

LENT

BEING WHOLEHEARTED

Amongst other things during Lent, it is a good time to consider how we live our faith, and particularly to see what we can do a little better. Attending Mass is a part of what we do week by week, and maybe during the week as well; something, hopefully, that we are wholehearted about. Being wholehearted calls us to come on time, and prepare ourselves, and afterwards to wait until Mass is finished and, where there is a final hymn remembering that the recessionary hymn, is the final prayer of the Mass

LENT REFLECTION

THURSDAY 22nd MARCH, 7.30pm in the Church. Lent Reflection with readings and music presented by the choristers and adult choir. Works to include Pergoleisi 'Stabat Mater' Faure 'Pie Jesu' and Lotti 'Cruxifixus'

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.

LENT GROUPS

Almost 80 parishioners are taking part in these groups which have been meeting for three weeks now. The material in the book we are following is very thought provoking and inspiring and some really helpful conversations are taking place. It would not be too late to join a group. Please contact Rachel Lee (rachellee1105@yahoo.co.uk)

LENT ONLINE

In our hyper communicative and mobile world we're more connected than ever before and yet we find it difficult to go deeper in our relationships because we're so distracted by the constant stream of information that bombards us. The same is true for our spiritual life. If we listen to the wisdom of the

Carmelite saint – and spiritual doctor of the Church – Teresa of Avila, prayer is actually just an extension of something we've known how to do all our lives: have a simple conversation. The Daily Disconnect podcast is an opportunity for contemplation everyday that is structured like a conversation you can do in less than nine minutes via your phone, tablet, computer etc. Download the podcast "The Daily Disconnect" or visit www.carmelites.net

LENT TRIVIA (Answers overleaf)

Was Nicodemus a Sadducee, a Pharisee, or a scribe?

Which foreign king was considered a messiah by the Israelites?

Which two seasons of the liturgical year are the priest's vestments purple?

LENT FAST DAY

Many thanks for your contributions for the CAFOD Lent Fast Day. If you missed the collection last week, contributions can be handed into the Parish Office.

'SAYING FAREWELL'

Next 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

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Today is Mother's Day, an opportunity to express our love and gratitude, as well as our appreciation, for all mothers. We wish all mothers a very happy day.

ST PATRICK'S DAY

Next Saturday, 17th March is St Patrick's Day. Mass for the feast will be celebrated at 10.00am.

ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

This very popular Ladies' Group event will be held next 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. Families with school age children are very welcome and a family ticket will cost £25. 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.

FLOWER COLLECTION

The Parish Flower Club will have their annual Easter Flower Collection after all masses on the following weekends – 18th & 25th March. In addition, a lily may be purchased (at £3.50) in memory of a loved one. Please write the name of the loved one on an envelope, place the money inside and give to the collection at the back of church after Mass.

SVP ANNUAL RAFFLE

Once again this was a great success, all 70 books of tickets being sold, raising £350 of which we keep £70 for use by our Local Conference. The draw takes place on Maundy Thursday. Many Thanks to all those who took part in buying and selling tickets.

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

Having donated £2,000 to our current project - to build large, underground water tanks to harvest the rain due in April, in Lukome, Northern Uganda - the Group plans to send the remaining £3,768 due by 13 March. See parish website parish@rcdow.org.uk/harpenden (ie February DWG section under Newsletters) for more information. The Group will decide on its next project when it meets on 13 March - please contact Julia Roche on 760295 if you would like to come. Parishioners donated £495.71 to the DWG between 19 February and 6 March via the wooden box in the vestibule after weekend masses, the wall safe and via four Green Boxes (which yielded £429.05). Thank you for your generosity - and thanks too to our team of Green Box counters!

AUCTION OF PROMISES SATURDAY APRIL 21st 2018

We are now collating a list of promises for the Auction of Promises to be held at St Dominic School on Saturday April 21st. If you would like to make a promise please email your 'Promise' to noel.whittle@btinternet.com or hand it in to the Parish Office in an envelope marked Auction of Promises. Please state clearly what your bid is and provide your name, address, email, contact number and if appropriate an estimated value of the promise. Whilst it is important for the success of the Auction to have a good list of Promises it is essential for the people to attend the evening and bid for the items. Tickets for the Auction cost £5 which includes one free drink from the Licensed cash bar. All proceeds from the Auction of Promises will go to the Developing World Group.

Any queries or for a ticket for the Auction please contact Noel Whittle on 07967476536 or email noel.whittle@btinternet.com

PEACE: THE PRODUCT OF JUSTICE AND LOVE

To mark the 38th anniversary of the martyrdom of Oscar Romero who was the Archbishop of San Salvador there are two events are taking place: first an ecumenical service at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JJ, on Saturday 17 March at 11.00 am when the speaker will be Ruben Zamora, El Savadorean Diplomat and Politician. Then on Saturday 24 March a Romero Mass will be celebrated at St George's Cathedral, Southwark at 12.30 pm. The main celebrant will be Archbishop Peter Smith.

If you are interested in either of these events, please contact graham-ryan@sky.com

CATHOLIC HISTORY WALKS

The King's Good Servant

Sunday 18th March, 3pm. The heroic story of brave St Thomas More, as we walk around his Chelsea Estate. Meet at the Church of Our Most Holy Redeemer and St Thomas More, Cheyne Row. SW3 5HS. Nearest Tube: South Kensington.