

### **SICK & REIRED PRIENT'S FUND**

A big 'thank you' to everyone who responded to the appeal last weekend for the 'Sick & Retired Priest's fund. £2,374.78 was donated. Your generosity is much appreciated. If you didn't have the chance to give last weekend, it is not too late to do so. The fund remains open for another couple of weeks, and donations can be handed into the parish office.

### **WORLD DAY OF THE POOR**

Today is the first 'World Day of the Poor.' Pope Francis asks that 'whatever our means or background, to unite in love, in acts of service to one another and in genuine encounter.' The Holy Father hopes the day can 'become a powerful appeal to our consciences as believers, allowing us to grow in the conviction that sharing with the poor enables us to understand the deepest truth of the Gospel.' Prayer cards, for this day, are available.

### **OFFERTORY ENVELOPES**

There are still a considerable number of Planned Giving envelope boxes remaining, **some for Parishioners who have requested boxes in the last month!** This is the last opportunity for these to be collected from the back of the Church as they will be removed to the Parish Office after this week end, from where they may be collected during the usual opening hours.

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**

There are also outstanding Gift Aid Declarations, which should be returned as soon as possible in order that they can be registered with the Diocese.

### **REPAIRS**

Some months ago a heavy shower of rain revealed a number of leaks in the church tower, and the need to replace all of the lead in the roof there; hence the scaffolding at the front of the church. It is estimated that this work will take about a month and, hopefully, will not cause too much inconvenience.

### **NOVEMBER BOOK**

During November, we continue to remember, in prayer, all the souls in purgatory, those who have still to conclude their journey to God. During November the Masses on Tuesday and Thursday mornings will be offered for all of the Holy Souls. If you would like anyone to be remembered in these Masses please add their names to the 'November Dead List' which you will find on the ledge near the repository.

### **LIVE SIMPLY Award (Cafod)**

Care for the Earth and it's peoples is a major issue for us all, and especially for Pope Francis. Included in the Newsletter today is an invitation to parishioners to find out more about how this might involve each one of us by LivingSimply. Please take the leaflet in the Newsletter home with you and read it with care. Next Sunday, the feast of Christ the King, you will be invited to take the next step on the journey! Laudato Si. (Praise to you, O Lord)

### **CHRISTMAS CARDS**

On sale after Saturday evening/Sunday masses 25th/26th November. Each card is a hand-printed signed linocut designed by Teresa Newham. Cost £2 each or 3 for £5. All proceeds to the OLOL Building Fund.

### **PARISH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR.**

This very popular annual event will be held on Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Lourdes Hall from 10 am to 1 pm and we need YOUR help. Please bring your donations of bottles, gifts, toys, books, raffle prizes, crafts, cakes, plants and bric-a-brac (no second hand clothes please) which you can put in the box in the church porch from next weekend. AND we also need volunteers to help 'man the stalls' and to set up the day before. We particularly welcome new parishioners to get involved. Please contact [marva@cpoauk.com](mailto:marva@cpoauk.com) or on 01582 712364 if you would like to help, even if it is only for an hour or two.

### **BECOMING A CATHOLIC**

Have you ever considered whether God is calling you to become a Catholic? Is it a niggling feeling you have had for some time? Do the barriers, obstacles, objections or doubts always seem too great; the bigger issues ever muddying the personal path? Perhaps you feel there has never

been a 'right time' or 'clear window' in your life. Perhaps you even feel daunted by the enormity of the unknown. If so, you are having exactly the same feelings as all those who have ultimately taken that first tentative step, walked the journey of faith week by week, and have never looked back. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Canon Dwyer.

### **DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP**

On 13 November the Group paid the final instalment - £1,401 - towards its latest project. This involved funding the purchase of £5,016 of medical equipment to help mothers in childbirth and very young children at St Daniel Comboni Catholic Hospital, Wau South Sudan. We are now raising money for a small project in South Africa. Our aim is to pay for a large wood stove (to cook food and provide heat), a table and chairs for a youth centre in a township in the Dundee diocese in Natal. The beneficiaries are mainly orphans from across the township, who meet and learn practical skills at the centre. The cost is estimated to be close to £800. The priest working with the local community on this and other local projects, Father Gerald Gosling, whom Sister Regina has worked with in the past, met the Group here last month. He explained the pressing need for this equipment at the centre, which does not receive government grants, relying instead entirely on donations. .

Between 10 October and 13 November, cash and cheque donations to the DWG amounted to £1,058.01 (of which £131.95 came from Green DWG collection boxes - please ring 760295 if yours is full or hand them in at the office). This was supplemented by final profits of £685 from Pop-up Opera and £438 in Standing Orders over calendar October. Thank you all for your generosity and for supporting fundraising activities so actively.

### **CHRISTMAS IN THE REPOSITORY**

Christmas cards, both single and boxes, wrapping paper, contemporary cribs and candles. There are also a number of lovely items for children, Advent calendars, colouring and activity books, games and puzzles, and story books to appeal to the very young, all showing the true meaning of Christmas. Come and have a look

### **ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL**

Applications for places in Reception Class open on Monday 6 November 2017. The Certificate of Catholic Practice form will need to be signed by a priest. Canon Dwyer will be available to sign forms in church on Saturdays 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December between 3.30pm and 4.30pm. There is no need to make an appointment, just turn up. Signing is ONLY AT THESE TIMES. Please note that 'practising Catholic' means attending Mass **every** Sunday. Parents should also collect a 'self-assessment' form, which will be available after the Masses today.

### **BOOK THE DATE BARN DANCE 20TH JANUARY 2018**

We invite you to join us for an evening of fun, exercise, an excellent caller and the best fish & chips in town (Godfrey's)! Tickets will be £12.50 and it will be a 'Bring your own drinks and nibbles event.' It's early notice but we know what a busy lot you are!  
Enquiries to Julia 07891083251

### **CAN YOU COOK**

Seniors in Harpenden can learn basic cooking skills or rejuvenate existing ones at the Kitchen Front's special Christmas cookery workshop. Following the success of our previous cookery classes and with support from the Harpenden Trust, we are holding a seasonal class in St Nicholas Church Hall on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 1.30 - 4.00pm. To book onto the class please call Sarah Cripps or Jane Todd at The Kitchen Front on 07899 751211 or 07973 383607

### **CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

If you are thinking about a different Christmas gift you might appreciate some of the items available from CAFOD. Catalogues with their products are available in the church porch.