**SPIRITUALITY PPC UPDATE 6 MARCH 2024**

**Jackie Tominey**

**Candlemass 3 Masses Weekend 3 /4 February** This year we decided to give more parishioners the opportunity to experience a Candlemass mass – in previous years we have done a separate, evening service – and we extended the services over the whole weekend. This was quite a challenge as Fr was away and the group will consider reverting to our original format or improving the offer next year with Fr Francis at our next Spirituality meeting on 24 February.

**Sacrament of the Sick/Our Lady of Lourdes 12 noon Mass, Monday, 12 February** It was decided to postpone this till next year as it would place too much of a burden on Fr Peter.

**Parishioner Resources**

**A Spirituality section on parish noticeboard in the porch** has been re-established at Fr Francis’ request and a section on **The Year of Prayer 2024/The Jubilee Year 2025** has been marked out (See later).

**A** **list of spiritual digital resources** to share with parishioners was being prepared by Peter and would be circulated via a newsletter flyer and posted on the Spirituality section of the parish notice board in the porch/our website/social media in the near future.

**Bible Alive!** A free edition of Bible Alive, a daily Catholic scripture magazine, recommended by Fr Francis, was handed out at all masses the weekend of 17/18 February. It contains daily reflections following the liturgical cycle plus essays, interviews, and profiles with a wide range of topical features. If parishioners felt this resource could enhance their spiritual well-being, they would be able to subscribe. We will follow up uptake.

**Walk with Me** A small, portable booklet contains a prayer and scripture journey for the seasons of Advent, Lent and Easter whose theme varies from season to season.. Fr Francis supports this and many of us use it including the Children’s Liturgy. We will be promoting this resource too, this year – at only £1 a copy it is affordable to many.

**Walsingham Pilgrimage, Monday, 8 April** Herts parishes come together to organise a coach for the day and share in this important annual pilgrimage. Margaret Leahy, our Spirituality group member, is central to this and has requested that the PPC promote this amongst their networks as there are still spaces available. It has been in the parish newsletter and will now be added to the Spirituality notice board.

**St Alban Pilgrimage, Saturday, 22 June** We are looking forward to working in advance, with our PPC Ecumenical group on increasing parishioner participation in this wonderful affirmation of faith.

**Prayer and Life Workshops** An evangelisation programme where parishioners learn how to pray through prayer and come to evaluate their spiritual life and contribution to the world around them. It consists of an opening meeting and runs for 15 x 2 hour sessions weekly. All the scripture and reflection material is provided and costs £18 per participant. They also request a donation – not obligatory – in the middle of the sessions and at the closing session. This is used to support the spread of their programme internationally. They can also provide an introductory session as a taster for interested parishioners. Fr Francis asked the Spirituality group to engage with this group while he was away. We have had a Zoom session with them 2 weeks ago and they have since forwarded some of their material. We have agreed to talk with Fr Francis on his return and get back to them.

**Year of Prayer 2024/Jubilee Year 2024** This will be the main topic of our Spirituality meeting later this month and we will be communication with the PPC (Fr Francis is part of our meetings) between PPC meeting for soundings, ideas and approval.

**The Synodal Pathway** fruits of the PPC meeting on 6 March will be considered at our next Spirituality meeting on 24 February and prompt feedback will be given to the PPC by email after.

**HCPT Lourdes** I have been asked to step in to support the pilgrimage at Easter and mercifully, I will not be going away as usual so I can go – a blessing! I’m extremely excited about this and equally nervous (!!) but I would like to pray/ offer something especially for Fr Francis, Fr Peter and our PPC. Any suggestions welcome.

**Plans for the second half of the year** We will be addressing these at our next Spirituality meeting on 24 February and welcome ideas from the PPC meeting for us to discuss.