

## THE YEAR OF MERCY

This is a Jubilee year. From the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2015, until the Feast of Christ the King, 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016, Pope Francis has declared an Extraordinary Holy **Year of Mercy**. The motto for the Holy or Jubilee Year is "**Merciful like the Father**". There will be events and celebrations at deanery, diocesan, national and at international level, but the motto needs to be our mantra and lived out in our lives. There will be the possibility of making a pilgrimage to the Cathedral and go through the Holy Door – symbol of the merciful Christ. May it be truly a Year of Mercy for each one of us. The idea is that **OUR PARISH** should be quite different **BY THE END OF THE HOLY YEAR**

## BOOKS on THE HOLY YEAR

On sale after Mass – very informative! Only £1 each.

## 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!

## THE VATICAN II BREAK-OUT

Pope Francis and the Rediscovery of Peace and Joy in the World by Dr Clare Watkins. Monday 7th December, 8pm, at SS Alban and Stephen Church Hall 14-16 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans AL1 3RB. Do you need a lift? For directions and further information, please contact: Maggy Swift on

01582 792 136. ALLWELCOME.

## ADVENT

Christmas preparation is so important. There's so much to think about... But it's important too, not to neglect our spiritual preparation. Today is the second Sunday of Advent. It is a valuable time. We need to make the most of it.

## 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.

## 100 NOT OUT

We offer warm congratulations to **JOAN GAIRE** who reached 100 years this week. What an achievement! Joan did sterling work over many years developing our choir in church. It continues to flourish still. We offer Joan our warm regards and prayers.

## SCHOOL CARETAKER

The governors of St Dominic Catholic Primary School would like to appoint a caretaker for January 2016. The hours are 7.30am to 10.00am (9.30am on Fridays) and 1.15pm to 6.15pm Monday to Friday. A job share will be considered. Spread the word! Please contact the school office on 01582 760047.

## DANCE FOR PARKINSON'S

The University of Hertfordshire has launched its first season of dance classes for people with Parkinson's and their carers, friends and family. Sessions take place every Friday from 11am to 1pm. For more information call 01707 281127 or email [j.robinson8@herts.ac.uk](mailto:j.robinson8@herts.ac.uk)

## CRIB APPEAL

The Catholic Children's Society helps children all over London and Hertfordshire living in all kinds of poverty. The society offers services including family centres, making counsellors available in schools to support children suffering with issues such as bullying, bereavement and eating disorders and the Crisis Fund which offers financial help to families on request from the head teacher of the children's school.

This year the society is operating the Crib Appeal and you have the chance to support their work. Any donation received goes towards helping the children in our diocese who are in desperate need.

For more information please visit the society's website [www.cathchild.org.uk](http://www.cathchild.org.uk) or contact **Megan Barzaq** on [MeganB@cathchild.org.uk](mailto:MeganB@cathchild.org.uk).

## CHRISTMAS CARD SHOP MULTI CHARITY

The Christmas card shop will be open until 12<sup>th</sup> December at Harpenden United Reform Church, Vaughan Road, Harpenden. The shop is open Monday

to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm; Saturday 9.30am to 3.30pm.

## CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

As we are now in Advent, there is a different but simple way we can support Cafod's work to fight poverty through *World Gifts*. Catalogues are available at the back of the church or you can order from [cafod.org.uk/world\\_gifts](http://cafod.org.uk/world_gifts) or by calling 0808 140 0014.

## CALIX SOCIETY

The Calix Society, St John's Wood, London, offers a Catholic ministry to addicts, recovering alcoholics and their families. For further information visit [www.calixsociety.org.uk](http://www.calixsociety.org.uk) or email [calixsjw@btinternet.com](mailto:calixsjw@btinternet.com)

## BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our warmest congratulations to **LUKE ALEXANDER BUCKLEY**, son of Derek and Catherine, whom we welcomed in to the Catholic Church last weekend at the sacrament of Baptism. We wish Luke and his family every blessing as he begins his new life in Christ.

## SENIOR CITIZENS' HIGH TEA PARTY

Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School would like to invite you to their Senior Citizens' High Tea Party party on Friday, 11 December 2015 from 1pm to 3pm. The high tea will consist of tea, coffee, sandwiches, cakes and biscuits. If you would like to attend or need help with transportation, contact the Student Leaders on 01727 860079 or [StudentLeaders@nbs.herts.sch.uk](mailto:StudentLeaders@nbs.herts.sch.uk).