

## **EAST AFRICA CRISIS APPEAL**

Thank you very much for your generosity. Following last weekend's collection, we were able to send off a staggering **£2,414.36** to CAFOD, which will help provide food, clean water and healthcare to the 16 million people across East Africa facing starvation. More information will be found at [www.cafod.org.uk/eastafrica](http://www.cafod.org.uk/eastafrica)

## **LENT**

At the start of Lent it seems to stretch out interminably before us, and now we find ourselves just a week away from Palm Sunday. Hopefully Lent has been a positive, and fruitful, time for you. Do try to use the remaining time well, even if it means starting yet again! Don't forget some of the opportunities available in the parish:

### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

This traditional Lenten devotion takes place each Sunday of Lent at 6.00pm.

### **MASS DURING THE WEEK**

Each Sunday we attend Mass as an expression of our faith, and a sign of our belonging to the Church. During Lent we might want to think about attending Mass, perhaps once or twice during the week. It's a good Lenten practice, and also shows a love for the Mass. If we choose to come to Mass, then it's good to be there at the beginning and stay until the very end.

### **LENTEN ALMS**

It is a tradition in the Church to donate what we save through self-denial to Lenten Alms. This year the Cardinal has asked that the Lenten Alms collection be directed to the Cardinal's Appeal fund. The funds raised will go to serve the evangelisation of youth, to develop marriage and family life

projects, and to provide service in society, especially to those on the margins. To date £220.03 has been donated, thank you for your generosity. Please take a leaflet, read and pray about this. Envelopes are available at the back of church today – you can make a Lenten Gift by placing your offering in the designated box near Our Lady's Altar, or by using one of the envelopes, and returning it to the Parish Office.

## **FLOWER COLLECTION**

The Parish Flower Group will have their annual Easter Flower Collection after all masses this weekend - 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> April. In addition, a lily may be purchased (at £4) in memory of a loved one. Please write the name of the loved one on an envelope, place the money inside and give to the collection at the back of church after Mass.

## **EASTER CARDS AND BOOKS**

The Repository now has a number of Easter cards together with a selection of children's reading and activity books specifically for Easter. These will help children understand this important feast. Come and have a look.

## **REFRESHMENTS**

Will be served in the Undercroft this Sunday after 11:30am Mass. Do pop in, even for a short time.

## **HOLY WEEK**

### **PALM SUNDAY**

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday when begin our Holy Week Journey. Palms will be blessed, and distributed, at each Mass. NB: The 9.45am Mass will commence with the blessing of palms, with the parishioners of St Nicholas', on Church Green, followed by the

procession into church. If you are attending that Mass please assemble there.

## **'BE RECONCILED'**

Celebrating Reconciliation, going to confession, is an important part of our Lenten Journey, and our preparation for Easter. In addition to the regular times of confession there is the Parish Penitential Service on Monday of Holy Week, April 10th, at 7.30pm.

Confession is an indispensable part of our Christian lives, so do think about taking up this opportunity.

## **WALK OF WITNESS**

Parishioners from the different Christian Churches in Harpenden will be participating in the 'Walk of Witness' on Good Friday. The 'Walk' begins in Rothamsted Park at 10.30am, and continues through the town to Church Green, for a short service there. Do think about coming, and witnessing to your faith on this very special day.

## **CHILDREN'S STATIONS**

Our children's Stations of the Cross will be at 11.30am on Good Friday (14th April), and last about 45 minutes. This is a really good opportunity for children to understand and take part in Christ's Passion. Children take the parts in the form of a tableau for each station. We are looking for children (Years 3-6) to take part in the service. We need about 12 actors (no speaking parts), who need to be at the rehearsal in Church on Thursday 13th April at 10am to 11.30am, and then be in church by 11am on Good Friday. If your child wants to be part of the service please email Ginny ([ginny.sjg@gmail.com](mailto:ginny.sjg@gmail.com)) or phone 01582 620322 by Friday 7th April. In the event of getting too many

volunteers we will take the first names on the list.

## **ALTAR SERVERS**

Servers are needed for all the Masses, and liturgies, during Holy Week. Servers who are available to serve are asked to sign the list in the sacristy. There will be practices for all the celebrations, as follows: For Maundy Thursday Mass, Wednesday 12h at 6.30pm, for Good Friday, Wednesday 12th at 7.15pm, and for the Easter Vigil Saturday 15th at 10.00am.

## **EASTER CROSS**

Churches Together in Harpenden will be placing an Easter Cross, during Holy Week, on the green near the War Memorial. You are invited to place flowers on the cross on Easter Sunday morning to celebrate Christ's Resurrection.

## **HOLY WEEK TIMES**

You can collect a leaflet today with all the times of the events of Holy Week. Do take one after Mass and also for anyone who would appreciate a copy. Also try to make this a whole week event if you can.

## **PARISH OFFICE**

This coming week the Parish Office will be open Wednesday and Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm.

## **CARING FOR THE HOMELESS**

From time to time on the street, or in church as has been happening recently, you may be asked to give money to someone who is homeless, or hungry. Although well intentioned it is, usually, not advisable to give any money. If it is possible it is more helpful to offer some food, such as a sandwich.