



DURING LENT

The traditional 'disciplines' of Lent include prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As we set out on the journey to Easter, we ask ourselves: "What could I do to help deepen my spiritual life?" Giving something up shouldn't mean extra (saved) money in our pockets: why not give an appropriate amount to a charity of your choice, or support SPICMA - our special Lenten Offerings Appeal. There are copies of an information sheet about this charity in the porch; the bucket will be at the back of the church throughout Lent. We support this charity throughout the year - this Lent we hope to boost our giving to this very worthwhile cause.

Some other suggestions to help make Lent special: try to create some time for quiet - for thought and prayer, for pondering the Word of God (take away the readings sheet to help with this). Come to a weekday Mass or to Morning Prayer at 8.45 am or take part in the Way of the Cross on Fridays at 7.30 pm. Go to one of the Lenten Talks at Brentwood Cathedral Hall or Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park - see information inside this newsletter.

CHURCH REPOSITORY

On sale: St. Patrick's Day cards (17th March) and Mother's Day cards (22nd March), all reasonably priced.

TEA DANCE

Our next Tea Dance will be on Wednesday 18 March in Saint Albans Parish Centre, Langdale Gardens Elm Park, RM12 5LA. As this is the day after St Patrick's Day it will be a special St Patrick's celebration: green will be the theme. Music by the fabulous Finbar Black, dancing from 1.30 till 4.30 pm. Admission £5.00 includes tea coffee and cakes. Come along and enjoy a lovely afternoon of fun and help us to create a good Parish community spirit. For information please contact John O'Connor on 07903-366992.

"GOD WHO SPEAKS"

BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL LENTEN LECTURES

Wednesday 18 March at 7.30 pm in Cathedral parish hall. Sharing the Good News: Sacred scripture as beacon and promise to be given by Dr Maria Heath, chair of Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Free Entry. All welcome. For more information go to www.cathedral-brentwood.org

LENTEN TALKS - THE YEAR OF THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

On the evenings of 18th and 25th March beginning at 7 pm at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park (RM2 6DH), Fr Adrian Graffy will speak about 'The Great Johannine Gospels', considering the gospels of the Samaritan Woman, the Man Born Blind, and the Raising of Lazarus, which will be proclaimed on the subsequent Sundays, 3rd, 4th and 5th of Lent. These evenings will include a reading of the relevant gospel in parts. Admission is free and refreshments will be available. Please book your place for these events by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com or by phone to 01708 449914. For further information and video of past events go to www.whatgoodnews.org

NATIONAL NOVENA TO SAINT JOSEPH

takes place from 10th-18th March at St. Joseph's Church in Maidenhead and at Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool. Each year the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St. Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society and the missionary outreach of the Church, as well as for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena

booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer. Please write to Novena Director, St. Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT, or email novenamhm@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY - DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD

This significant role will help to deepen and strengthen our ever growing and vibrant youth ministry, at Walsingham House at Abbotswick and supporting parishes across the Diocese. Start in September 2020. Salary £40,000. Closing date for applications 16th March 2020. Full details at www.bcys.net/jobs or call Fr Dominic Howarth on 01277-373959.

ENTERTAINMENT AT THE COLLIER ROW CATHOLIC CLUB

Saturday 21 March	IRISH "SING-ALONG" EVENING with Kelly's Heroes Tickets: £7
Saturday 28 March	CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT raising funds for "Home from Home for the Elderly" <i>Please note: this event has been postponed.</i>
Friday 17 April	WEST HAM EVENING - an evening with The Boys - hosted by Tony Gale Tickets: £20
Saturday 9 May	VE CELEBRATION EVENING featuring a 6-piece Swing Band Tickets: £10 (over 14s only)

DEMENTIA CARE - CHAT-LINE

Are you caring for someone 24/7 with a diagnosis of Dementia? or Are you worried about someone who is getting too forgetful, out of the ordinary?	<i>In either case, if you would like to chat to someone, Yvonne and Marie (two parishioners who have a few years' experience of caring for someone with Dementia) will be happy to hear from you for a chat. Please call (from 5 pm onwards):</i>	Yvonne 01708-767355 or Marie 01708-732249 All calls will be strictly confidential.
See poster for details of Havering Dementia Groups: 'Singing for the Brain' and the Dementia Café		

VACANCIES AT ST JOHN'S RC SPECIAL SCHOOL

St John's RC Special School, Woodford Bridge is recruiting for the following positions - SEN Teacher, Speech & Language Therapist, Classroom Support Assistants & Secretary. These are full-time, term time only roles in a school with students aged 5 - 25 with a wide range of special needs. Previous experience essential. For application packs please contact the school office on 020-8504 1818 or email office@stjohnsrcschool.co.uk stating the role you are interested in. Successful applicants will be subject to an enhanced DBS check. www.stjohnsrcschool.co.uk

THE URSULINE ACADEMY ILFORD

The following vacancy is available: Teacher of Physical Education - ideal for an NQT. Closing Date: noon, Thursday 19 March 2020. For further information please visit: uai.org.uk/about/vacancies

SVP ST JOHN BOSCO CAMP

Do you know a child in need of a holiday between the ages of 8 and 13? The St John Bosco Children's Camp is an activities camp with a Catholic ethos situated in Aldham, Essex. The dates that the Camp runs are as follows:

- Week One Saturday 25th July to 1st August 2020 for Boys
- Week Two Saturday 1st August to 8th August 2020 for Boys
- Week Three Saturday 8th August to 15th August 2020 for Girls
- Week Four Saturday 15th August to 22nd August 2020 Mixed Camp

The suggested donation is £165 per week, including transport to and from London. Should you require an application form or more information then please visit our website - www.svpboscocamp.org.uk

FUND-RAISING FOR THE PASSAGE

The Passage is raising funds through the Big Give from 12 noon Tues 17th March - 12 noon Tues 24th March 2020 to support its work Helping Homeless People to move away from the street to a new home and to return to work. Double your Donation, Double your impact. This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (can be company, individual or trust) gave £10 online matched giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals to £22.50 with Gift Aid with higher rate tax relief it may cost the donor less than £10). For more information ring Andrew Hollingsworth 020-7592 1886 andrew.h@passage.org.uk

WEEKLY EVENTS

COFFEE AFTER MASS

Sundays in the Church Porch after the 9.00 am Mass

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sundays in term-time during the 11.30 am Mass

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Tuesdays : 7.00 pm in the Church Sacristy

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM

Wednesdays at 9.30 am inside the church

CHURCH GARDENING TEAM

Meets Wednesdays at 9.30 am outside the church

4TH COLLIER ROW SCOUT GROUP

Beaver Scouts
Wednesdays 5 - 6.15 pm in the Parish Centre Hall

Cub Scouts
Wednesdays 6.30 - 8.00 pm in the Parish Centre Hall

Scouts
Wednesdays 8.00 - 9.30 pm in the Parish Centre Hall

THURSDAY CLUB

(for the over 60s - open to all)
1.15 - 3.15 pm in the Parish Centre Hall

OUR LADY'S PRAYER GROUP

Thursdays : 7.30 - 9.00 pm at 10 Norman Close

2020 is the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini - Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' and the 1,600th anniversary of the death of St Jerome, one of the Church's greatest scripture scholars. These dates have inspired the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to dedicate a year to focus especially on the Bible and 'The God Who Speaks' - The Year of the Word.