

REFRESHMENTS

We will be holding our monthly refreshments after the 11.30 mass this Sunday. Do pop in, even for a short while.

SARAH SHERWOOD (RIP)

The Funeral Mass for Sarah Sherwood RIP will be held on Monday 2nd March @ 10.30am.

Please remember Sarah and her family in your prayers.

PARISH CEILIDH - 21ST MARCH

Tickets for this barn dance are still available from Julia Roche (tel: 760295; email: juliaandnigel@gmail.com). The price - £15 a head - covers food and music. Venue: Lourdes Hall; start time: 7.30pm. All profit to go to our water project in Uganda - see details on vestibule board. All invited!

LENTEN ALMS

We collected the Lenten Alms after Mass on Ash Wednesday in support of Caritas Westminster. The donations amounted to £885.65 which will go to support the homeless, hungry, poor, lonely and vulnerable in our diocese. Thank you for your generosity.

PRIEST'S REFERENCES

Nursery Applications open on Monday 9th February. Monsignor Turner has been holding signing sessions in the church. The next one will be : Saturday 14th March 11.00am-1.00pm. There is no need to make an appointment, just drop in with you forms. **Signing is ONLY AT THESE TIMES.**

LENT FAST DAY

Storms, droughts and floods are having a devastating impact on our poorest brothers and sisters around the world right now. CAFOD works with local expert organisations to ensure affected people are not only able to survive, but to thrive. There will be a second collection after all masses this weekend in support of CAFOD and the UK government has promised to match every penny you give this Lent up to the value of £3.5m. Please use the gift aid envelope on your benches to make your donation more valuable and give as much as you can, so that long-term, deep-rooted devastation from extreme weather doesn't become a fact of life.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We are blessed in our church to have such fine artwork to illustrate the journey of Christ to Calvary. We make special use of these aids to prayer when we pray "the Stations". It is a highly recommended devotion. Why not give it a try - **6.00pm Sunday evening. Very good to make this part of your Lent agenda.**

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER-6TH MARCH

10.30am St. Nicholas Church; 7.45pm Southdown Methodist Church - All are welcome. Refreshments will be served after both services and an offering for the work of WWDP will be taken. See www.wwdp.org.uk.

PARISH PARENT & TODDLER GROUP

We are so fortunate to have in the parish such a group. The group meets term-time every Thursday morning in Lourdes Hall. Around 20 to 30 families attend for an unstructured, informal and relaxed play session. Mums, dads, grandparents and carers are all welcome and enjoy the freedom to chat and make new friends. For some, this group proves to be a vital step before starting playgroup or nursery. Those who lead this group get a terrific buzz from doing that. It is not onerous and is very enjoyable.

Would you be willing to help? We promise that you will enjoy it and your help will be much appreciated. Please contact Jane in the Parish Office - tel. 01582 712245 or by email: janerose@rcdow.org.uk. **Don't delay act swiftly.**

AU PAIR

A 19 year old boy au pair available from June to September. If your family would like to engage this young man, with good references, you can contact Alison McLaughlin for further details on 07766442239 or email mike@jdmclaughlin.freemove.co.uk - or contact direct on cyriaque.fournier@gmail.com.

ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

The Ladies Group will be holding our annual St Patrick's Day Lunch in the Undercroft on Tuesday 17th March from noon. Tickets are £10 and will include a welcome drink, traditional Irish lunch

and an Irish coffee. Proceeds will go to the Dominican Sisters' Barcelona Settlement in South Africa.

Dates for your diary:

St George's Day Sunday Lunch at Lourdes Hall on 26th April (proceeds to DWG); Strawberry Tea on Sunday afternoon, 28th June in the Parish Garden.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL RAFFLE

Tickets at 50p each or £5 for a book of 10 will be on sale after Mass on Saturday 28th February and Sunday 1st March. There are 33 prizes to be won, from £3000 down to £50 and the draw will take place on 31st March. Any unsold tickets may be on sale after Masses the following weekend. The money raised will go to help the SVP on a national basis but we are entitled to retain 20% for use within the parish.

TIME FOR A SECOND

All those in the First Communion Preparation Class made their First Confession last year in December. It is now time for their **second Confession** and Lent being a particularly appropriate moment.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

There is a healing weekend for people who find themselves single again following divorce, separation or the death of a partner from 20th-22nd March at the Emmaus Centre, West Wickham, Kent. For more information please contact Freida on 01322 401243 or Sandra on 01293 783965.