

LENT GROUPS 2017

Yes, it's that time again! Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 1st March and our groups will begin meeting in the week beginning 6th March for 6 weeks. All details can be found in the Invitation leaflets which will be given out after mass.

Please do join a group if you possibly can. There is no pressure on anyone to speak. We shall read scripture, pray, share ideas and stories and enjoy fellowship with coffee and biscuits.

BANISH THE BLUES SUPPER

The Ladies' Group will be hosting this very popular event at the Lourdes Hall next Saturday 18th Feb (7 for 7.30). The three course supper will cost £13 per head with proceeds going to the Developing World Group. Tickets will be on sale after all the Masses. Whether you would like to make up your own table or join one of our 'Parish' tables, everyone is welcome. Contact marva@cpoauk.com if you would like more information.

WOMENS' WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2017

This year's Womens' World Day of Prayer will take place on **Friday 3rd March**. Our Lady of Lourdes will host the main Harpenden service at 10.30am on that day, followed by refreshments in the Undercroft. This year's service has been written by the women of the Philippines with the theme 'Am I being Unfair to You?' Everyone is welcome - the service is not just for women! For more information see the postcards at the back of the church or contact Teresa Newham on (01582) 766403.

PRIEST'S REFERENCES

Nursery applications are now open. The Certificate of Catholic Practice form will need to be signed immediately. There will be one form signing session which will take place in church on **Sat 4th March** 11am-12noon. No need to make an appointment, just turn up. Please complete a self-assessment form prior to the meeting and bring it with you on the day. Self-assessment forms can be collected from Canon Dwyer after weekend Masses or by emailing Jane in the parish office on janerose@rcdow.org.uk. Signing is ONLY AT THESE TIMES.

BRITISH HUMANITARIAN AID Chernihiv in Ukraine

A collection is being held on **Sat 25th Feb from 10am-3pm** in the Cunningham Room, St Nicholas Church Halls. Many items are needed in new or good, clean condition. Including clothing & shoes for men women and children, baby supplies, baby food, milk, nappies, toiletries & sanitary goods, fabric lengths, blankets, garden and woodworking tools...to name a few. Please see the poster for details or contact Anne Harper 769213 or Margaret Hewitt 761008.

BE CONSIDERATE

When you park your cars on the roads around the church please ensure that you do not block the access of our neighbours, even leaving a note to say where you are is not acceptable. If you are, even partially, blocking a drive it is not the place to park. Please be considerate and aware of the needs of our neighbours.

HEAD TEACHER VACANCY

Due to the retirement of our current Head, Mrs O'Brien, the Governors of St Dominic's School, are seeking a new Head Teacher from September 2017. Further details and application packs are available online at teachinherts.com.

WALSINGHAM ASSOCIATION

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham is the National Shrine to Our Lady in England. In the middle ages it was one of the most popular pilgrimage destinations in Europe. The Walsingham Association encourages devotion to Our Lady. For further information please visit www.walsingham.org.uk or telephone 01328 820217.

NILAND EVENTS

Scripture from Scratch-Praying your way to Easter with John's Gospel. Alternative Thursdays 9 Feb-6 April (7 for 7.30-9pm) with Sr Anne Walsh OP. Suggested donation £5 per session Christian Mindfulness II: Putting it into Practice. Mindfulness is useful for nurturing well-being and growth, and has deep Christian roots. Fr Michael Heap MAfr will lead practical exercises for integrating mindfulness into daily life and deepening our relationship with God. Sat, 25 Feb (9.30 for 10am-3pm). Please bring a packed lunch. Suggested donation £14. Niland Centre, Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath WD 23 4EE (0208 950 4000 or bookings-finance@nilandcentre.co.uk) Registration suggested but not essential.

MASS FOR BEREAVED PARENTS

The Mass for bereaved parents will take place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, 11th March at 2.30pm. It's a time to remember, to pray, to give thanks, and to entrust deceased children to the Lord. All are welcome to attend.

MILL HILL MISSIONARIES

The National Novena to St Joseph will take place from the 10-18 March at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead and at Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool. Each year the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society and the missionary outreach of the Church, as well as, for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer, please write to Fr Liam Cummins MHM, St Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead SL6 7HT or email novena@millhillmissionaries.com.

JOINT CONCERT

Westminster Cathedral Choristers and their conductor Martin Baker welcome the Chœur d'enfants of Notre Dame de Paris on Wednesday 22nd February. The choirs will give a joint concert at Westminster Cathedral, singing French and English choral music. Tickets (£15, seating unreserved) are available from the Cathedral Gift Shop, or on www.ticketmaster.co.uk