

PREPARING FOR ADVENT

In just a week's time we commence the season of Advent, a season which can be overshadowed by preparations for Christmas. To help focus on this special time there are a series of booklets, with brief daily reflections. There are booklets for different age groups: infant, junior and adult. The reflections are only for about two minutes each day, so do think about using them, and enter into this season when we wait in joyful expectation. They are available in the porch at £1.

FOR THE CHILDREN

To help the children enter into the Advent season, Advent calendars are available. Please collect one for your family, they are available, free of charge, in the porch.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR COMING SOON

This very popular parish-wide event will be on **Saturday 10th Dec 10am-1pm** in Lourdes Hall. Start searching through your cupboards for unwanted gifts and bottles, as well as books, toys, jewellery and bric-a-brac (no clothing please). You can put your donations in the church porch or take them to the parish office. We also need offers of help to work on the day and/or to help set up on Friday afternoon. This will be a great way for new parishioners to meet people and to get involved in the parish. No offer is refused. Contact Marva on 712364 or marva@cpoauk.com.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Any remaining envelopes uncollected from last week have now been removed to the Parish Office, from where they may be collected.

THURSDAY MASS

Morning Mass will be celebrated at 9.15 this Thursday as Canon Dwyer will be attending a Diocesan Clergy Day.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Thursday 8th December

7pm at Our Lady of Lourdes

An hour of Christmas cheer featuring: the choir of Our Lady of Lourdes, the church's very own orchestra, the Bella Mamas choir and the children from St Dominic School Choir! Followed by refreshments in the Undercroft.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION 2016

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Sick and Retired Priests collection last weekend which raised £1,688.02.

It's not too late to make a donation if you wish. Envelopes are available at the church entrance or by contacting the Parish Office. This important collection helps cover the expenses of frail, elderly, infirm and chronically ill priests. Thank you for your prayers for all our priests and especially for those concluding a lifetime of service to the church. For more information, visit www.rcdow.org.uk/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 on janerose@rcdow.org.uk.

Signing is ONLY AT THESE TIMES.

Please note that 'practising Catholic' means attending Mass every Sunday.

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.

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!

CHRISTMAS CARDS

On sale after Saturday evening / Sunday masses this weekend. 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.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

Stuck for a Christmas present? CAFOD World Gifts offers a great alternative for friends or family who don't need anything, but might appreciate a gift which helps poor communities to access services like basic healthcare, clean water, and education.

CAFOD provides you with a certificate detailing a gift that has been given to a community overseas on your behalf. Please take home a CAFOD World Gift Catalogue after Mass

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

NEWMAN TALK

'Talking and Listening Together, the Story of the Church's Ecumenical Journey'.

This should be a fascinating talk to be given by Rev Canon John O'Toole, Dean of St George's Cathedral, Southwark and National Ecumenical Officer and Secretary to the Department for Dialogue and Unity at the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

It will take place on Sunday 27th November at St Bartholomew's Parish Hall, 47 Vesta Avenue, St Albans, AL1 2PE, at 8pm. A talk arranged by the Newman Association

Quote from Canon O'Toole: *'My mum taught me to respect Christians of other traditions. My dad taught me to respect people of other faiths. Together they taught me to be true to myself and open to others.'*

Contact Janet Evers if you need a lift or more information 01582 621960

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.