

PARENTS MEETING

Parents of First Communion children please note that the Parents meeting planned for January 22nd, has now been put back one week to Monday January 29th, at 8.00pm, in the undercroft. Apologies for any inconvenience this causes.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Yesterday almost 70 of our children made their First Reconciliation, a lovely moment for them as they encountered God's undending love through His forgiveness and mercy. It's a moment too when we are reminded of the essential place of Confession in our lives, the need we have to reflect on our lives, and to seek out the loving mercy of God.

PAX CHRISTI (The Peace of Christ)

Today, 14th January 2018, we celebrate the 51st World Peace Day, and the armistice that marked the end of the First World War in Europe. The theme for World Day of Peace 2018 is, 'Migrants and Refugees – seekers of peace'. The Catholic Bishops of England & Wales ask us to reflect on the Pope's World Peace Day message, not only in prayer but in our commitment to following the path of peace. We can join with others like Pax Christi, the international Catholic Peace movement, who provide resources, contracts, ideas and inspiration to enable us to move to a future of peace and justice. You can find out more about their work and support it by your offering on their website at www.paxchristi.org.uk

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! Tickets are selling fast. Please could we have all bookings and money by 15th January.
Enquiries to Julia 07891083251

CHRISTIAN UNITY

Between 18th and 25th January each year we keep the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In Hertfordshire we have a quite outstanding and powerful witness to our Church's commitment towards Unity. Every Friday at 12.00noon Catholic Mass is celebrated in St. Albans Abbey in St. Albans. There is no other Anglican cathedral in the country where such a thing happens every week. The Mass is very well attended by Catholics from various parishes and is an uplifting experience. Why not come along? You will be very welcome and it will mark the Week of Prayer in a significant way.

HARPENDEN CHURCHES TOGETHER CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE

St John's Church will be hosting the Annual Christian Unity Service next Sunday 21st January at 6.30pm followed by refreshments in the Parish hall.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HERTFORDSHIRE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Service at High street Methodist Church, Harpenden, Thursday 25th January at 7.30pm. Bishop Paul McAleenan Roman Catholic Auxiliary Bishop in the Diocese of Westminster & Rev Dr. David M Chapman, Methodist District Chair Bedfordshire, Essex & Hertfordshire.

BANISH THE WINTER BLUES' SUPPER

This very popular annual event will be held on Saturday February 3rd at the Lourdes Hall. There will be a three-course supper, followed by coffee or tea and will cost £15 (bring your own drinks). Please contact marva@cpoauk.com (H.712364) if you would like to make up a table or if you would like to join our parish table. Everyone is welcome. Tickets will be on sale after the Masses next weekend and proceeds will go to the Developing World Group.

RECALL OF DWG GREEN COLLECTION BOXES 27th/28th JANUARY

Please bring back your Green Boxes to be emptied and returned - even if they are not yet full! And an opportunity to pick up a box, if you don't yet have one! We are very grateful for your generous support as in 2017 you have donated nearly £2,000 by filling your boxes with pennies, pounds and notes! We are deeply grateful for your generous response.

REST IN PEACE

Please remember in your prayers the late John McKenna, who died recently as well as his family. His funeral takes place Thursday 18th January at 1.00pm. May he rest in peace.

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

Parishioners donated £438 in standing orders in December, plus £122.83 in cash (including the wall safe and the vestibule wooden box at weekend masses) between 11 December and 8 January. Please see the 2017 Newsletter - available in the vestibule - regarding how donations were used last year and for information on our current project in Pakistan which we hope to complete very soon. Thank you again for your generosity.

HARPENDEN SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICA QUIZ

Raise much needed funds for essential school books by using your brains at our fun Quiz night on Saturday 27th January in Lourdes Hall, Southdown Rd, 7 for 7.30 prompt start. Tables of 8. Tickets £12.50 each to include a Godfrey's Fish and Chip Supper. Raffle and cash Bar. This is a popular event so contact quiz@hsoa.org.uk to avoid disappointment.

VINNIE PACKS

The SVP are distributing 12,000 "Vinnie Packs" containing cold weather essentials for the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, two pairs of socks, gloves, toothbrush, toothpaste, information card and pen. Those who can, are asked to consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £3.50 per pack. Donations can be sent to "Vinnie Packs", PO Box 72264, London, SW1P 9EZ, with cheques made out to the SVP. Thank you so much for your support.

A MUSLIM VIEW OF MARY: 20th JANUARY

A talk by Mrs Farrukh Sheikh, organised by the Newman Association. 10:30am next Saturday 20th January at St Alban and St Stephen Church, 14-16 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans AL1 3RB. All welcome.