

LENT OPP

Every Sunday at 5.00pm we hold the **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**. It is an excellent Lenten meditation – not too long but very compelling. We use the magnificent images on the wall of our church.

LENT FAST DAY

Thank you so much for supporting **CAFOD** Lent Fast Day. Together, our parish raised **£2,041.94** for CAFOD's work. This can be used to bring water to the villages of even more of the world's poorest families, meaning girls don't have to walk hours every day to collect it. Now they are free to get an education and to pursue their dreams. Thank you for your generous compassion for those living in poverty and for fasting in solidarity with them.

ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

This very popular Ladies' Group event will be held on Thursday 17th March in Our Lady's Hall (Undercroft) from 12.00 noon. Tickets will cost £10 and will include a welcome drink, a traditional Irish meal and an Irish Coffee with bran brack. ALL members of the parish are welcome and tickets will be on sale after all the Masses. Proceeds will go to the Barcelona Settlement in South Africa.

CATECHISTS MEETING

The next Catechists meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th March at 8.00pm in Our Lady's Hall. It is hoped that at least one member of each group will be able to attend.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

SOCIETY ANNUAL RAFFLE

Tickets, at 50p each or £5 for a book of 10, will be on sale after Mass this weekend. There are 23 prizes to be won, from £ 3,000 down to £ 250. The draw will take place at the end of March, just after Easter.

WOMENS' WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 4th March 2016

The Women's World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christians (men and women) who come together to observe a common day of prayer on the first Friday of March each year. This year's service is written by the women of Cuba, with the theme Receive Children, Receive Me. There will be a service at 10.30am at the United Reformed Church in Vaughan Road and one at 7.45pm at All Saints Church, 129 Station Road. For more information see the postcards at the back of the church or contact Teresa Newham on (01582) 766403.

REPOSITORY

There are a number of lovely cards for Mothers' Day, St Patrick's Day and Easter for sale in the repository, both traditional and contemporary. Come and have a look.

CERTIFICATE OF PRACTICE

This certifies that a person is at Mass EVERY Sunday. Nursery applications for St Dominic's School are now open. The Certificate of Catholic Practice will need to be signed to accompany the application. Monsignor Turner will hold a Certificate signing session NEXT

Saturday 5th March, 11.00am-12.00noon, in church.

OPEN GARDEN DAY

Please note in your diary 9th JULY for this event. You will be able to pick up a wide range of plants at great prices, and enjoy cakes, coffee and tea amongst other things with fellow parishioners and friends. The proceeds will go towards the DWG project under way at the time.

NEW ON OUR WEBSITE

You can find reflections on Sunday Gospel readings during the Year of Mercy with spouses in mind. This provides a PDF booklet that you can easily access with the button **JUBILEE OF MERCY**. These have been produced in the light of the fact that before Easter there should be published the result of the Synod on Marriage and Family Life that took place in Rome last year.

BACH CANTATAS FOR LENT

Tuesday 15th March 2016 at 7.30pm St John's Church, St John's Road Southdown, Harpenden, AL5 1DJ. Amici Voices. Amici Baroque Players. Tickets £15(students & under 18s £5) unreserved seating. Available from Rollings Wine Company, 26 Station Road Harpenden or 01582 462024.

LONDON NEWMAN LECTURE

Augustine and Freud: autobiography and grace, Reverend Dr Giles Fraser. Dr Giles is priest- in- charge at St Mary's Newington and former Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral Thursday 10th March, 6 for 6.30pm. Heythrop College, Kensington Square, London W8 5HN. Tickets £10 (£5 for members of the Newman Association).

Contact secretary@newman.org.uk or phone 07764 946074.

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

The DWG donated £2,000 on 22 February to two Italian Hospitals in Jordan so that they can treat Syrian refugees (the number of whom exceeds 600,000 in Jordan), free of charge or at subsidised rates. The money, to be transferred to Jordan via the International Refugee Trust, will be used to buy more bandages/medicines, provide emergency care (including formula baby milk) to expectant mothers and perform vital surgery. We will receive a report on the situation there, including the impact of our and other donations in March/April. Separately, over 8-22 February, parishioners donated £231.13 to the DWG via the vestibule box at weekend masses, the wall safe at the back of the church and the proceeds from the first two green collection boxes to be handed in. NB We will ask for all the boxes to be handed in and emptied in a year's time; but if some holders find they are full before then, please could they contact DWG chair Julia Roche so that the Group can arrange for collection before then. Thank you for your continued generosity.

ATTENTION PLEASE

Parking is not an easy matter but please take care when doing so and avoid blocking the access to anyone's house. People living near our Church often find that those attending Mass have parked across their driveway. This is unfair and illegal and brings our Church into disrepute. Consideration please.