

PARISH FEAST

Next Sunday is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, and so is our parish feast day. It's an occasion to thank God for all the good things that go on in our parish; and to ask His blessing on all we do in our future together. Canon Dwyer, and a group of parishioners, will be celebrating the feast in Lourdes, and will be praying for everyone in the parish.

WALK IN THE PARK

You are warmly invited to join fellow parishioners for a winter walk in our lovely Rothamsted Park. Meet outside Church at 10am next Wednesday 7th February 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.

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

New project

The Group is currently raising £5,768 for a new project in Uganda. The money will help finance the construction of large water tanks in the ground, and related piping/pumps for St Martin de Pores parish centre (with schools) in Lukome, near Gulu in Northern Uganda. Our aim is to send the total amount, against receipts, by end February - the first £2,000 was sent on 30 January - so that the project can if possible be completed before the wet season which begins around April. In order to achieve this, the Pakistan project which we intended to do in December/January, will be funded in March/April instead. For further information about the Uganda project please visit <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpender/parish-groups/the-developing-world-group/>

Finance

On 9th January donations of £1,165.66 were credited to our account. A further £602.50 from the Barn Dance, £890 from the Lea Singers 23rd December Christmas concert and £683.30 from the Green Box collection on 20/21 January has also been paid in or will be

very soon. We are very grateful to the Lea Singers for choosing us as their charity for the year and their donation. The Green Box total is tremendous, especially as this excludes a large number of Green Boxes handed in one by one over the last year. Thank you and your friends from outside the Parish who have contributed so generously, including by coming to and arranging these events - you have made this project possible.

CATENAINS

The parish has an active Catenian group that meet on the second Wednesday of each month. As a change from our normal venue, the February gathering which falls on Ash Wednesday, will start off by attending 6pm mass and then convene in the Undercroft for a short meeting followed by a fish and chip supper. If any men (and through them their families) of the parish would like to find out a little more about the group without any obligation, do join us at this relaxed and simple supper evening. Just contact denniscooper238@btinternet.com

ST DOMINIC NURSERY

On the 5th February 2018, the application process for Nursery places will open for children born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015. 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 afterschool provider). For further information please visit our website www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk or contact the school office on 01582 760047 to book an appointment to come along to one of our visit mornings on Thursday 8th, Tuesday 20th or Wednesday 28th February at 10.15am. Applications close at 3.30pm on 5th March. To support your application, a Certificate of Catholic Practice form will need to be signed. A form signing session will take place in church on Saturday 24th February 11.30am to

12.30pm. There is no need to make an appointment, just turn up. Signing is **ONLY AT THIS TIME**. Please note that 'practising Catholic' means attending Mass every Sunday.

WOMENS' WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2018

This year's Womens' World Day of Prayer will take place on 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).

DWG BARN DANCE

This event was a sell out with a waiting list. So sorry some had to be disappointed! It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and raised in the region of £600 which will swell the fund for our latest project (more information to follow). Very many thanks to all who attended and to all the wonderful helpers! Please start thinking now about what you would like to offer for auctioning on 21st April (anything from an hour's gardening or ironing, driving to shops/airport, cooking for a bbq, to a week on your luxury yacht in the Med!) You might prefer to suggest something that you would like to buy.

BLESSED JOHN HENRY NEWMAN AND THE ENGLISH SENSIBILITY

All are welcome to this Newman Association talk by Dr Jacob Phillips of St Mary's University, Twickenham. Sunday 18th February, 8pm, at St Bartholomew's Church, 47 Vesta Avenue, St Albans AL1 2PE.

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.

CELEBRATING MARRIAGE

Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 19th May 2018 at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2018. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email)