

**Fr Paul's Leaving Gift.** Envelopes are available at the back of the church for those who wish to donate to Fr Paul's leaving gift in appreciation of his 14 years of ministry at Holy Rood.

**Confirmation Programme Opening Session** this Thursday 14th January at 7.30pm for all parents and confirmation candidates who have registered for the 2016 course.

**The SVP** are in need of a gas fitter and plumber who are able to give their time to fit a gas cooker and washing machine for a person in need.

**Thank you.** Last Sunday the St Michael's School students, Valeria Beardwell and Victoria Allum, raised £241.57 at their cake sale in aid of the sick and disabled going on the school's annual pilgrimage to Lourdes. Thank you for your support.

**The Year of Mercy:** Those making a brief pilgrimage during the Year to the Cathedral Holy Door or the others through the Diocese may gain the Jubilee Indulgence for themselves or the Holy Souls. More information about events during the year, Holy Doors and the indulgence is available on the Diocesan website <http://rcdow.org.uk/year-of-mercy/>.

**Baptism Course:** The next Baptism Preparation Course for the parents of infants is on Sunday 7th February at 2pm in the Parish Centre. Please register with the Parish Office if you would like to attend.

**Coaches for Fr Paul's Episcopal Ordination** on Monday 25th January have been booked. Please send in your name and phone number plus £10 in an envelope to book a place. The Mass is at 12 noon. We leave from the bus stop outside Age UK, Exchange Road, Watford at 9.45am and return from the Cathedral at 3pm.

**Faure's Requiem Mass and the Cantique de Jean Racine** at Holy Rood on March 18th 2016. Now that rehearsals are underway please put the date in your diaries for a superb concert. Any late entries welcome: email Gerry: [gerryobeirne@ntlworld.com](mailto:gerryobeirne@ntlworld.com)

**Parish Gift for Fr Paul's Episcopal Ordination.** The Finance Committee has agreed that the parish will buy Fr Paul his crozier and his pectoral cross from parish funds. It was felt these symbolise Fr Paul's time at Holy Rood as such a good shepherd.

**New Year Resolutions?** Please volunteer! We need welcomers for the 9.30am Mass and more volunteers to help with church cleaning. Please speak to Fr Kim or Neville.

**Watford Foodbank** The total donation by the parish in 2015 was 1,200kg. Thank you for all those who contributed. Please continue to support this much needed cause in 2016.

**Watford Credit Union**— Providing an ethical alternative to save and borrow— This week's newsletter insert provides information about the Watford Credit Union. A credit union is not a bank, but is regulated by the FCA and unlike a bank, the money invested does not go to profits, city traders or complex financial investments; it stays local and helps other people in the same community to get low cost credit, with sensible support and information

**Les Miserables.** St Michael's Catholic High School presents Les Miserables, a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit, telling of love, sacrifice, redemption and faith. Performances are on 28th, 29th and 30th of January with tickets available from the school office. Tel: 01923 673760

**Mindfulness in the Christian Tradition (Retreat)** Saturday 23rd January 10am to 3pm.

**Faith and Development of Teenagers** Saturday 13th February 10am to 1pm.

**Faith and Development in Later Life** Saturday 5th March 10am to 2pm  
All at The Niland Conference, Elstree Road, Bushey Heath. Tel: 0208 950 4000 [www.nilandconferencecentre.co.uk/programmeofevents/](http://www.nilandconferencecentre.co.uk/programmeofevents/)

**New Year's Resolution—Volunteer for CAFOD.** Do you have good public speaking skills and want to help tackle poverty and injustice? CAFOD needs volunteers to speak in parishes and / or schools about its work in the developing world. To find out more details, locations and book a place on our next "Understanding CAFOD" training day on Saturday, 23rd January call CAFOD on 0208 449 6970 or email [westminster@cafod.org.uk](mailto:westminster@cafod.org.uk) or <https://cafodwestminster.wordpress.com>

**Rosaries Abroad.** Thank you to everyone who donated rosary beads to Rosaries Abroad. They are really appreciative of the items given so far.

**Mass in Honour of Our Lady of Lourdes:** In this Year of Mercy will take place in the Cathedral on **Saturday 6th February 2016 at 2pm.** The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass by the bishops and priests.

**SVP:** are distributing 12,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. They would be very grateful if you could sponsor packs at a suggested donation of £3.25 per pack. Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ, cheques made out to SVP or go to [virginmoneygiving.com](http://virginmoneygiving.com) and type "SVP" into the charity box.

**Year of Mercy Reflections at Rosary Priory** Tuesday 2nd February 11am. Celebration of an Encounter: the return of the Prodigal Son. 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath WD23 4EE

**Funerals:**

George Griggs                      Tuesday 19th January                      12 noon

**Last Weekend's Collection: Envelopes: £801.33      Loose: £768.56 Standing Orders: £ 498.38. Thank You Sincerely**