



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

#### **NEXT SUNDAY: DAY OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS**

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 sign up for a period of personal prayer on the charts now in both churches.**

#### **FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND**

On behalf of FHL, Peter Rand thanks all the parishioners who contributed so generously to the second collection last weekend, which totalled **£2,589.32**; a truly magnificent sum. This has enabled FHL to fund 11 more emergency medical cases received this week.

#### **ANNUAL CRIB COLLECTION: 'LET THE CHILDREN LIVE!'**

**The total collection at Christmas was £1770-17!** Thanks to you all for your generous crib donations over the season of Christmas out of devotion to our new-born Saviour. I wish to thank most sincerely, the members of SALVE, who raised **£100** as a result of their pre-Christmas sale of mince pies etc. and to thank all those who supported them. This total will make a **significant** difference to the work of 'Let the Children Live!'

#### **MAJOR ROADWORKS AGAIN ON WARWICK ROAD**

I have been notified by Severn Trent Water, that from **11 – 12 and 18 – 19 February**, major road works will be taking place outside the Priest's House. This is to connect a new water main to the development taking place across the road. Please take note that there will be two-way traffic lights in place for the duration of the work. It seems likely that journey times over these weekends along Warwick Road will be extended.

#### **FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND**

The next group meeting will be on the **Thursday 9 February** at 8.15pm in the Parish Centre. New members will be most welcome. Contact Pam Highton 859532.

#### **A DATE FOR THE DIARY**

FHL will be hosting the Lenten Lunch on **Sunday 5 March**; the First Sunday of Lent **Tickets will be on sale from Saturday, 11 February.**

#### **CYRIL MCCLAIR RIP**

We offer our sympathy to Ethel and John Ryan after the recent death of Ethel's brother Cyril. He had battled his serious illness bravely for a long time. May he rest in peace and may all the family know our Lord's comfort.

#### **MICHAEL HILLS RIP**

Michael, eldest son of the late Margaret and Ivan Hills, has died recently. We extend our sympathy to his wife Claire, and to all the family. Michael's body will be received into St Francis' Church on **Monday 6 February at 5.30pm** and his Requiem Mass will be the following day, **Tuesday 7 February at 1.00 pm**. May he rest in peace.

#### **REPOSITORY**

Various items relating to the Confirmation Mass on 16 February are available at the Repository. Coming up also, items for St Patrick's Day, Mothering Sunday and Easter.

#### **THE BIG PICTURE**

If you would like to explore the riches and the treasures of the Holy Scriptures, a series of weekly sessions over twelve weeks, will begin on Wednesday 22 February from 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm and on Thursday 23 February from 1.30 pm – 3.00pm.

DVD will be used and a booklet provided. Please contact Pat Southall 857494 for more information.

#### **FROM GIO BUCCI, COORDINATOR OF THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

The Children's Liturgy takes place at 9.30am mass every Sunday during term time. There are 2 groups. The young group is designed for children up to and including Year 2 at school. The older group is aimed at those children only in Years 3 to 6 at school.

#### **'ST AUSTIN'S 175' CELEBRATION**

I am delighted to be able to tell you that a group of people, invited by the Parish Pastoral Council, is in the process of putting together a Celebration in the Parish for the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the celebration of mass for the first time at St Austin's Church.

**It will be on Saturday 3 June at 12 noon, and there will be a Mass celebrated by the Archbishop and concelebrating priests.** This will be followed by a buffet lunch. Further details will be available soon but at the moment, **please book the date** and keep it free to share in such a wonderful parish event!

#### **JUST A REMINDER: LENT 2017**

**Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, this year will be on Wednesday, 1 March with Mass and Imposition of ashes at 9.30am and 7.30pm at St Francis' Church. Mass will be celebrated at Crackley Hall School at 11.00 am and at St Augustine's School at 2.00pm.**

#### **N.B. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat.**

Lent gives us the opportunity not only to think of self-denial but also of renewing and refreshing our spiritual lives by doing something new or taking up again something from which we may have lapsed. Let us pray for the grace to keep a good Lent.

Prayer, fasting and concern for others are spiritual keynotes in Lent.

- What about coming to **an extra Mass in the week? Celebrating Reconciliation?**
- Stations of the Cross Friday **7pm** at St Francis' and Sunday **4.30pm** at St Austin's.
- **Family Fast Day for CAFOD 10 March**- envelopes will be available.

#### **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.

#### **OFFERTORY COUNTERS**

**This Sun:** P Rand, J Kidman, P Ryan

**Next Sun:** M Swinburne, D Spillane, J Rice, R Palmi

#### **CHURCH CLEANING**

St Francis' J Barr, J Kidman, M Sullivan

St Augustine's: M and E Butler

EVERY BLESSING AND GOOD WISHES TO YOU ALL, Father Kevin.