

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION 2016

Today's second collection is for the annual Sick & Retired Priests Fund of the Diocese of Westminster. The Fund ensures elderly and infirm priests are not alone in their senior years, after a lifetime of service. Your gift helps defray the costs the Diocese bears in fulfilling its lifetime commitment to these men for their housing, medical, convalescence, companionship and spiritual support needs. We know you will be generous. Most priests retire with modest means, and later on circumstances with health, mobility or frailty can adversely impact their ability to live independently. If you do not have an envelope, plenty are still available throughout November, or you can donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Canon Dwyer is away from Sunday to Friday this week, so there will be a Service of the Word and Holy Communion instead of Mass on Monday (9.15am) and Thursday (11am).

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This Sunday we assemble with the other churches at the war memorial to remember those who gave their lives in the two World Wars. The ceremony begins at 10.50am. It would be very good if our church is well represented. Those leaving 9.45am mass would be well placed to take part in the ceremony which does not last all that long.

ORDER OF MASS CARDS

We have just ordered a fresh batch of Order of Mass Cards as our supplies seem to be dwindling. Whilst we are happy for you to take them home, please bring them to use at Mass.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Our annual parish Christmas Bazaar is only 4 weeks away. Put Saturday 10th December in your diary and start Gathering up your unwanted gifts and other donations.

PRIEST'S REFERENCES

Primary school applications are now open. The Certificate of Catholic Practice form will need to be signed immediately. Form signing sessions will take place in church on Saturday 19th November 11.30-12.30 & Saturday 26th November 11.30-12.30. No need to make an appointment, just turn up. Please complete a self-assessment form prior to the meeting and bring it with you on the day. Self-assessment forms can be collected from Canon Dwyer after weekend Masses or by emailing Jane in the parish office janerose@rcdow.org.uk. Signing is ONLY AT THESE TIMES. Please note that 'practising Catholic' means attending Mass every Sunday.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

There are still over 60 Planned Giving envelope boxes remaining, some for Parishioners who have requested boxes in the last month! If, therefore, you have either requested a set of envelopes for the first time or have not yet collected your renewal box, please do so NOW as you leave the Church. All requests for envelopes and missing envelope boxes have been attended to. If, therefore, you still find your box is missing, please write your name again on the list. It will then be checked again. There are also a number of outstanding Gift Aid Declarations, which should be returned as soon as possible in order that they can be registered with the Diocese.

MISSIO BOXES

If your Red Mission box requires emptying please bring it to mass and either leave it with one of the ushers or take it to the Sacristy. Please ensure your details are on the label particularly if you have signed a Gift Aid form. Any queries tel. 622215 Antonioli Family. Thank you.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 27th November, 6.30pm here at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Choirs from many of our churches in Harpenden are joining to bring in the Advent Season. Come join in a special service of song and reflection. Bring a friend. Everyone welcome!

PARISH QUIZ ON 5 NOV

Fortified by Godfrey's fish and chips, over 100 people faced a barrage of questions from Ginny St John Glew on a great night in Lourdes Hall. The event raised £1,154 for the DWG's current project. Thank you everyone who came or helped organise it, especially Ginny. In addition to this sum, parishioners donated to the DWG £313 in October as standing orders, plus £82.26 in cash (11 October-8 November) including donations volunteered in exchange for one parishioner's reflexology sessions!

MOYO PROJECT

On 8 November, the DWG donated £3,250 to the Moyo Babies Home in Uganda, via the charity, the International Refugees Trust. The home houses up to 66 orphans and at risk children up to five years of age from Uganda, South Sudan and the Congo (DCR). The money will be used to refurbish a house for the youngest children in the home. See updated parish website for info including photos <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden/parish-groups/othergroups/>

CHRISTMAS CARDS

On sale after Saturday evening / Sunday masses 19th/20th November. Each card is a hand-printed signed linocut featuring the Magi, designed by Teresa Newham. Cost £2 each or 3 for £5. All proceeds to the OLOL Building Fund.

CHRISTMAS CARD SHOP

The Multi Charity Christmas card shop is open now until 17th December at Harpenden United Reform Church, Vaughan Road, Harpenden. Mon - Fri 9.30am-4.30pm. Sat 9.30am-3.30pm.

USED STAMPS

Sister Sheila is collecting any used stamps for charity. There is a collection box at the back of the church if you wish to donate.

THE ART OF DYING WELL

Is a new website that offers a helping hand to those grappling with issues around death and dying. Based in a Catholic tradition but open to all, it features real-life stories about dealing with the journey through death to eternal life. It launches in November – the traditional month of remembering and praying for the dead. Please collect a prayer card. www.artofdyingwell.org

HELP NEEDED

Can you spare an hour a week to visit a very elderly gentleman in the Parish? This voluntary role involves collecting some shirts and towels to launder each week. A new job prevents the current volunteer continuing their visits but a handover will be arranged. Please contact Jane in the Parish Office. Thank you.