

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. 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 ON-LINE

If you are still looking for something to do in Lent, there are some good resources on-line: If you are unable to attend Stations of the Cross www.pray-as-you-go.org offers a series of meditation and music on scenes from the Passion of Jesus, from sentencing at the hands of Pilate to the laying of his body in the tomb. The 14 stations closely follow scripture and are approved by Pope Benedict in 2007.

LENT FAST DAY

Many thanks for your contributions for the CAFOD Lent Fast Day £1,788.55 was donated. If you missed the collection last week, contributions can be handed into the Parish Office.

'SAYING FAREWELL'

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

CONGRATULATIONS

ALTAR SERVERS

Well done to these altar servers who were enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen last weekend, and thanks for their hard work to date and to come! They will be proudly wearing the Guild of St Stephen medal when they serve from now on! Maia Fernandez; Zamira Humphrey-Alexander; Larissa Cowley; Rosie Faiz; Evie Riley; & Aoife Martin;

LENT TRIVIA (Answers overleaf)

Which devotion has a special place during Lent?

Which feast day always comes during Lent?

How many of the gospels tell the story of Jesus overthrowing the moneychangers' tables in the temple?

PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION

This weekend, at the Saturday Vigil Mass, 52 of our young people will be enrolled as Candidates for Confirmation. This is a significant moment for them as they prepare to receive the Holy Spirit, and to be strengthened to wholeheartedly live their faith.

MASS TIME CHANGE

Please note that Mass on Thursday 8th March will be at 9.15am.

WALK IN THE PARK

You are warmly invited to join fellow parishioners for an early spring walk in our lovely Rothamsted Park. We saw snowdrops last month, hopefully daffodils this time! Meet

outside Church at 10am next Wednesday 7th March 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.

ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

This very popular Ladies' Group event will be held on 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.

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

Parishioners donated £127.05 in cash between 9 January and 19 February (including via the wall safe and a further full Green Box). In addition, the £600 proceeds from the very enjoyable Banish The Blues Supper organised by the Ladies Group, and £438 in Standing Orders over calendar January, have been paid in. Details of our current water project in Northern Uganda - to which the money will go - are set out on the Parish website. Thank you all for your generosity

ST DOMINIC NURSERY

The application process for Nursery places for children born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015 is now open. This year, we are looking to extend our Early Years provision to enable parents to access 30 hours free childcare. The school will also be offering an optional Lunch Club and afternoon sessions run by *Friends Together* (our breakfast and afterschool provider). For further information please visit our website www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk or contact the school office on 01582 760047 Applications close at 3.30pm tomorrow Monday 5th March. To support your application, a Certificate of Catholic Practice form will need to be signed.

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. Any queries please contact Noel Whittle on 07967476536.

HEARTWOOD FOREST COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING DAY SUNDAY 11TH MARCH

Pope Francis reminded us in 'Laudato Si' how the earth, is our home, is being gradually polluted, stripped of its natural forests, and its eco-systems and bio-diversity destroyed. And he thanks and encourages all those "who strive in countless ways to guarantee the protection of the home we share". One small way of doing that is to plant a tree! The Woodland Trust is offering just the opportunity through the Heartwood Forest Community Planting Day. It's their final planting season, and you are invited to go along anytime between 10am – 3pm with your wellies or boots, wrapped up warm, and "make your mark on this extraordinary landscape". Main car park (postcode AL4 9DQ).

NATIONAL CATHOLIC MEN'S PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM SUNDAY 22ND APRIL 2018, 10.30-17.30

A warm invitation to the first, annual pilgrimage for Catholic men. Meet, talk and share the faith with other men; listen to speakers, celebrate confession and Mass, pray for families and for the country; process to the old Abbey grounds for Benediction. We welcome lay and religious, single and married, young and old, fathers and sons. "When England returns to Walsingham, Our Lady will return to England". Pope Leo XIII, 1887

In partnership with the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady and Catholic Man UK. For more information visit www.catholicman.co.uk