

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 tomorrow, **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 this Sunday 18th Dec 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 ginny.sjg@gmail.com.

NATIVITY PLAY

Calling all 10-17 year old Musicians!

Do you play a musical instrument at Grade 3 or above? Would you like to join the OLOL band at the Nativity play on Christmas Eve at 5pm? We can provide the music beforehand or on the day itself - we have parts written out for all instruments. Rehearsal will be on Friday 23rd Dec from 11-12 noon in the Undercroft. If you are unable to attend the rehearsal, you are still very welcome to play with the band on the day. We'd love to hear from you! Contact: caroline.swanson@uk.bp.com or alison@fox-web.com



CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

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

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. Many thanks to those who have already donated.

ALTAR SERVERS

Please let us know if you are able to serve at any of the Christmas Masses. There is a sign-up sheet in the Sacristy. December 26th is the feast of St Stephen, the patron saint of altar servers. On this day, new altar servers will be enrolled in the guild and acknowledgements given to those who have been serving for longer periods. All servers are welcome to attend this Mass.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish office will be closed over the Christmas Holidays from 22nd December. We will re-open on Monday 9th January.

WALK IN THE PARK

Join fellow parishioners on a walk in Rothamsted Park to enjoy a bracing and sociable start to the New Year. Meet outside Church at 10am on Wednesday 4th January for an hour walk and then a coffee in a nearby cafe. If weather is bad, it's straight for coffee! Look out for future walks held first Wednesday of every month.

KITTY HART-MOXON, OB

At 17:00 on Thursday 12th January Kitty Hart-Moxon, a Polish-English Holocaust survivor will be telling her story in St. George's School Chapel. The event is open to the public and admission is free (with donations gratefully received in support of the Holocaust Educational Trust). There will also be an opportunity to have refreshments afterwards with Kitty. Please contact holocaustevent@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk if you wish to attend the event - tickets are first come first serve.

LOURDES HALL ACCESS

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

NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will appear on Sunday 8th January 2017.