





# NOTICES FOR THIS WEEK

**We welcome to our congregation visitors to Stratford and those who have recently moved into our Parish.  
Do please make yourselves known to the Priest.**

## *FATHER ALEX*

*wshes everyone a very happy and a holy Christmas and a blessed New Year. He thanks all who have worked so hard for the parish over the year. Also many thanks for all the cards and gifts and Christmas offerings. They are greatly appreciated.*

**SVP** next meetings are 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 7.45 in the Parish room.

- **PEACE SUNDAY JANUARY 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>**. There will be a short presentation after all the masses on the complexities of peace and ways to resolve them.
- **LUNCH CLUB**. The next luncheon date is 16<sup>th</sup> January, 20<sup>th</sup> February, 20<sup>th</sup> March. If you have booked any lunch and then are unable to attend, please contact Helen on 01789 550545, or Val on 01789 293267, this is important for catering numbers.
- **APF MISSIO** red boxes donations for 2016 was a magnificent £2,609 (2015 = £ 1,557). A sincere thank you to all donors.
- **FAIR TRADE COFFEE AND TEA at OLP**. Thanks to parishioners at OLP for supporting farmers and growers in the developing world by buying Fair Trade beverages. In the last 12 months we have been able to also donate a total of £86.00 profit to the following: OLP Junior Liturgy Group : £26.00, SVP £30.00, Fr Clements Big Bacon Breakfast Bap fundraiser £10.00 (for supplying Tea /Coffee), YEMEN Disaster Appeal £20.00 (Disasters Emergency Committee).
- **ST. GREGORY'S SCHOOL UPDATE**. "It has been a very busy but productive autumn term and our school community is looking forward to a well-earned rest. There has been a wide variety of learning opportunities this term, including: a Challenger Mission at the National Space Centre, a trip to see King Edward VI School's performance of 'As You Like It', a Science Day at St. Benedict's Catholic High School, the School Remembrance Service, celebrations for the start of Advent with the Advent Service, Key Stage 1 Nativity performance 'Magical Christmas Journey' and Key Stage 2's Nativity performance of 'A Child is Born' (which delighted parents, grandparents and staff). The children have worked tirelessly this term, living out the values of 'curious' and 'active' and 'intentional' and 'prophetic', through the charitable events that they have organised. Over the last half term, they have raised money for 'Save the Children', 'CAFOD' and 'Saint Vincent De Paul' organisations through their Christmas Performances and Christmas Jumper Day. They also collected 67 shoeboxes for Teams4U. Mini Vinnies visited the warehouse to see what happened to the shoeboxes that were donated. On behalf of the staff and governors at St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School, Mrs J. McNally would like to wish all parishioners a very happy and holy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year. St Gregory's have places available in Reception, Year 2 (especially), Years 5 and 6. Please address enquiries to

Mrs.J.McNally at [head3506@we-learn.com](mailto:head3506@we-learn.com) or by telephone on 01789 204517"

- **RETREAT TO ALTON CASTLE** for young people in the parish was very popular last time. The next one will be Feb 3rd-5th 2017. If you have children wishing to take part it is £66 for the retreat weekend. To book places and for the consent form and payment details, please email: [maria.bracken@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk](mailto:maria.bracken@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk)
- **'NO PLACE LIKE HOME'**: Exploring Palestinian realities after 50 years of occupation. Saturday 28 January, 11am-1pm (refreshments served from 10.45am) St Francis Hall, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT. Followed by a bring-and-share lunch at 1pm. The Jerusalem Legal Aid Centre is a pioneering Palestinian human rights organisation and CAFOD partner, providing pro-bono legal aid and services to some of the poorest and most marginalised people and communities in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Join us to hear from JLAC's Director Mr Issam Aruri and EU Project Coordinator Ms Shu'la Abdelhadi about the realities of life under occupation. See posters in churches. For more information contact CAFOD Birmingham at [birmingham@cafod.org.uk](mailto:birmingham@cafod.org.uk) or call 01922 722944.
- **COMMUNITY CLUB**: Please feel free to come for an opportunity to meet & talk with friends old & new every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of month (except July & August.)
- **PRAYER LIST FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND**. Please take a few minutes to read this and if you know of someone who you feel should be added to or taken off this list on the weekly bulletin, please advise the Parish office. We depend on you to keep us informed of changes.
- **BEREAVEMENT TEAM**: parishioners can contact a member of the team on 07592572978 or email [stgregorysbt@gmail.com](mailto:stgregorysbt@gmail.com) or complete a form available in the church porch.
- **BIBLE GROUP**: The Bible Group meets every Tuesday 7.30p.m. to review the following Sunday's readings. All welcome.
- **HOLY HOUR** 7.00pm on Thursdays. All are welcome.
- **GIFT AID**: If you are interested in joining the scheme please contact Clive Hamilton on 01789 731387 or by e-mail [stgregorysgiftaid@aol.co.uk](mailto:stgregorysgiftaid@aol.co.uk). If you are already in the scheme please contact him with any questions you may have or any changes such as of address or tax status.
- **PARISH OFFICE**: The office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday mornings. Telephone 01789 292439. Our email address is: [stgregorysua@btconnect.com](mailto:stgregorysua@btconnect.com)
- **RECENT COLLECTIONS**: Weekend 17/18<sup>th</sup> December 2016 Loose: £471.59, Gift Aid: £ 561.46 Boxes: £75.65 Flowers for the churches £492.95. Thank you for your generosity.

**St. Gregory's website is: [www.stgregorys-stratford.org](http://www.stgregorys-stratford.org)**

**Readings Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord (Cycle A) Collins Sunday Missal**

Isaiah: 60: 1-6 Psalm 71: 1-2,7-8,10-13,R v: 11. St. Paul to the Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6. Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12