

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

This is a very popular event and an excellent way to prepare for Christmas. The carol service of 9 readings and carols lead by the choir, will be held on **Sunday 20th December at 6.00pm**. Afterwards we will gather for mince pies and mulled wine in Our Lady's Hall (the Undercroft).



DO IT FOR CHRISTMAS PENTITENTIAL SERVICE

Are all your preparations for Christmas now complete? The decorations? The shopping? The presents? There's one last thing to set off everything for the great Feast – the **Sacrament of Confession**. The ceremony here in our parish is very popular and really puts things into perspective for the Great Feast. **Monday 21st December at 7.30pm**. **You will appreciate this opportunity. Give it a try.**

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.**

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 2-4pm, 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).

SVP CHARITY TREE

This year we have a Christmas tree at the back of the church just outside the repository shop 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.

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.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Just a reminder that the Offertory Collection at the Mass at midnight and on Christmas Day is your gift to the priest. It forms his income for the approaching year.

THE CRIB APPEAL

Each year we donate our crib offering to the **CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**.

They help children all over London and Hertfordshire who are living in all kinds of poverty. To combat their struggles we offer three main services – family centres in North Kensington and Tower Hamlets, counsellors available in schools to support children suffering with issues such as bullying, bereavement, eating disorders, etc... and the Crisis Fund which is financial help offered to families on request from the head teacher of the children's school. This year, as always, we are operating the Crib Appeal where you have the chance to support them. Any donation received goes towards helping the children in our diocese who are in desperate need. If you would like more information about the work we do, please visit our website at

www.cathchild.org.uk or contact Megan Barzaq on MeganB@cathchild.org.uk".

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.

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.

RED MISSION BOXES (MISSIO)

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