

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY

Was last Friday 10th March offering us an opportunity to come together as a Catholic community to improve the quality of life for very many people. We will collect your Fast Day donations after all Masses this weekend. If you are a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation via the envelopes provided so that CAFOD can claim an extra 25% at no extra cost to you. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity.

LENT

Lent is now underway, hopefully we are all marking this season in a positive way. If you have started but stopped you can of course begin again, and if you have yet to start, it is not too late to do so. What is important is to use this opportunity, to truly let it become a time of grace. Don't forget some of the opportunities in the parish:

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This traditional Lenten devotion takes place each Sunday of Lent at 6.00pm. It is an opportunity for us to journey with Jesus, and to remember his Passion, and death on the Cross at Calvary.

MY DAY BY DAY

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

MASS DURING THE WEEK

Each Sunday we attend Mass as an expression of our faith, and a sign of our belonging to the Church. During Lent we might want to think about attending Mass, perhaps once or twice during the week. It's a good Lenten practice, and also shows a love for the Mass.

LENTEN ALMS

It is a tradition in the Church to donate what we save through self-denial to Lenten Alms. This year the Cardinal has asked that the Lenten Alms collection be directed to the Cardinal's Appeal fund. The funds raised will go to serve the evangelisation of youth, to develop marriage and family life projects, and to provide service in society, especially to those on the margins. Please take a leaflet, read and pray about this. Envelopes are available at the back of church today – you can make a Lenten Gift by placing your offering in the designated box near Our Lady's Altar, or by using one of the envelopes, and returning it to the Parish Office.

ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

This very popular annual event will be held this Friday 17th March in the Undercroft from 12noon. Tickets (£10) will include a welcome drink, a traditional Irish lunch, an Irish Coffee & 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.

EXPOSITION

There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday 14th March from 2-3pm, at the Convent, 18 Kirkdale Road. The Prayer intention will be Homeless People & Refugees.

SISTERS OF ST CLARE

The next Solitude Saturday will be held on 25th March at St. Clare's Convent, 3 Abigail Close, Luton LU3 1ND. Tel 01582 424518. The day begins with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 10am and ends at 3pm.

LENT AT THE NILAND CENTRE

Day of Prayer and Reflection with Sr Regina McGarry OP & Sr Anne Walsh OP on Thursday, 16th March, 10am-Holy Mass 2.30 pm. Please bring a packed lunch; hot drinks provided. Suggested donation £12. Registration suggested 020 8950 4000, bookings-finance@nilandcentre.co.uk, www.nilandconferencecentre.co.uk/programme-of-events

Praying your way to Easter
The Gospel of St John with Sr Anne Walsh OP. Thursdays 9 & 23 March; 6 April 7.30-9.00 pm. Suggested donation £5/session.
Niland Conference Centre, Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath WD23 4EE.

RETREAT WITH A DIFFERENCE

A Foyer de Charité Retreat will be held at the new Retreat Centre in Walsingham, from Sunday 30 April (6pm) – Saturday 6 May (2pm). The theme is God's Plan for the Fullness of Time, and the preacher will be Mgr. Keith Barltrop, with help from Foyer members and past retreatants. Foyer retreats are held mainly in silence, with three talks a day, and offer a holistic way of deepening our faith in the Church's teaching and our life in Christ. The Foyers are communities of consecrated lay people living with a priest in order to help others grow closer to Christ and live the Catholic faith more fully. For further information or to book a place, contact Mgr. Barltrop: keithbarltrop@rcdow.org.uk; 07879 953953; St. Mary of the Angels, Moorhouse Road, Bayswater, London W2 5DJ.

DWG DIARY DATES

Tea and Plant & Cake Sale In The Garden – Sat 10th June, 10am-3pm.
Golf Day – Fri 21st July.

TREASURER

St Albans & District Foodbank is looking for a volunteer to take on the role of treasurer. The main tasks are:

- Maintaining the cashbook.
- Acting as the primary account contact with our bank (CAF Bank).
- Attending evening trustee meetings about 6 times per year.
- Preparing a set of annual Receipts and Payments Accounts as at the 30th September each year.

We estimate the commitment required to be about 5 or 6 hours per month. If anyone would be willing to help or for further info, in the first instance, please contact the Manager on 01727 613019.

BUILDING MANAGER

The High Street Methodist Church are looking to recruit a paid, part time Buildings Manager working 15 hours a week. The job profile is available from their church office or via office@highstreetmethodist.org.uk
The closing date for applications is Friday 24 March 2017.

ORTHOPAEDIC BED

A family in the parish have a fully functioning, electrically operated, orthopaedic bed available should there be anyone in the parish who would like it/requires one. They are just after a good home for it rather than money. It has served 2 elderly parishioners to date but their needs have changed. Transport can be arranged! If interested please contact the parish office.