

BANISH THE BLUES SUPPER

The Ladies' Group will be hosting this very popular event at the Lourdes Hall on Saturday 18th February (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.

NOTE OF THANKS

We received a note of thanks this week from the St Albans District Credit Union following our £1,200 contribution following the Christmas Bazaar. "The Credit Union has a hardship fund which...has often been used to assist single, potentially homeless, men in to local accommodation. It is generally acknowledged that this section of the community finds it most difficult to access funds for his purpose. Contributions such as yours are very helpful in building up this fund which can also be used in emergency situations. We very much appreciate you thinking of the Credit Union. Please pass on our thanks to all involved."

WOMENS' WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2017

at OUR LADY OF LOURDES

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 please see the postcards at the back of the church or contact Teresa Newham on (01582) 766403.

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

The DWG will fund a project with the Thai Children's Trust (TCT) to provide vocational training for vulnerable and exploited women in Pattaya, a notorious destination for sex tourism and human trafficking. The TCT has been active in Thailand for over thirty years supporting the work of local Catholic organisations. They work in Pattaya with the Good Shepherd Sisters, who operate globally to support exploited and vulnerable women. The Sisters run a day care centre for street children, and give women the chance to learn vocational skills to break free from the cycle of exploitation and abuse. The focus of this project is the provision of jewellery making courses, to enable the women to develop skills to change their and their children's lives. We will receive and pass on detailed, regular updates on progress. Parishioners donated £317 in standing orders in December, while cash donations amounted to £832.51 in the seven weeks to 24 January. All this money will be sent to the Pattaya project. Moreover, HMRC paid us a bit more Gift Aid rebate for 2015/6, which brought the overall amount to £1,033.42, exceeding £1,000 for the first time. Thank for your continued generosity.

MONDAY

The Funeral Mass for Christina Barrett RIP will be celebrated this Monday 6th February at 10am. Please remember Christina and her family in your prayers at this time. **There will be no 9.15am Mass on this day.**

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our warmest congratulations to **Joshua James Herzig**, son of Jamie & Caroline and **Theodore Konrad Kiss Dunn**, son of Andrew & Bernadett, 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.

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.

REFLECTIONS

Winter to Spring 2017 with Sr Avril OP. Monthly reflections in the Convent Chapel at Rosary Priory, Bushey take place from January to April. The next one 'Elizabeth Wang: A Tribute' takes place on 7th February at 11am

DIVINE MERCY RETREAT

11th Feb, 11am-4pm at St George's Cathedral, Southwark, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HR. All welcome. Bring your family & friends to the Merciful Jesus. No advance booking or registration is required. For more information phone: 0208 9980925; mail: info@divinemercy.org.uk

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.

MATERNITY COVER

Noah's Ark Playschool in Harpenden is looking for part-time maternity cover for 3 days a week. NVQ Childcare Level 2 or 3 qualified or previous experience working with young children. Hours are 8.45am-1.30pm, 3 days each week, term time only. The children are aged between 2-4yrs old. If you would like more details, please email Denise at - info@noahsarkharpenden.co.uk or call 01582 469308.