

## **CHRISTMAS IN CHURCH**

Details of everything that is happening in church in the days leading up to, and over, Christmas, will be found on the Christmas leaflet, which is available today. Do collect one for yourselves. You might also like to take one for someone you know who may not be a regular attender here, or someone who may wish to know a little more about the church.

## **ENTERING INTO ADVENT**

Advent though is a lovely season of preparation for the coming of Christmas, and it is a shame if we miss out on that. To assist us there are the booklets in the 'Day by Day' series, which have just two short readings for each day. As well as for adults there are also booklets for infants and juniors with appropriate activities. These are on sale, 75p in the porch.

## **CAROL SERVICE**

The Parish Carol Service takes place next Sunday at 6.00pm. With beautiful music, and scripture readings, another lovely opportunity to focus on the message, and meaning, of Christmas. Afterwards mulled wine and mince pies will be served in the undercroft.

## **ADVENT MONDAYS**

On the three Mondays of Advent there will be a short reflection at the convent, 18 Kirkdale Road between 2.00pm and 3.00pm

## **PENITENTIAL SERVICE**

In the midst of all that remains to be done for Christmas, one important preparation is celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, going to confession. We have the opportunity to do this as a parish on Monday week, December 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7.30pm. Do think about making time to attend, and so using this important opportunity.

## **PARISH DIARIES**

Parish diaries, for the coming year, are now available. A voluntary contribution is welcome, and this can be placed in the Newspapers & Catholic Magazines box.

## **THANK YOU!**

'Thank you' to everyone who supported the parish bazaar last week. To the Ladies Group who organised it, as well as those who looked after the stalls, came on the day, and helped with setting, and clearing, up we are very grateful. £2,300 was raised and this will be donated to two local charities: 'The Open Door' in St Albans, a drop in centre for the homeless, and 'Azalea' a Luton-based charity, which assists women who have been affected by sexual exploitation.

## **CHILDREN'S CAROL SERVICE**

This takes place on Christmas Eve at 5.00pm. This year we are dramatizing the story of "Fear not Joseph." This doesn't require speaking parts, but we need a cast to take the parts of shepherds, angels, wisemen etc. Any child wishing to take part must come to the rehearsal on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December from 11.00am to 1.00pm**. Attendance at the rehearsal is essential for participation. We have some costumes, but anything else, you may have, that is suitable would be useful. Children of primary school age are welcome, and need to be in church by **4.30pm on Christmas eve**. To take part please contact Ginny St John Glew 01582 620322 or email [gabby.sj@gmail.com](mailto:gabby.sj@gmail.com)

## **SVP CHARITY CHRISTMAS TREE**

The SVP Charity Christmas Tree will be supporting our local Food Bank this year. The tree is positioned outside the Repository at the back of the church and each tag has items which the Food Bank are currently running low on. If you would like to support this worthy cause, please take a tag. There is no need to wrap your item as the Food Bank will need to sort and distribute the items once they are received. There is a box underneath the tree where items can be left. Thank you. Any queries tel. 622215 Antonioli Family.

## **CHRISTMAS IN THE REPOSITORY**

Christmas cards, both single and boxes, wrapping paper, contemporary cribs and candles. There are also a number of lovely items for children, Advent calendars, colouring and activity books, games and puzzles, and story books to appeal to the very young, all showing the true meaning of Christmas. Come and have a look

## **REST IN PEACE**

Please remember in your prayers the late Marie Labore O'Sullivan, who died recently as well as her family. Her funeral takes place next Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 12.00noon. May she rest in peace.

## **CATENIAN EVENTS**

Next Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 7-0pm Christmas Dinner, Harpenden Golf Club, three course meal, entertainment and wine included, £30 per person. This is a very enjoyable black tie social event to which fellow parishioners are most welcome.

14<sup>th</sup> January 5-0pm Gordan Craig theatre Stevenage, our annual visit to the panto to see the incredibly entertaining and hilariously funny Jack and the Beanstalk. We have been going to the panto for over thirty years so this year we would like to offer out the last few remaining group tickets at £16.50 each (deadline 30<sup>th</sup> Nov) . Age range of our group is from a few weeks old to 80+ which includes you, and you'll love it. For more details about both events, contact [denniscooper238@btinternet.com](mailto:denniscooper238@btinternet.com)

## **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it; now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNING BODY OF ST DOMINIC SCHOOL TO PROSPECTIVE RECEPTION CLASS PARENTS**

As you will be aware, the application process for Reception class 2018-19 has begun. This year, sibling applications to the school will be the lowest for a number of years. Whilst we cannot guarantee places to all applicants, we anticipate that we will be able to allocate places within the parish at a much further distance from the school than has been the case in recent years. You are warmly invited to join the next tour of the school on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Should you require any further information please contact the admissions secretary through the school office.

## **BECOMING A CATHOLIC**

Have you ever considered whether God is calling you to become a Catholic? Is it a nigging feeling you have had for some time? Do the barriers, obstacles, objections or doubts always seem too great; the bigger issues ever muddying the personal path? Perhaps you feel there has never been a 'right time' or 'clear window' in your life. Perhaps you even feel daunted by the enormity of the unknown. If so, you are having exactly the same feelings as all those who have ultimately taken that first tentative step, walked the journey of faith week by week, and have never looked back. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Canon Dwyer.

## **LIVE SIMPLY Award - CAFOD**

We are further along the road.....A very big 'thank you' to all those parishioners who responded to the invitation to complete the Live Simply 'sign up' form at Mass recently. The response was very good and positive, and a 'green' light for the Parish to continue on its Live Simply journey. The Live Simply group will soon be in touch with those who indicated their support and who wish to become more aware of, and perhaps more involved in what it means for us all individually and as a parish to live our faith more simply, more sustainably with creation, and more in solidarity with the poor. The Live Simply 100 ideas is a good, 'simple' starting point for everyone, so look out for more about them in the near future!. Laudato Si

