

ASH WEDNESDAY

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, Masses will be celebrated at 9.15am and 6.00pm, and the ashes blessed and distributed. Ash Wednesday is also a day of fasting and abstinence, one of just two days in the year, when we are asked to refrain from eating meat, and to eat considerably less than usual.

LENT

It's good to mark Lent in some positive way. Below are some of the opportunities available in the parish. In addition to these there is the, almost, daily Mass. A good way of marking Lent, if not daily, then perhaps once or twice during the week.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

A traditional Lenten devotion is the Stations of the Cross. We are fortunate in our church to have such fine artwork to illustrate Jesus' last journey to Calvary, and to assist us when we reflect on this journey. The "Stations" will take place each Sunday of Lent at 6.00pm – a good activity for Lent.

LENT GROUPS

The 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.

MY DAY BY DAY

Daily reflections for Lent are available in the 'My Day by Day' series. There are different booklets for adults, juniors and children. They are available, price £1 in the porch.

WOMENS' WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2017

Next 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.

ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

This very popular annual event will be held on Friday March 17th in the Undercroft from 12 noon. Tickets will cost £10 and will include a welcome drink, a traditional Irish lunch and an Irish Coffee and Barmbrack for dessert and will be on sale after all the weekend Masses. Proceeds will go to the Sr Margaret's Barcelona Slum Project in South Africa.

REFLECTION

on the Our Father at the Convent, 18 Kirkdale Road. Monday 27th February 2-3pm. All are welcome.

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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY ANNUAL RAFFLE

Tickets will be on sale after Masses this weekend 25/26 February. Any unsold tickets may also be on sale the following weekend. There are 23 prizes to be won, from £3000 down to £50. The draw will take place on 31st March.

ST DOMINIC SCHOOL NURSERY

The application process for places at our lovely Nursery is now open for children born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014. The Nursery hours are Mon-Fri 9am to 12 noon. For further information please visit our website www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk, contact the school office on 01582 760047 or email the Admissions Secretary at admissions@stdominic.herts.sch.uk. Visits to the Nursery are very welcome, please contact the school to make an appointment. Application close date: Friday 17 March 2017.

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 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.**

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

On 20th February the DWG paid a further £1,300 to the Pattaya project in Thailand (for women's vocational training) bringing our total contribution to £6,600 - the amount we committed to the project. The money came largely from the proceeds (£921) from the excellent Banish the Blues supper on 18th February, organised by the Ladies Group. In addition, parishioners gave £420.11 to the DWG including two large cheques. Thanks for your great generosity and also to two parishioners who have just signed DWG gift aid declarations so that their donations can be increased by 25%.

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our warmest congratulations to **Aoife Katherine Ryan-Farrell**, daughter of Jake & Kiara and **Ottilie Primrose Sharp**, daughter of Christopher & Hannah, who were both Baptised into the Catholic Church last weekend. We wish them and their families every blessing as they start their new lives in Christ.

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.

REFLECTIONS AT ROSARY PRIORY

Winter to Spring 2017 with Sr Avril OP Tuesday 7th March: Journey of Decision: A Way of the Cross. 11am in the Convent Chapel, Rosary Priory, Bushey.