

LENT

Hopefully Lent has begun well for you. If you are still deciding what to do, here are some of the opportunities available in the Parish.

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 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.

This week, the members of the Catenian Association will be assisting with leading the station of the Cross

LENT GROUPS

The Lent Groups began meeting this week, and are following the Diocesan Programme: 'We adore you o Christ, and we praise you' which is reflecting on the gift of the Eucharist, in preparation for the National Eucharistic Congress later this year. For further information about these groups please contact: Rachel Lee, rachellee1105@yahoo.co.uk
Tel: 07957 206078

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.

LENT ON-LINE

If you are still looking for something to do in Lent, there are some good resources on-line: The prayer podcast and app "Pray-as-you-go" is really excellent. Produced by the Jesuit team Farm Street church. The daily prayers are based on the Ignatian spirituality exercises. They have a daily podcast which reflects on one of the readings of the day. <https://www.pray-as-you-go.org/home/>
There is also a "Lent 2018 retreat" which has been produced by "Sacred Space", a joint apostolate of the Irish Jesuits and Loyola Press. <http://www.sacredspace.ie/>
As well, said to be for the "thinking" Catholic, there is Bishop Robert Barron's Word on Fire. <https://www.wordonfire.org/>

LENT TRIVIA (Answers overleaf)

What are the 3 recommended practices for Lent
Who else did the disciples see at the Transfiguration?
What do they represent? ?

'SAYING FAREWELL'

Sunday 18th March will be Bishop John's final Sunday in the parish, and he will celebrate the 11.30am Mass that day. After Mass there will be a reception in the undercroft, which will provide an opportunity to wish Bishop John well as he takes his leave of us, and moves on to Cricklewood. His new address is: Flat 2, Francis Court Caddington Road, London NW2 1RP

LENT FAST DAY

Last Friday was CAFOD Lent Fast Day. Anything you were able to save will be collected as you leave Mass today.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

From Monday March 12th our Office Administrator, Ellen Hughesman, will be working 2 days a week, Monday & Tuesday. The role will now be shared and we welcome Melanie Armitage who will be in the office on Wednesday & Thursday.

WALK IN THE PARK

You are warmly invited to join fellow parishioners for an early spring walk in our lovely Rothamsted Park. We saw snowdrops last month, hopefully daffodils this time! Meet outside Church at 10am on Wednesday 7th March for an hour's walk and then a coffee in a nearby cafe. If weather is bad, it's straight for coffee! Look out for future walks held first Wednesday of every month.

ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

This very popular Ladies' Group event will be held on Saturday 17th March in Our Lady's Hall (undercroft) from 12 noon. Tickets will cost £10 and will include a welcome drink, a traditional Irish meal and an Irish Coffee with barmbrack. ALL members of the parish are welcome and tickets will be on sale after all the Masses. Proceeds will go to the Barcelona Settlement in South Africa.

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

Parishioners donated £127.05 in cash between 9 January and 19 February (including via the wall safe and a further full Green Box). In addition, the £600 proceeds from the very enjoyable Banish The Blues Supper organised by the Ladies Group, and £438 in Standing Orders over calendar January, have been paid in. Details of our current water project in Northern Uganda - to which the money will go - are set out on the Parish website. Thank you all for your generosity

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY ANNUAL RAFFLE

Tickets cost £1 each or £5 for book of 5, and will be on sale after Masses this weekend 24th/25th February. There are 23 prizes to be won, from £3,000 down to £10. The draw will take place on Maundy Thursday 29th March. **LIVE SIMPLY**
Success! The LiveSimply group and volunteers, with the support of Canon Anthony and Bishop John, have now agreed the LiveSimply action Plan to send to Cafod for the LiveSimply Award and for Our Lady of Lourdes to become a LiveSimply parish community. This will be a wonderful opportunity for those gave their original support to the project, and others, to find ways of making a contribution, in any way however small, to help make the parish a LiveSimply community. During 2018 our task will be to implement and monitor the Actions in order to receive the Award in early 2019. There will be Actions involving Liturgy, the environment, practical resources, justice and peace and care for creation, Cafod, and communications. More to come! Laudato Si

ST DOMINIC NURSERY

The application process for Nursery places for children born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015 is now open. This year, we are looking to extend our Early Years provision to enable parents to access 30 hours free childcare. The school will also be offering an optional Lunch Club and afternoon sessions run by *Friends Together* (our breakfast and

after-school provider). For further information please visit our website www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk or contact the school office on 01582 760047 Applications close at 3.30pm on 5th March. To support your application, a Certificate of Catholic Practice form will need to be signed.

AUCTION OF PROMISES SATURDAY APRIL 21st 2018

An opportunity for everyone in the parish both young and not so young to start thinking of what they can "promise to do" or "promise to give" for the Auction of Promises in aid of the Developing World Group. So what is an Auction of Promises? It is simply a promise by you or your family that you will do or give something that someone else will bid for at the Auction. There is no limit to what the promise can be. It could be to bake a cake, cook for a dinner party, do some gardening, drive someone to/from the airport, donate tickets to the theatre or a sporting event or use your creative skills to provide a memorable experience for the successful bidder. The list is endless. Alternatively you might like to suggest something that you would like to bid for (e.g. someone to cook for a family BBQ) and someone else might be able to offer this. Further details on the Auction and how you can submit your promises will be given nearer the time. In the meantime put your thinking caps on and a note in your diary for April 21st to come to the Auction and have a fun evening.

WOMENS' WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2018

This year's Womens' World Day of Prayer will take place next Friday 2nd March. There will be two services: 10.30am at the High Street Methodist Church and 7.45pm at St Mary's, Kinsbourne Green. This year's service has been written by the women of Suriname with the theme "All God's Creation is Very Good" Everyone is welcome - the service is not just for women! For more information please see the postcards in the porch or contact Teresa Newham on [01582\) 766403](tel:01582766403).

