

## LENT

It's good to mark Lent in some positive way. Below are some of the opportunities available in the parish. In addition to these there is the, almost, daily Mass. A good way of marking Lent, if not daily, then perhaps once or twice during the week.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

A traditional Lenten devotion is the Stations of the Cross. We are fortunate in our church to have such fine artwork to illustrate the Jesus' last journey to Calvary, and to assist us when we reflect on this journey. The "Stations" will take place each Sunday of Lent at 6.00pm – a good activity for Lent.

## LENT GROUPS

It's not too late to join one of the Lent groups, which will begin meeting this week. All details can be found in the invitation leaflets. Please do join a group if you possibly can. There is no pressure on anyone to speak. We shall read scripture, pray, share ideas and stories and enjoy fellowship with coffee and biscuits. If you would like to join a group, please email Rachel Lee at rachellee1105@yahoo.co.uk ASAP.

## MY DAY BY DAY

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

## 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, and more information, are available at the back of church today. You can make a Lenten Gift by making a donation in the designated box near Our Lady's Altar, or by using one of the envelopes and returning it to the Parish Office.

## REFRESHMENTS

Please note that refreshments will be served after 11:30am Mass this Sunday. Everyone is most welcome.

## CONFIRMATION

The Confirmation programme is now under way, and 47 of our young people are preparing to be confirmed this summer. At the 6.00pm Mass, this weekend, they will be formally enrolled as candidates for Confirmation. On this occasion they indicate their intention to continue to prepare for this important event and, we for our part, assure them of our prayers and support.

## RITE OF ELECTION

This weekend the Diocese celebrates the Rite of Election, our catechumens will be named by our Cardinal as members of the Elect - those chosen by God for Baptism. This afternoon two catechumens, and two candidates, those who are baptised but have not celebrated the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, from our parish will be celebrating the Rite of Election with Cardinal Vincent. Please keep them, and their catechists in your prayers.

## CAFOD LENT FAST DAY

### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March

CAFOD has been standing alongside poor communities working with them to end poverty and injustice across the world. CAFOD traditionally holds an appeal early in Lent. This year, Lent Fast Day is on **Friday 10 March** when you could consider giving up a meal. Please take a Fast Day envelope this weekend and return it with your donation next weekend (11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> March) or make a pledge to give regularly. If you are a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation so that CAFOD can claim an extra 25% at no extra cost to you. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity.

## ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

This very popular annual event will be held on Fri 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

## DWG DIARY DATES

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

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL

### SOCIETY ANNUAL RAFFLE

Once again this was a great success, all 70 books being sold by the end of 11.30 Mass last Sunday. Raising £350 for the SVP, of which our local conference can retain £70. Many thanks to all those who took part in buying and selling tickets.

## CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our warmest congratulations to **Sebastian James Probert**, son of Jeremy & Naomi and **Charlotte Margaret Hall**, daughter of Christopher & Rachel, 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.

## ALTAR SERVER LONG SERVICE

### AWARDS - Congratulations!

We are very grateful to all our altar servers for their dedication, and in particular congratulate the following who have recently received long service awards:

**Max Rosser-Smyth** has been serving at Sunday 11.30am Mass for over a decade! He's our only current altar server who you'll see wearing a shiny silver medal...!

**Niamh Armitage** (over 5 years' service) helps our junior servers settle into the role at Saturday 6pm Mass.

**Aidan Donnelly** gave up many hours of his free time to train new servers who joined the ranks in 2016, and received his blue cord medal. Also receiving a blue cord medal for over 3 years' service were **Joseph Fernandez & Giles Holloway**. The following servers were enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen on completing over 1 years' service : **Áine Dunwoodie, Ben Hallam, Eva Shipley, Chloe & Sienna Nasmyth-Miller, Federico Geraci, Finlay Thomas, Isobel Spittal, Lewis Macdonald and Niamh Beausang**.