

## ADVENT

Christmas preparation is so important. There's so much to think about. But it's important too, not to neglect our spiritual preparation. Today is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. It is a valuable time. We need to make the most of it. **This Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm**, we will gather at High Street Methodist Church with all the choirs from the churches of Harpenden for a special time of readings and song to launch Advent. **Do try to be there.**

## FUNERAL

The Funeral for Graham Palgrave R.I.P. will be celebrated here in church this Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am.

## YOUTH SUNDAY

Last weekend we held a second collection for the Catholic Youth Service. This collection raised **£499.51**. Thank you for your generosity.

## THE YEAR OF MERCY

This is a Jubilee year. From the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2015, until the Feast of Christ the King, 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016, Pope Francis has declared an Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy. The motto for the Holy or Jubilee Year is "Merciful like the Father". There will be events and celebrations at deanery, diocesan, national and at international level, but the motto needs to be our mantra and lived out in our lives. May it be truly a Year of Mercy for each one of us.

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

By now, you ALL know that CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will be on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December at Lourdes Hall from**

**10.00 am –**

**1.00 pm.** At the moment, we have about 15 of the 150

BOTTLES we will need for the bottle stall (wine, beer, spirits or soft drinks are all welcome), so we really need your help. We also need **CAKES, PLANTS and JEWELLERY** (including any broken gold chains or odd earrings). Please put your donations in the church porch or bring them to Lourdes Hall on Friday between 3.00-5.00pm and 7.00-9.00pm AND, if you can stay to help for an hour or so, that would be GREAT. If you would like something collected, please contact Marva Hall on 712364 or [marva@cpoauk.com](mailto:marva@cpoauk.com). **AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE NEED YOU TO COME TO THE BAZAAR ON SATURDAY** (you can park in St Dominic's car park).

## BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

We warmly congratulate **MARK AARON WILLMINGTON**, son of Luke & Ruth and **HARRISON JONATHAN PATRICK FRENCH**, son of Daniel & Harriet, both of whom we welcomed into the Catholic Church last Sunday in the sacrament of Baptism.



## REFRESHMENTS

Will be served after the 11.30 mass next Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December in the Undercroft. We do hope to see you there.

## CHRISTMAS SHOP

The repository now has a wide range of Advent and Christmas stock. This includes Advent calendars and activity books for children together with Christmas cards and cribs, both modern and traditional. Come and have a look.

## WORLD AIDS DAY

This Tuesday (1<sup>st</sup> Dec) is World AIDS Day. In the UK there are 108,000 people living with HIV. Catholics and AIDS Prevention Support provides pastoral ministry to those infected with HIV in the UK. For further information visit [www.caps-uk.org](http://www.caps-uk.org) and [www.positivecatholics.com](http://www.positivecatholics.com) or call **07505 608655**.

35 million people are now living with HIV/AIDS across the world. Although medicines have become more available, only 32% of children and 41% of adults who are eligible, actually received HIV treatment in 2014. Millions remain in need of essential treatment, care and support, especially in Africa, a continent that cries out for justice.

## PRAYER & REFLECTION

There will be an hour of Reflection and Prayer for the Climate Change Conference taking place in Paris. Please come on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 2.00pm at the Convent, 18, Kirkdale Rd.

## WORLD YOUTH DAY

Next year 25<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> July, Pope Francis joins with young people all over the world at Krakow in Poland. In common with other parishes we will be able to subsidise any young person from our parish who wishes to go. **Have a word with Mgr. Turner.**

## ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015 10am-4pm at St. Bartholomew's Church, 47 Vesta Avenue, St. Albans AL1 2PT to be led by Fr Adrian Walker. Tea and coffee available throughout the day but please bring a packed lunch. No charge for this day.

## ADVENT REFLECTIONS

'Restorative Justice' on Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Dec, prepare for the Prince of Peace with Fr Malachy Keegan 10am-3pm £15. 'My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour' on Tues 8<sup>th</sup> Dec, annual advent reflection with Sister Regina McGarry OP & Sister Anne Walsh OP 10am ending with Mass for the Immaculate Conception at 3pm (suggested donation £12). Coffee/tea provided; please bring packed lunch. Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road Bushey Heath WD23 4EE. Registrations welcomed **020 8950 4000** [www.nilandconferencecentre.co.uk](http://www.nilandconferencecentre.co.uk)

## COURTESY PLEASE

Courtesy is of God. It is not courteous to arrive late for Mass. In fact it is unfair to those who have arrived on time. It is true parking is difficult and accidents do happen. It may be necessary to make allowance for such an eventuality. **Let's be a courteous parish!**