

LENT

LENT REFLECTION

Next Thursday 22nd March, at 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 ONLINE

IMAGINATIVE CONTEMPLATION

Saint Ignatius believed that God could speak to us just as clearly in our imagination as through our thoughts and our memories. In his Spiritual Exercises he writes of contemplation as a very active way of engaging your feelings, emotions, and senses to place yourself in the scene described.

A selection of imaginative contemplative exercises are available on <https://pray-as-you-go.org/prayer-resources/imaginative-contemplation>

ALTAR SERVERS

Altar Servers will be needed for all the liturgies of Holy Week. Servers who can assist are asked to sign the lists in the sacristy, and to note the times of the practices.

LENT TRIVIA (Answers overleaf)

The responsorial psalm this weekend, Psalm 50, is also the used at the Ash Wednesday mass. Who was the author of Psalm 50?

The author of Psalm 50 wrote the psalm after he acknowledged and confessed two grave sins to the Prophet Nathan. What were his 2 sins?

How many psalms are there in the Book of Psalms?

MOVING ON

After six years in the Parish, Bishop John leaves us tomorrow to move to Cricklewood. As he does so we thank him for his contribution to the life of our parish during that time, and we wish him well in his new home, and as he focuses on his retreat work. He will be celebrating the 11.30am Mass today, and there is a reception after Mass in the undercroft. Everyone is welcome.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Details of everything that is taking place during Holy Week and Easter will be found on the leaflet available today. Do collect one, and if you know of someone who no longer comes to church you might think of taking one for them.

PALM SUNDAY

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, when we start our journey through the most important week of the year, Holy Week. Palms will be blessed and distributed at each Mass. If you are attending the **9.45am Mass don't forget that it will be starting earlier than usual, at 9.30am, on Church Green.** There we will be blessing palms with the parishioners of St Nicholas Church, and then processing to our respective churches.

GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS (30TH MARCH)

Our children's Stations of the Cross will be at 11.30am on Good Friday (30th March), and we are looking for children (Years 3 – 6) to take part in the service. We need about 12 actors (no speaking parts). As the schools do not finish until Thursday 29th, this year, we will have the rehearsal on the Friday morning before the service at 11.30am. The children will need to be in church at 9.30am. If your child wants to be part of the service please email Ginny (gabby.sjg@gmail.com) or phone 01582 620322 by Monday 26th

March. In the event of getting too many volunteers we will take the first names on the list.

FLOWER COLLECTION

The Parish Flower Club will have their annual Easter Flower Collection after all masses today and next weekend. 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 (envelopes are available at the back of the church), place the money inside and give to the collection at the back of church after Mass.

9.45AM COFFEE

It has been suggested that coffee and tea be served on, some, Sundays after the 9.45am Mass. Volunteers are needed for a rota to serve the refreshments. If you are willing to commit please leave your contact details at the parish office.

MEMORIAL MASS

Please pray for Joseph Balinski who died recently. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated for the repose of his soul on Monday 26th March at 12noon.

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

The Group has just transferred the remaining £3768 required for its current project in Lukome, Uganda. This will help finance the building of underground water tanks that will benefit around 1400 people a day. It also recently donated £965 to a Columban priest in Rare, Pakistan, to install a hand pump which takes water from 30-40 feet below the ground. On 13 March the Group provisionally agreed that its next projects will be in Thailand and Kenya. Information to follow on them, along with feedback on recent projects, on the parish website and in the Newsletter.

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

THE ISSUE OF WATER

22ND March is World Water Day. It's a day which focuses attention on the importance of water worldwide. One group that really takes it seriously is the Ecumenical Water Network, which is an initiative of Christian churches, organisations and movements who have joined hands

- To protect and realise people's access to water around the world
- Making a common Christian witness heard in the debate on water issues
- Promoting community-based initiatives and solutions to overcome the water crisis
- Protecting water as a gift of God and advocating for water as a human right at the local, regional and international level

You can find out more at <https://water.oikoumene.org>