

CHRISTMAS IN CHURCH

Details of all the Masses and Liturgies over Christmas will be found in our Christmas leaflet, which is available this weekend. Please do collect a copy.

IMPORTANT PREPARATION

Amidst all that needs to be done for Christmas, an important preparation is celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, going to Confession. In addition to the regular times of Confession, there will be a Penitential Service on Monday 19th December at 7.30pm.

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 next weekend on Sunday 18th December at 6.00pm. Everyone is warmly invited afterwards to mince pies and mulled wine in the undercroft (soft drinks and biscuits for children).

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PLAY & CAROLS

Will be held at **5pm on Christmas Eve**, and helps the children prepare for celebrating this great feast. This year we are dramatising the story "The Not-So-Wise Man." 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 **Friday 23rd Dec 10-12noon**,

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.

The children need to be primary school age and if they are taking part in the service they will need to be in church at **4.30pm on Christmas Eve**. Please notify Ginny St John Glew soon as possible if you would like to take part, tel 01582 620322 or gabby.sjg@gmail.com.

CHARITY CHRISTMAS TREE

The SVP (St. Vincent de Paul Society) have, as last year, put up a charity Christmas tree supporting 3 local charities: WOMENS' REFUGE, LIFE and FOOD BANK. We have listed the items the charities are most in need of on the back of the gift tags decorating the tree. Anyone wishing to support these worthy causes please take a tag and attach it to the item(s) purchased and place in the relevant box under the tree. Any queries please contact Carlo or Silvia Antonioli tel: 622215. Thank you.

ALTAR SERVERS MEDALS

Altar servers who started serving in 2015 or before, may be eligible for a Guild of St Stephen medal or 'promotion' this year. Please email fernandez.acp@gmail.com no later than Monday 12th Dec to confirm.

PRAYERS PLEASE

Last month we learned of the deaths of two of our parishioners, **Christine Reason (RIP)** and **William Hardy (RIP)**. Please remember them and their families in your prayers. The Funeral Mass for Christine Reason will be celebrated here this Monday 12th December at 11am. The Funeral Mass for William Hardy will be celebrated here on Wednesday 14th December at 11am. *Please note there will be no 9.15 Mass on these days.*

PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD (Mark 1:9)

On the four Mondays of Advent, there will be a Reflection in the Convent Meeting Room, 18 Kirkdale Road, 2-3pm. You are welcome, even if you can only make one of the meetings. There will Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the Convent on Tuesday 13th Dec, 2-3pm.

FESTIVELEA

The Lea Singers' annual Christmas concert is at 7.30pm on Friday 23rd Dec at Harpenden Public Halls. FestiveLea is a festive evening of uplifting singing, popular carols, mulled wine and mince pies, with plenty of opportunity to sing along. This year, the conductor is local composer, lyricist and music director Tim Sutton, whose chosen theme is The Story of the Carol. They will be

fundraising for Rennie Grove House Hospice, who will be the beneficiaries of the charity raffle. Tickets are £15, £5 for under 18s and students. They are available from Brigid Brennan on 07881 785299, Rollings Wine in Station Road, Stage Door in Southdown or online at leasingers.co.uk.

PASSAGE CAROL SERVICE

Please support a Carol Service in aid of The Passage, a charity working with homeless people on Friday 16th Dec at 6pm in St Margaret's Church, Westminster, the parish church of the House of Commons. Readers include Nick Hancock, Lynda Baron, Kathryn Pogson and Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Admission by advanced ticket only from The Passage tel. 020 7592 1856 email tickets @passage.org.uk min recommended donation £25.

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our warmest congratulations to **Ryan Clifford McGrath**, son of Cavin & Cindy, whom we welcomed in to the Catholic Church last weekend at the sacrament of Baptism. We wish Ryan and his family every blessing as he begins his new life in Christ.

LOURDES HALL ACCESS

Please do not park across the gates to Lourdes Hall, constant access is required. Thoughtless parking causes inconvenience to others.