

EAST AFRICA CRISIS APPEAL

The United Nations is warning that the world faces the largest humanitarian crisis in more than 70 years. Severe drought, lack of food, and civil war, mean that now over 16 million people across East Africa are facing starvation. I'm very aware that it is just two weeks since the Lent CAFOD Fast Day was so generously supported, but the situation in East Africa is so desperate, as you will have seen on the television. After Mass today there will be a collection for this special appeal. If you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your donation envelopes are available. Your donation will provide food, clean water and healthcare. More information will be found at www.cafod.org.uk/estafrica

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Today is Mother's Day, an opportunity to express our love and gratitude, as well as our appreciation, for all mothers. We wish all mothers a very happy day.

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.

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. If we choose to come to Mass, then it's good to be there at the beginning and stay until the very end.

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.

FLOWER COLLECTION

The Parish Flower Group will have their annual Easter Flower Collection after all masses next weekend - 1st / 2nd April. In addition, a lily may be purchased (at £4) in memory of a loved one. Please write the name of the loved one on an envelope, place the money inside and give to the collection at the back of church after Mass.

GOOD FRIDAY - CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Our children's Stations of the Cross will be at 11.30am on Good Friday (**14th April**), and lasts about 45 minutes. This is a really good opportunity for children to understand and take part in Christ's Passion. We have in past years, had a group of children taking the parts in the form of a tableau for each station. We are looking for children (Years 3-6) to take part in the service. We need about 12 actors (no speaking parts), who need to be at the rehearsal in Church on Thursday 13th April at 10:00am to 11.30am, and then be in church by 11:00 on Good Friday. If your child wants to be part of the service please email Ginny (ginny.sjg@gmail.com) or phone 01582 620322 by Friday 7th April. In the event of getting too many volunteers we will take the first names on the list.

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our good wishes to **Sebastian Clark & Izabella Wozniak** and **Daniel Cooper & Shevon Lansiquot** who were married here in the church over the last fortnight. We wish both couples every blessing and happiness in the years ahead.

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our warmest congratulations to **Maria Aleksandra Westgate**, daughter of Timothy & Monika and **James Patrick Conway**, son of Phillip & Karen, who were both baptised into the Catholic Church last weekend. We wish them and their family every blessing as they start their new lives in Christ.

ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

On behalf of Sr. Margaret Knobel and the people of Barcelona, South Africa, a huge thank you to the Ladies' Group and all who generously attended the St Patrick's Day celebration. The grand total on the day was a magnificent £1,110. During this week another amazingly generous parishioner handed me a cheque for £500, and a further £100 came in the post. This brings the total to £1,710! May God reward you. Sr. Margaret's ministry to the people of Barcelona is only possible because of you. We remember you and your families in prayer. Sr. Regina.

REFLECTIONS AT ROSARY PRIORY - Winter to Spring

with Sr Avril OP
Tuesday 4th April: Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis.
11am in the Convent Chapel, Rosary Priory, Bushey

MESSAGE OF THANKS

Thank you to the parish family for all the support and help received for Saturday's wedding of our son Daniel Cooper to Shevon Lansiquot. The Mass was inspiringly celebrated by Canon Anthony supported by the magnificent choir and altar servers. The flower group, registrar, those who made the church sparkle and who prepared the bride and groom in advance all helped to make it a wonderful and memorable day. All the guests, many non-Catholic were really impressed.
Linda & Dennis Cooper.