

### **PARENTS MEETING**

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

### **MASS TIMES**

Please note, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January mass will be at 9.15am .

### **CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES**

This weekend, almost fifty of our teenagers are away on a two night residential retreat, with their catechists, as part of their Confirmation course. Please remember these young people in your prayers as they make the important journey towards receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

### **FINDING SILENCE**

Finding Silence with Bishop John Crowley. Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 10.45am-2.30pm at Ss Alban and Stephen Catholic Church, 14 Beaconsfield Road, St. Albans, AL1 3RB , in the Parish Hall Everyone is invited to look at the value of silence and be given the knowledge and opportunity to practise it. Please bring lunch. Tea and coffee will be available.

### **CHRISTIAN UNITY**

Between 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 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 this evening Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 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, next Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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 this 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 Albert Talbert who died recently, and prayers for his family. Reception into the church Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 4.30pm. His funeral takes place Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 11.30am.. May he rest in peace.

### **SVP CHRISTMAS TREE**

At Albans & District Foodbank would like to thank the parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes for their very generous response to the SVP (Saint Vincent De Paul) Christmas tree appeal on our behalf. You contributed a total of 288.3kg of much needed and appreciated items that will help us provide help in the coming months to people in crisis throughout the district. Thank you very much.

### **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 next Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:quiz@hsoa.org.uk) to avoid disappointment.

### **REFRESHMENTS**

Refreshments will be served after the 11.30 Mass on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January.

### **LIVE SIMPLY - Laudato Si.**

Last November on the feast of Christ the King we carried out a survey of the parish to see if parishioners were happy for us to become a LiveSimply community. There was a huge endorsement for us to draft an Action Plan and apply for the Cafod LiveSimply Award to indicate our commitment to living more simply, more sustainably and more in solidarity with those in poverty. Many parishioners said they wanted to become involved in supporting the LiveSimply initiative and in helping to make the Action Plan a reality. Well the time has come! There will be a meeting on Tuesday 30 January at 7.30 in the Undercroft to finalise the Plan and set out our priorities for the year ahead with a view to being assessed for the Award at the end of the year – to see if we have achieved our aims. The more who become involved, the easier it will be to, as Pope Francis invites us, “protect this world which God has given us.” So come along, and do your bit, however great or small. Every little helps. And everyone is welcome!

### **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.

