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The Parish Office is open:

Tues 9:30am - 12:30pm

Wed 9:30am - 12:30pm

Fri 9:30am - 12:30pm

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Mass this Sunday: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) 4th February 2024

Today's Readings

Job 7: 1-4. 6-7 Life is a burden for the melancholy who have no hope.

1 Corinthians 9: 16-19. 22-23 To preach the Gospel is a duty, even if it's one that is not chosen.

Mark 1:29-39 He cured many who were suffering.

Mass This Week

Saturday 3rd 6:30pm

Sunday 4th 9:00am

10:30am

Tuesday 6th 6:00pm

Wednesday 7th 9:15am

Thursday 8th 9:15am

Friday 9th 9:15am

St Paul Miki & Companions

Weekday

St Josephine Bakhita

Weekday

Intentions

Rachael Hepburn (RIP)

For Our Parishioners

Anne Doyle (102nd Birthday)

The Church and People of Japan

Villa/Stables Families (intention)

Victims of Human trafficking

Fr Stuart Gullan-Steel (RIP)

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory of Rachael Hepburn (RIP)

The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be celebrated during exposition (5:30pm Saturday) or by appointment.

Please note that it is our intention to livestream the 9am Sunday Mass and most of the weekday Masses.

Lent will be on us very soon.

1. If you are willing to give up your palm crosses to create ashes for Ash Wednesday, please leave them in the Sacristy by **THIS WEEKEND**
2. If you are willing to lead Stations of the Cross on Fridays in Lent, please sign up on the sheet in the Sacristy
3. If you would like to be part of a group using the resource on the Lord's Prayer *We Dare to Say* please sign up on the sheet in the sacristy – it is looking as if we shall have at least one (Wednesday afternoon group and possibly an evening group).
4. Our Parish *Lent Penitential Service* will be Thursday March 14th at 7:30pm. The usual opportunities for the sacrament of reconciliation will continue at 5:30pm on Saturdays or by appointment.

Towards October 2024 As expected we have now been asked to contribute to the next phase of the Synodal Pathway. We will have **two** Parish Gatherings. The first will be on Tuesday 13th February at 6:30 and will focus on co-responsibility in the life and mission of the Church, following the evening mass, the second will be on Thursday 22nd at 6pm and will focus on formation. Everyone is invited, especially members of our PPC and Finance Committee, our Evangelisation Team and other groups and individuals actively engaged in mission and ministry. Sorry about the short notice but your participation is valued and important.

Weddings: Summer 2024 Several couples have dates coming up for their weddings this summer. Please can they contact Fr Philip to make sure that all the necessary paperwork and timings we have are correct, and we can begin to plan the Orders of Service.

World Day Of Prayer This will be on Friday 1st March 2024 at 2.00pm - 3:00pm at The Methodist Church. All are welcome. A bit nearer the time we will need some volunteers to do Readings etc - possibly up to 4 or 5 - not sure yet exactly how many but if anyone felt able to please let Marion Kett know. There will be more information coming out in the next few weeks. Telephone Number 07511 009472 or email marion.kett@btinternet.com.

Pilgrim Cross - Palm Sunday 24th March 2024

We are looking for some lovely hosts for the evening of Palm Sunday from about 5.00pm until Monday at 8.00am. The Pilgrims always appreciate a warm comfortable bed, a hot meal in the evening and breakfast to restore them for the onward journey on Monday. Last year we were able to host all our Pilgrims and it would be wonderful to be able to open our homes to them again this year. Prior to their visit we are made aware of any dietary needs and we do know that we have a Pilgrim who has an Assistance Dog. Please contact Marion on 07511 009472 or email marion.kett@btinternet.com.

The Light Party are seeking to have a 'Light Party Champion', from each of the churches involved in the project. There would not be a big commitment from the Champions, and they would have an opportunity to be as involved, or uninvolved with the planning of the Light Party as they wish. Their role, as a minimum, would be:

1. Sharing regular updates about the event with their church
2. Encouraging church friends to volunteer at the event, if appropriate
3. Asking for and collecting donations of sweets from their church
4. Helping with the content of the outreach leaflet that is given to all families who attend The Light Party
5. Giving feedback to their church, following the event

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for February For the Terminally Ill The Holy Father encourages prayers "so that terminally ill patients and their families always receive necessary medical and human care and support."

***THIS WEEKEND* Special Collection for the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem to assist the work of the Church in Gaza and the West Bank.**

Cardinal Vincent has asked us to help him respond to a request for help from the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem.

He writes:

I have heard directly, via Zoom, from the Parish Priest of the Church of the Holy Family in Gaza City and from the CEO of the Latin Patriarchate. The situation they face is grave and most demanding. We were told that there are still 600 people sheltering and being cared for in the parish compound, together with over 50 seriously disabled and vulnerable children. Water and food can be bought in the local markets at much inflated prices. With the damage inflicted on this site some time ago now, cooking hot meals is only possible three times a week. The parish is also providing for 200 people in the Orthodox property as well as for local Muslim neighbours.

The situation in the West Bank is also grave with more than 100,000 families losing income because of various factors, as well as the absence of all visitors and pilgrims.

The Patriarchate is able to provide assistance. It can make funding directly available to the parish leadership and is providing food etc to many in the West Bank.

I invite you to contribute to the work of the Latin Patriarch. Our Finance Office is ready to facilitate the speedy transfer to the Patriarchate of any such donations.