

THIS SUNDAY

We celebrate the Octave Day of Christmas with the Solemnity of our Lady, Mother of God. Happy 2017 everyone!

CHRISTMAS 2016

Thank you to all who have worked so hard over the Christmas period. I am grateful to all who have cleaned our Churches and decorated them so beautifully with flowers, Christmas trees and the cribs. The masses were joyful and devotional. I wish to thank Roy Titcomb, the organist, our parish musicians, singers, altar servers, wardens and all who read and led the prayers and organised and helped with the Carol Services. Special appreciation goes to all those, and you know who you are, who worked 'behind the scenes'.

Thanks also to the organisers of the Giving Tree and to you all for the support you all gave the initiative. **We have received a lovely Christmas card with thanks from the Cyrenians for the many items taken to them towards the lunch in Coventry.**

Furthermore, I wish to express my thanks for the considerable kindness and generosity shown in the Christmas offering and in the personal cards and gifts received.

I am very touched by all your support and goodness.

Father David joins me in thanking all parishioners who also showed such kindness to him and to Joanna at Christmas.

CRIB DONATIONS THIS YEAR WILL BE AGAIN SENT TO LET THE CHILDREN LIVE! FOR THE STREET CHILDREN OF COLOMBIA.

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

Father David and I have shared with the Parish Pastoral Council our desire to change the time of the **Vigil Mass on Saturday to 5.30pm.**

Permission has now been received from the Archbishop and, after consultation with the Dean, we will make the change from **next Saturday evening, Epiphany 2017.**

NEXT SUNDAY: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

We celebrate the **Epiphany of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.** As we see the Magi or Wise Men at the manger we are reminded that people of every race and nation may find their true home and destiny in the presence of the Lord. Please pray for greater harmony and understanding throughout the world, for better race relations and above all, for peace.

The **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**, this year celebrated on **Monday 9th January**, will bring the season of Christmas to its conclusion that evening.

However, to prolong our Epiphany devotions, the crib will, this year, remain in place until after the masses on Sunday, 15 January.

9.30 AM MASS READERS' AND COFFEE ROTAS

The 9:30 am Mass Reading Rota for 2017 is being prepared, if anyone would like to join the list of readers then please ring David Spillane on 513196 or e-mail him on

david.spillane@ntlworld.com

Thanks to all who have assisted and support with Coffee after 9.30am Sunday Mass over the past year. The list for the coming year is being prepared if you are willing to volunteer please contact Pat and Sarah Haley 01926 864505.

SVP SUDAN GIFT SCHEME

On behalf of those being helped in Sudan, many thanks are sent to those who contributed. The total raised through the parish was £685

2017 DIRECTORY

Many copies of the 2017 Diocesan Directory are still available at only £4.00 a copy – the 'nosey parker's guide' is a source of information about the Archdiocese.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting is on **Thursday 17 January at 7pm at 110 Warwick Road.**

OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

We shall begin the octave of prayer for the unity of all Christian people on **18 January.** Further details about the United Service and Light Procession will be included in the Bulletin later on.

The prayer of Jesus: - "Father that they may be one, as we are one" must be in our hearts and minds as we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ in other ecclesial communities.

ANNUAL PRO-LIFE CHARITY COLLECTION

The collection in 2017 will take place at all masses over **4 / 5 February.** I commend to you this collection for such an important work locally based and working nationally

DAY OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

The date given to us by the Archdiocese for 2017 is **Sunday, 12 February.**

This will be observed this year at **St Francis's Church. Please book the date and later on sign up for a period of personal prayer on the charts in both churches.**

URGENT FROM ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL

There is a severe shortage of lunchtime supervisors at St Augustine's School

Would any parents, grandparents or friends be interested in helping us out for one or two lunchtimes a week after Christmas? You would need to have the relevant DBS checks, fill in a form and have a chat with us about the role. That's all! There is no need to make it a permanent arrangement.

PASTIMES

Meetings are on Mondays 2 – 4pm in the Parish Centre, with Craft Corner (knitting, needlework etc), Bridge, Whist, Scrabble etc. and refreshments.

Subscription is 40p.

ST FRANCIS' PARENTS' AND TODDLERS' GROUPS

The **Monday** group meets at the Parish Centre from 10 – 11.15am.

There is also a **Wednesday** group at Crackley Hall from 10 – 11.30am.

ST AUGUSTINE'S PARENTS' AND TODDLERS' GROUP

This meets on **Tuesdays** at the Kids Club adjacent to the school from 10 - 11.30 am.

These activities are open in term time only

FOOD BANK ROTA Please check whether you are transporting food this week.

OFFERTORY COUNTERS

This Sun: **NONE REQUIRED ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, THANK YOU**

Next Sun: P Whiting T Whiting M Harrington

CHURCH CLEANING Please consult your rotas, thank you all very much.

MAY OUR LORD BLESS 2017 FOR YOU ALL, FATHER KEVIN