

THANK YOU

As we celebrate the Octave Day of Easter, I wish to thank everyone who contributed to the beauty and wonder of our Holy Week and Easter ceremonies – servers, musicians, singers, floral artists, children’s catechists, cleaners, wardens and all those “behind the scenes”. You all did such a wonderful job on behalf of us all – thank you.

Thanks to Fr David for his support and great kindness.

I would also wish to add a personal note of thanks for your generosity to Fr David and to me, through the Easter offering, and through your gifts and cards.

May God bless you all for your kindness, Father Kevin.

TODAY: SUNDAY 8 APRIL

It is **twenty-five years since the new St. Francis’ Church** was opened for worship, on Maundy Thursday, 1993. To celebrate this anniversary, there will be a **Reception in the Parish Centre** following the 11.15 am Mass. All are welcome.

PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting will be on **Monday, 9 April at 7.30pm**, at Bullimore Grove.

We will reflect on God’s Divine Mercy (2nd Sunday of Easter), thanking Him for the joy of Jesus’ Resurrection. Please come along and join us in prayer. Prayer requests always welcome! Contact is L P Whiteman 854148.

CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 10 April, at 7.00 pm in the Parish Centre.**

Clive Joyce, husband of a Parishioner, will give an interesting talk on the benefits of Beekeeping, including harvesting delicious honey, pollination etc. All Parishioners are very welcome to attend.

Members will be arranging their usual **St George's Day Afternoon Tea Party on Sunday 22 April from 3.30pm to 5.30pm at the Parish Centre**, in aid of their **Nominated Charities**. Tickets, available after Sunday masses are £5 each.

WELCOME

We welcome into the family of the Church, **MARIE ELISABETH MERE ILLUM** following her baptism at St Francis’ Church on Easter Sunday.

We pray for Marie, for her parents, family members and Godmother.

GIFT AID SCHEME AND ENVELOPES

From today, please use the Envelopes for the new tax year. It is always good to welcome new contributors. The only requirement is that you give to the Parish and pay sufficient income tax. If you would like to sign up for the Gift Aid Scheme by envelope or Standing Order, please contact Mr Tony Stokes (857866). Thanks go to Tony for all his hard work. Sincere gratitude is offered to all supporters for your kind generosity over last year. **Please see the diocesan handouts about Gift Aid.**

VOCATIONS SUNDAY AND CLERGY TRAINING FUND COLLECTION

Sunday 22 April will this year be Good Shepherd or Vocations Sunday, when we pray for a deeper sense of our personal vocation and for Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Consecrated Life in Religious Community. We pray for the Seminaries at Oscott and elsewhere.

There will be the annual Second Collection for the training of Priests and Deacons over 21 / 22 April.

PIETY STALL/REPOSITORY

Val and Caroline wish to inform parishioners that the Repository now has its usual items available as well as olive wood goods from the Holy Land.

AFTERNOON TEA TO SUPPORT THE 2019 SCOUTING JAMBOREE

St George’s Afternoon Tea at St Francis’ Parish Centre 21 April 3pm. Tickets £7-50
Tickets are from D. Faulconbridge 07766 662406 - See poster in the Narthex.

EXPERTISE AND HELP NEEDED, PLEASE

We are experiencing a significant issue, stretching back over some years, of someone who, week by week, refuses to leave St Francis' Church after the 11.15am Mass on a Sunday. Fr David and I find that our Sunday mornings are greatly disturbed by the thought that we are unable to lock the church and leave once parishioners have left after the last Sunday Mass. When there is a 12.30pm baptism, the person concerned remains standing before the altar, clearly visible to everyone. The chair of the Parish Council has sent a letter indicating that the church is to be closed at 1240; this seems to have had no effect whatsoever. In the past the police have been called on more than one occasion to help resolve the situation – but it has led to no long term solution. **Enough is enough**, and as Parish Priest, I wish to hear urgently from those with Legal or Psychiatric expertise about how we can resolve this problem.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

The house-to-house collection for Christian Aid will take place from 13 to 19 May 2018. If you are able to help with the envelope collection, please contact Sheila MacMahon on Tel: 858436. We are particularly in need of new and younger collectors this year. **Young mums and dads what about you?**

PARISH AGM: SUNDAY 29 APRIL

This is to give you all good and advance notice of the parish AGM, which will be on **Sunday 29 April at 6.30pm in the Parish Centre**. Please put the date in your diary as it is an important meeting for anyone interested in the running of the parish. We will be seeking nominations for members of the Parish Council. This is of great importance for the parish. Can you be of help? Please contact Ted Lewis on 777368.

CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

Fr John Cross and Deacon David Palmer will be leading a pilgrimage to Walsingham from 21 - 25 May. Staying at a retreat house in the village, it will include visits to the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady, daily Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and an afternoon trip out. Twin rooms are available. For details of the cost and to book a place please see www.catholicleamington.org.uk/walsingham-pilgrimage or contact June Palmer on 01926 511720 for more details.

PASTIMES Please note that meetings resume on Monday 16 April.

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.

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

OFFERTORY COUNTERS

This Sun: T Stokes, D Spillane, J Rice, R Palmi

Next Sun: P Whiting, M Harrington, S Rothwell

CHURCH CLEANING

St Francis’: S Allinson, G Chapman, A Kelly

St Augustine’s: L Morris and a volunteer, please

EASTER BLESSINGS AND GOOD WISHES TO YOU ALL, Father Kevin.