

THE YEAR OF MERCY

This is a Jubilee year.

The Year began on Tuesday and will last until the Feast of Christ the King, 20 Nov 2016, Pope Francis has declared this a Year of Mercy.

The motto for the Holy or Jubilee Year is “**Merciful like the Father**”.

The Holy Father will open a Holy Door in St. Peter’s in Rome and our Cardinal will do so in Westminster Cathedral.

A pilgrim

How will our parish look different at the end of the Holy Year?

Don’t forget to buy a booklet on the Year for your family.

MARY RAFFERTY RIP

For many years Mary had been a devoted member of our parish. It was very sad to learn of her sudden death. Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday at 10.00am. Please remember Mary and her family in your prayers.

JOB SHARE

There is a simple job in the parish which has some vacancies. It is for half an hour every couple of months after the 11.30am Mass. It is an enjoyable job!

Please speak to Mgr Turner after Mass.

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our warmest congratulations to **Logan Roderick Thomas McDermott & Florence Evelyn Star McDermott**, the children of John and Victoria, who we welcomed in to the Catholic Church last weekend at the sacrament of Baptism. We wish them and their family every blessing as they begin their new life in Christ.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PLAY & CAROLS

This will be at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve, and helps the children prepare for celebrating this great feast. This year we are dramatising the story “The Grumpy Shepherd.” There is a narrator and the children take the parts of - wise men, shepherds, angels, townsfolk etc. Children taking part please come to the rehearsal in church on Wednesday 23rd December at 2.00-4.00pm, when we will be allocating the various parts. There are no speaking parts! To take part on Christmas Eve children have to attend the rehearsal. We have some costumes, but if you have anything suitable then they would be most useful.

Children need to be primary school age and must be in church at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve. Please notify as soon as possible if you wish your child to take part, either acting (contact Anna Painter, 07940500648, or email annapainter09@aol.com) or as a musician (contact Carole Cox 761955).

SOCIALISE AFTER MASS

Do join us after the 11.30am Mass today when tea and coffee will be served in the Undercroft. We hope to see you there!

“REPEAT AFTER ME”

A lady from abroad would like to improve her English pronunciation. Can you help? No qualifications required. Please let Mgr. Turner know.

CHRISTMAS SHOP

If you are looking for Christmas cards, a crib or a Christmas activity book for

your children or grandchildren you should have a browse through the wide range Christmas stock in the repository. There’s lots to choose from, modern and traditional designs, so everyone is catered for.

SVP CHARITY TREE

This year we have a Christmas tree at the back of the church just outside the repository in support of three local charities: ST ALBANS & HERTSMERE WOMEN'S REFUGE, HARPENDEN FOOD BANK and LIFE (pro life organisation offering housing and support to young women who might otherwise consider abortion). The idea was suggested by two of our new parishioners as this was something done each year in their previous parish. Each charity has given us a list of items they would be in most need of; each label on the tree lists an item/items and the name of the charity. If you would like to support this cause please take a label, attach it to your item (wrapped or unwrapped) and place it in the relevant box under the tree. There is no obligation to buy all of the items on the label.

REFUGEE VOLUNTEERS

Caritas would like to invite you to the Refugee Volunteer Evening which we are holding on Tuesday, 26 January in the Westminster Centre for Youth Ministry. The evening will give you the chance to talk to organisations and projects working with migrants and refugees in London and Hertfordshire, to find out about volunteering opportunities and to get information on

setting up your own project. Everyone is welcome!

Date: Tuesday, 26 January 2016

Venue: Centre for Youth Ministry, 20 Phoenix Road, Euston, London

NW1 1TA. Transport: Euston Station

Time: 6–8.30pm. RSVP: If you would like to come, please contact

caritaswestminister@rcdow.org.uk by 19 January 2016.

PARISH DINNER DANCE

The recent dinner dance was a great success. Having fun raised £1861.28 for the Developing World Group project. Thank you to all who took part and helped to make it so. Dennis Cooper.

EVENTS AT URC

There will be a short ecumenical service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at the United Reformed Church on Wednesday 20th January at 12.00 noon, followed by a soup lunch.

Also a Burns Supper and Ceilidh will be held in the URC Hall on 23rd January from 7.30 to 11.30pm. Tickets £25 per person: phone Phil Valle on 712555.

MISSIO

Red Mission Boxes

Have been emptied and are now ready for collection in the vestibule together with Missio calendars. The total collected this year is £759.27 - thank you for your generosity.

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

7 November to 7 December: cash donations and cheques amounted to £487, with standing orders in calendar November yielding a further £312. Thank you for your generosity.