

ASH WEDNESDAY

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent.

Masses will be celebrated at 9.15am and 6.00pm, and the ashes blessed and distributed. Ash Wednesday is a **day of fasting and abstinence**, one of just two in the year, when we are asked to abstain from eating meat, and to eat considerably less than usual.



COFFEE MORNING

Coffee and tea will be served in the undercroft on Tuesday morning after the 9.15am Mass.



RONNIE WIELGUT RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ronnie Wielgut who died recently. Ronnie's Requiem Mass is this Thursday 7th March at 11.30am. We ask that you keep Ronnie's family in your prayers at this time. **Please note there will be no 11am Mass on Thursday.**

JOHN RAWCLIFFE RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Rawcliffe who died recently. John's Requiem Mass will be on 14th March at 2pm. We remember John's family in our prayers at this time.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Just a reminder that the Diocese is encouraging as many people as possible, **whether volunteers in the parish or not**, to undergo the online training that is on offer through Educare.; <http://rcdow.org.uk/att/files/safeguarding%20forms%202014%20branding/westminster%20towards%20a%20culture%20of%20safeguarding%20-%20c21.pdf>.



LENT 2019

Next Wednesday we begin the season of Lent, 40 days during which we are called to prayer, fasting and almsgiving, in order to prepare for Holy Week and the wonderful celebration of Easter. Now is the time to think about how to mark this special time, to consider what can I do to make it a time of growth, a fruitful time? Below are some of the opportunities available in the parish.

LENT GROUPS

The Lent Groups will begin meeting week **beginning 11th March** for 6 weeks. This year we will be drawing our reflections from 'Divine Renovation - from Maintenance to Mission', by Fr James Mallon. In his writing Fr Mallon reminds us that the very nature of the Church is to be Missionary, to go and share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Please do join a group if you can, they are very friendly and relaxed with no pressure on anyone to speak and faith sharing in this way is very fulfilling. For further information please pick up one of the Invitation leaflets which will be available after all weekend masses, or contact Rachel Lee rachellee987@gmail.com

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

A traditional Lenten devotion, the Stations of the Cross take us through the last events of Our Lord's life to his death on Calvary. On this journey we are assisted by the inspiring artwork of the Stations in church. Stations of the Cross takes place each Sunday, of Lent, at 6.00pm.

'MY DAY BY DAY'

Daily reflections for Lent are available in the 'My Day by Day' series. There are different reflections for adult, juniors and children. The booklets will be found in the porch and are priced £1.

WALK IN THE PARK

Meet outside Church at **10am on Ash Wednesday**, 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.



DOMINICAN ASSOCIATES

There will be a meeting for the current members of this group and anyone else who might be interested in finding out more; at 10.30 am on Saturday 9th March at the Convent 18, Kirkdale Road



LIVE SIMPLY INVITATION

Sunday 10th March - 11.30am Mass and Reception. To all Our Lady of Lourdes Parishioners - Yes, we have done it! Thanks to so many of you, we have been given the **CAFOD Live Simply Award** and recognised for championing sustainable living as a Parish. To celebrate our achievement, all parishioners are invited to the celebration Mass on Sunday 10th March when we will be presented with the Award and a memorial tree will be planted. This will be followed by a reception in the Undercroft. All are welcome. This is just the start of our Live Simply journey. To find out more, please visit :

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36469> and our own Parish website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden/parish-groups/livesimply-group/



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Started on Thursday 28th March until 10th April. We are all encouraged to buy Fairtrade goods, available in many of Harpenden's supermarkets, so that those who grow and produce them get a fair return for their labour. Please look out for them and make a special effort, for two weeks at least! Laudato Si.



INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE - INVITATION TO THE NEXT CATENIAN DINNER 13TH MARCH.

The guest speaker at the next Catenian dinner at Harpenden Golf Club will be Iman Lugman Ali, co-founder of the Luton based Khayall Theatre Company, who will speak on the *Conviviality in Faith in the Story of the Saint and the Sultan*. Parishioners are welcome to attend the dinner to hear Iman Lugman who will include an insight into the meeting 800 years ago between St Francis of Assisi and Sultan Al-Kamil of Egypt in 1219. The price for dinner including wine is £25, if you like to attend, please email John Williams at john.williams58@btinternet.com. It promises to be a most interesting evening.

ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH.

The Ladies' Group annual St Patrick's Day lunch will be held in the undercroft on Monday March 18th from 12 noon onwards. Tickets are priced at £10 and will include a welcome drink, a traditional Irish meal and an Irish coffee with barmrack. Tickets will be on sale after all the Masses this weekend and proceeds will go to Sister Margaret's Barcelona project in South Africa. All welcome.

