

CHURCH UNITY WEEK

This week, on Wednesday, we begin the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, until January 25th. Please keep this important cause in your prayers during those days. To mark this time Harpenden Churches have an Ecumenical Evening Service at High Street Methodist Church, led by Bethany Community Church, on January 22nd at 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

CHARITY CHRISTMAS TREE

Heart felt thanks to everyone in the parish who so generously supported the SVP Christmas Tree. The boxes were emptied on a daily basis and the gifts kept coming right up to Christmas Day; the generosity in our parish is truly wonderful. All three charities have asked us to convey their gratitude for the thoughtfulness and kindness shown. Both Women's Refuge and LIFE were overwhelmed by the gifts received and all the ladies and their children are truly grateful.

We received the following message from the Food Bank: 'In total we received 96kg of donations from the SVP Christmas Tree. We would like to thank everyone involved both organisers and donors. The items that were given will be a great help to people who are struggling to cope at this time of year and are greatly appreciated.' Thank you again.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy Group has an important role in our Church community, offering instruction and

activity to the younger members of our parish on a Sunday as part of the 9.45am Mass. There are 2 groups, younger, aged 5-7/8 and older, 7/8-10. You can take part in this valuable work. It is not too onerous, with each team usually helping with a group twice a term. You would be placed in a team of experienced Catechists and lots of support is available. Give it a try, especially if you have children who will attend, please get in touch with Jane Hyman jane.hyman11@gmail.com

DWG GREEN COLLECTION BOXES RECALL

Please bring your Green DWG Collection Boxes on the weekend of **January 28th/29th**, so that we can empty them and return them straight to you after Mass. Don't worry if your collection boxes are not yet full. Thank you very much to all of the parishioners who have taken a Green Box home.

WINE TASTING

Sat 4th Feb Lourdes Hall 7.30 p.m.
Over 18? You are most welcome to come along and enjoy an evening tasting a variety of Spanish wines. There will also be an opportunity in a raffle to win a case of 6 of the wines shown. All proceeds go towards the latest DWG project. Tickets £20. Please contact: Julia Roche 01582 760295 juliaandnigel@gmail.com or Betty Hines 01582 843409 elizabeth.hines@gmail.com

CATHEDRAL INVITATION

The Cardinal invites all the sick in the Diocese to the annual Mass in honour of

Our Lady of Lourdes on Saturday 11th February 2017 at 2pm in the Cathedral. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass by the bishops and priests. If you will be attending in a wheelchair, please email Rebecca Goode rebeccagoode@rcdow.org.uk by Friday 3rd February to ensure that the appropriate space is reserved in the Cathedral.

FINDING SILENCE

Sat 28th January, 10.45 am–2.30pm
@ Ss Alban & Stephen Parish Centre
14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans
AL1 3RB.
Bishop John Crowley will lead this time for anyone needing a bit of space and quiet. Tea and coffee will be provided but you need to bring your own lunch. For further info email krystyna@faithknowledge.org

HARPENDEN SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICA QUIZ NIGHT

Shake off the winter blues by coming to a fun Quiz run by Ginny St John Glew at Lourdes Hall on Saturday 28th January! Enjoy a Fish and Chip Supper from Godfreys, a cash bar and a raffle while raising funds for Spotlight's projects in Uganda that include building a desperately needed clinic. Starts at 7 for 7.30 pm prompt start and you are guaranteed a great time! Tickets are £12.50, tables of 6/8/10/12 available or you can join a table. More info please contact Annette Peacock on 01582 766364 leaving details on answer-phone or email on annettepeacock@hotmail.com

CARITAS WESTMINSTER

Our area Bishop, Bp Paul McAleenan, will be giving a talk on the work of Caritas Westminster, the diocesan organisation which facilitates parish-based social outreach work to tackle poverty and social exclusion. His talk will be at 10.30am on Sat 28th January in the church hall of Our Lady Queen of All Creation, Rant Meadow (off A414) Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8PG. There is a Mass beforehand at 10am and parking is available. If you need a lift contact Janet Evers 621960. A talk organised by the Herts Newman Circle.

NILAND CENTRE EVENTS

The Daily Call to Prayer with Sister Regina McGarry OP & Monika Cleaver—Tues, 17 Jan 10am-12.30
Suggested donation £6.
Mindfulness in the Christian Tradition with Fr Malachy Keegan—Sat 21 Jan 10am-3pm Suggested donation £14.
Niland Conference Centre at Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath, Herts. WD23 4EE.
Details and registration on www.nilandconferencecentre.co.uk/events or 020 8950 4000.

JOB OPPORTUNITY!

The parish is seeking to appoint an Office Administrator, to replace Jane Rose who, sadly has decided to move on. The role is for 18 hours per week. For further details please visit: <http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs/>