

FEAST DAY

Next Friday, December 8th, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary. Although it is not a holiday of obligation, it is an important feast, and a good day to attend Mass. Mass will be celebrated at 9.15am

SICK & REIRED PRIENT'S FUND

A big 'thank you' to everyone who responded to the appeal for the 'Sick & Retired Priest's fund. To date £2,584.78 has been donated. Your generosity is much appreciated. The fund is now closed, and we will forward your contributions to the Diocese.

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.

ADVENT CAROLS

This Sunday at 6.30pm, there is the Advent Carol Service here in church. This service is arranged by all of the churches in Harpenden. We look forward to welcoming members from our local churches, and to taking the opportunity to enter into this lovely Advent season with the assistance of words and music.

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

REFRESHMENTS

Refreshments will be served in the undercroft after the 11.20am Mass today. Everyone is welcome

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.

ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL

Applications for places in Reception Class opened on Monday 6 November 2017. The Certificate of Catholic Practice form will need to be signed by a priest. Canon Dwyer will be available to sign forms in church next Saturday 9th December between 3.30pm and 4.30pm. There is no need to make an appointment, just turn up. Signing is ONLY AT THESE TIMES. Please note that 'practising Catholic' means attending Mass every Sunday. Parents should also collect a 'self-assessment' form, which will be available after the Masses today.

ST COMINIC SCHOOL PTA CHRISTMAS FAIR 9TH DECEMBER

We would like to welcome you all to come and join us at St Dominic for our Christmas Fair. Everyone's favorite stalls and activities will be back to bring festive cheer – Santa's Grotto, toy and book stall, craft stall, the Secret Santa stall, tombola, mulled wine and mince pies, Irish Coffee, refreshments plus the Grand Raffle with lots of super prizes to be won. Please come along between 11-2pm.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERING 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.

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.

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK

The 2018 Westminster Year Book is now available. It contains information about Mass times throughout the Diocese, as well as about the parishes, and lots of other useful information. It is on sale in the repository price £4.50

WALK IN THE PARK

Advent is coming and the Christmas hustle and bustle upon us!. Take a break from the preparations and join fellow parishioners on a relaxing amble through our lovely Rothamsted Park! Meet outside Church at 10am NEXT Wednesday 6th December 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.

CATENIAN EVENTS

13th 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.

14th 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 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

THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who bought Christmas cards after mass last weekend, raising nearly £200 for the building fund. Cards are still available in the shop at the back of the church, or ring Teresa on 766403

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 last weekend. The response was very good and positive, and a 'green' light for the Parish to continue on its Live Simply journey.

The LiveSimply 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

BECOMING A CATHOLIC

Have you ever considered whether God is calling you to become a Catholic? Is it a giggling 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.

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

