available from the Parish Office at the end of August.

THE CALAIS CRISIS

Bishop Lynch (Southwark)

"I am deeply concerned over the deepening humanitarian crisis involving thousands of migrants unfolding in Calais. The crisis has developed over a decade and challenges us all, both as Christians and as Europeans. We must face up to this reality at various levels.

First, in solidarity with the most vulnerable migrants we recognise the local pastoral, humanitarian, and compassionate response from the French Church and call on the French authorities to redouble their efforts in providing adequate reception facilities for migrants. We acknowledge the work done by faith organisations in France and the UK together with charities, agencies and the great generosity of families and individuals to the relief efforts. The task is immense and their contributions are most valued. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of

England and Wales will be making a material contribution to those efforts.

Second, at an international level we are aware that the answer to the current migrant crisis lies beyond Calais.

Estimates from the UNCHR indicate that "In the first six months of this year, 137,000 refugees and migrants crossed the Mediterranean Sea, travelling in terrible conditions upon unsafe boats and dinghies". The 2014 estimate for the same period was 75,000. Therefore in addition to addressing the humanitarian needs of the increasing numbers of migrants undertaking this treacherous journey we must examine the root causes of current migration from North Africa and the Middle East across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe.

Third, we must face up to the shared responsibility of making the world a better and safer environment to live in. We must examine as a matter of urgency the arms trade that fuels armed conflict and civil war, climate change, unjust economic policies, poverty and corruption as some of the underlying causes of this fundamental global trend. The safety of vulnerable women and children who may fall prey to smugglers and human traffickers is paramount and must be addressed.

Finally, the current migration crisis is complex and there are no easy solutions for governments, non-governmental organisations, faith groups and charities working on the field. However, governments, charities and humanitarian aid agencies should be encouraged to work together for a collaborative international response to the challenge in partnership with the countries of