

CHRISTMAS MASSES

The first Mass of Christmas is at Midnight, preceded by carols from 11.30pm. The Masses on Christmas Day are at 8.30am, 9.45am and 11.30am.

St STEPHEN's DAY

December 26th is the feast of St Stephen, and Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am. St Stephen, was the first martyr, and is the patron saint of Altar Servers. During this Mass some of our more recent servers will be enrolled in the Guild of St Stephen. We hope that many of our servers will be present to celebrate their patron.

CHILDREN'S CAROL SERVICE

This takes place, this afternoon, 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 have attended the rehearsal. Enquiries to Ginny St John Glew 01582 620322 or email ginny.sjg@gmail.com

NEW YEARS DAY

Monday 1st January, apart from being News Years Day is an important feast, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am. Although this is not a holyday of obligation it is a good day to go to Mass, and what better way to start the new year!!

CRIB OFFERINGS

As is customary, offerings made at the crib will be sent to the Catholic Children's Society. The Society provides mental health services for children struggling with issues such as abuse, neglect and family breakdown. Situated as it in North Kensington, since the summer the Society has been supporting children traumatised by the fire at Grenfell Tower. Contributions can

be placed in the 'Crib Offering' box close to the crib.

WALK IN THE PARK

Do join us for a bracing New Year's walk in our special Rothampsted Park! Meet outside Church at 10am on Wednesday 3rd January for an hour's 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.

'MY DAY BY DAY'

The January edition of this booklet is now available. It contains daily scripture readings, and is a useful resource, and inspiration for our prayer and daily living.

VINNIE PACKS

The SVP are distributing 12,000 "Vinnie Packs" containing cold weather essentials for the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, two pairs of socks, gloves, toothbrush, toothpaste, information card and pen. Those who can, are asked to consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £3.50 per pack. Donations can be sent to "Vinnie Packs", PO Box 72264, London, SW1P 9EZ, with cheques made out to the SVP. Thank you so much for your support.

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.

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

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

On 1 December we sent £680 to pay for an oven (to cook food and provide heat), a table and chairs for a youth centre in a township in the Dundee diocese in Natal. Most of the beneficiaries are orphans from across the township, who meet and learn practical skills at the centre (which does not receive government grants, relying instead entirely on donations.) We are now working with the Columban Fathers to fund the purchase of a large hand pump for a village (of mainly low caste Hindus) in the Thar Parkar desert in south-east Pakistan. We will provide more information when the project gets under way. Between 13th November and 11th December, parishioners donated £61.86 in cash, together with £438.00 in standing orders.

Thank you for your generosity.

CATENIAN EVENTS

14th January 5-0pm at the 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 30th 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

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 11th December. Should you require any further information please contact the admissions secretary through the school office.