

## 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. 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.

## TUESDAY MASS

This Tuesday Mass will be celebrated at the earlier time of 8.00am. There is no Mass at 9.15am

## 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 by a priest. There will be one form signing session which will take place in church on **Sat 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:janerose@rcdow.org.uk). Signing is ONLY AT THESE TIMES.

## DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

On 15 February the DWG donated £5,300 to the project it is sponsoring via the charity, Safe Child Thailand. It will be fund vocational training for vulnerable and exploited women in Pattaya, a notorious destination for sex tourism and human trafficking. The sisters run the day centre for street children and give women the chance to learn vocational skills to break free from the cycle of exploitation and abuse. We have committed to give £6,600 in total, to provide jewellery making courses to enable the women to develop skills to change their and their children's lives.

## Green Boxes

The first of our six monthly Green Box collections raised £1,416.38 which is a tremendous result. All this money has gone to the Pattaya project. If you want a Green Box to collect for the DWG, or if your box is full and needs paying in, please contact Julia Roche (760295) or Emanuela Coy. Thanks to you all for giving so generously as well as to Emanuela and everyone else who helped count all those pennies!

## Wine tasting on 4 February

This event was an opportunity to sample eight of Majestic Wines' Spanish wines

over crackers and Manchego cheese. There was much merriment in Lourdes Hall by the end and the event raised £1,246.89 which also all went to the Pattaya project.

## 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](http://teachinherts.com).

## WALK IN THE PARK

The first signs of spring are appearing with the snowdrops dotted in the verges! Do join fellow parishioners on a walk in our lovely Rothamsted Park! Meet outside Church at 10am on Wednesday 1st March 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.

## 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.

## 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](http://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](mailto:bookings-finance@nilandcentre.co.uk)) Registration suggested but not essential.

## BRITISH HUMANITARIAN AID Chernihiv in Ukraine

A collection is being held on **Sat 25<sup>th</sup> 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. poster for details or contact Anne Harper 769213 or Margaret Hewitt 761008.