

## **CANDLEMAS**

Next Friday is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. On this day which recalls the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, it is customary to bless the candles for use in the church in the coming year. Mass will be celebrated at 9.15am, and candles blessed.

## **PARENTS MEETING**

Parents of First Communion children please note that the next Parents meeting takes place this Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, at 8.00pm, in the undercroft.

## **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 on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **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.

## **SVP CHRISTMAS TREE**

St 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.

## **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](mailto:denniscooper238@btinternet.com)

## **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.

## **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.

## **AUCTION OF PROMISES SATURDAY APRIL 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> to come to the Auction and have a fun evening.

## **REFRESHMENTS**

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

## **LIVESIMPLY - Laudato Si**

At last we meet to finalise the parish Action Plan to register with Cafod for the LiveSimply Award! All parishioners who wish to participate in developing the parish into a church community which reflects the love with which God has created the earth and all who live in it, are invited to join the LiveSimply group this coming Tuesday at 7.30 in the Undercroft. It is the beginning of an exciting journey, discovering how to live more simply, more sustainably, and more in solidarity with the poor. Come and find out more! There will be LiveSimply Guides provided by Cafod to explain the whole process available as you leave the church, and, soon, your own personal copy of the 100 plus Ideas for LivingSimply. Laudato Si

## **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.