



### **THIS SUNDAY: GIFT AID**

Many thanks are given to the parishioners who make their offerings to the parish through the Gift Aid Scheme. I'm delighted to inform you that due to your participation in the scheme the parish recovered **£17,204 in 2016** from HMRC. **If you have not yet joined the scheme and wish to do so, members of the parish finance committee will be available after each mass this Sunday with the appropriate forms and to address any queries you may have.** A Diocesan gift aid explanatory leaflet is also available. Remember a gift aided offering increases in value to the parish by 25% without any additional personal cost to the donor.

### **FEAST DAY OF ST CHAD: CATHEDRAL COLLECTION**

St Chad's Feast Day was celebrated last Thursday. It is customary in the diocese to pray for the Cathedral and to give financial support at this time of year.

**There will be a Second Collection for maintenance of St. Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham at all masses over this Sunday.**

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

The Lenten Lunch will be held in the parish centre this **Sunday 5 March at 12.45pm**. If you have bought a ticket, then please remember to come.

### **'ST. AUSTIN'S 175' CELEBRATION - 3 JUNE 2017.**

The organising committee is seeking an indication of the attendance in order to finalise the plans for Mass and Lunch. All parishioners who would like to join this celebration are requested to **complete a yellow form from the back of church and place it in the box provided by 2<sup>nd</sup> April latest.** Thank you for your cooperation.

### **NEXT SUNDAY: CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY COLLECTION**

The Lent Family Fast Day will be on **Friday 10 March** and will enable us to exercise self-denial on behalf of the needy of the world. Envelopes are available, but all donations would be welcome. Please return them in the second collection over next Sunday, **11 / 12 March.**

**PRAYER GROUP** – will meet each **Monday in Lent**, 7.30pm at 11 Bullimore Grove.

### **PIETY STALL/REPOSITORY**

Val and Caroline wish to inform parishioners that the Repository now has items relating to Reconciliation, St. Patrick's Day and Mothering Sunday as well as all the usual stock items and cards. Olive wood goods from the Holy Land are available.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

We welcome **PETER BIRD** into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. He was received and Confirmed at mass on Friday 24 February - blessings and good wishes!

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

Prayer, fasting and concern for others are spiritual keynotes in Lent. Let us pray for the grace to keep a good 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.

### **WELCOME**

We welcome into the family of the Church, **LEO PATRICK ALEXANDER WALKER**, following his baptism at St Austin's Church last Sunday.

We pray for him, for his parents, Grandparents, family and Godparents.

**TOM CLARK RIP** Tom, husband of the late Helen Clark, and for many years involved in the life of our parish, has died recently. **His Funeral Service will be at**

**Oakley Wood Crematorium on 6 March at 2.15 pm.** We offer our sympathy to his sons and their families. May he rest in peace.

### **APF BOXES**

**Please bring your APF Red Boxes to the Sacristy at St Francis for emptying.**

Your box must carry your name and address – there should be a label underneath. If not please place a slip with your details inside the box so it can be returned to you after emptying. If you are not able to bring your box to St Francis, please call Jonathan Shipton on 01926 714825 to arrange collection. Many thanks for your donations.

### **ST PATRICK'S DAY COFFEE MORNING**

This will be held on **Friday 17 March at St Francis' Parish Centre.** Salve members will be selling Tickets (£2) after masses from 4 March. All proceeds to **Zoe's Place Baby Hospice.** We would welcome items for the bric a brac stall. Contact Felicity Chapman 858105 or any Salve member.

### **HOUSING, HELP AND HOSPITALITY**

The Charity seeks a Volunteer with mathematical skills to offer an hour and a half each week to teaching our two Nigerian houseguests up to GCSE level Maths for examination in June 2018. **Times can be arranged to suit.** Please ring 01926 855040 (Margaret until Saturday pm); 01926 858105 (Felicity); 07813 054853 (Rebecca). Our next meeting of 3H will be held on **Tuesday 7 March at 7.30pm. The venue will be 19 Southbank Road, CV8 1BA,** thanks to Elizabeth Lilley. All are welcome, including those who have not participated before.

Items for the Agenda should be sent to Rebecca Fuller ralilley@hotmail.co.uk.

### **FATIMA PILGRIMAGE 2017**

I am in the process of putting together a pilgrimage to Fatima in celebration of the centenary of the apparitions this year. It will be from **Monday 25 until Friday 29 September 2017** flying from Manchester and it will have the basic cost of £599. Single rooms, travel to the airport and insurance will be extra to this price.

If you are interested in receiving further information, **please let me know by 12 March** when booking forms and an itinerary will be available.

### **HOLYWELL PILGRIMAGE**

Nearer to home, it is hoped to arrange a two night stay at Holywell from **2 -4 May**, staying at the Bridgettine Guest House there and having devotions at St Winifred's well. **Please let Father David or me know** if you are interested in joining this pilgrimage to one of the great mediaeval holy sites of Britain. Cost is to be arranged.

### **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: D and J McDonnell, G Crawford, H Whiteman Next Sun: T Stokes, J Barr  
P Haley

St Francis': A Farrell, E Head, A Moore, B Stokes St Augustine's: M Hunter, L Morris  
EVERY BLESSING AND GOOD WISHES TO YOU ALL, Father Kevin.