

**HE'S ARRIVED!** After weeks of waiting our new Parish Priest, Fr Shaun Richards, has arrived and is very welcome.

**Presentation of the Lord - Tuesday 2nd February: Mass at 8.30am and 12 noon with the blessing of candles.**

This feast is also known as Candlemass and comes 40 days after the birth of the Lord. According to Luke's account of the gospel, Simeon recognised Jesus as the Messiah in the Temple and declared him as 'a light to enlighten the pagans'. This sparked the tradition of the lighting and blessing of candles.

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

**Watford Credit Union** – Providing an ethical alternative to save and borrow– 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. More information from our local SVP group.

**Parent & Toddlers:** Meet Tuesdays in Term Time in the Parish Centre, from 9.30am. Come and join in the fun.

**Life Ascending** (formerly known as Ascent) seeks to bring together men and women who wish to enrich their later years, and through the bond of friendship and prayer they are encouraged to reach out to others.

**Life Ascending** is the first movement to recognise the value of older people and all they have to give to the Church and to the Community.

Meetings take place regularly on the first Tuesday lunchtime of the month and at other times for outings and visits to places of interest.

**Life Ascending** is focussed on three aims: *Spirituality, Friendship and Mission*, ensuring that each member is valued in their own right.

It is not **Life Ascending** to Heaven, but rather life growing here on earth towards living a fully Christian Life. Contact Winnie Brady on 01923 334998/07702 094650 if you would like to know more.

The next **Life Ascending** meeting will be on Tuesday, 3rd February, after midday Mass in the Parish Centre. Please join us for a Bring and Share Lunch and (anticipating Shrove Tuesday) Pancakes! We look forward to seeing you there. Contact Winnie Brady on 01923 334998.

**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.

**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.

**Peace Hospice Care:** Saturday 6th February - 8pm - midnight. Dance the night away with local jazz band "**Night Train**" Tickets £10 in advance or £15 on the night. For more information please contact Mary on 07988 098847.

**Getting a 'Certificate of Catholic Practice' for your Nursery Application:** Fr Shaun and Fr Kim will be available to sign and issue Certificate's of Catholic Practice on **Friday 26th February from 4pm to 6pm in the Parish Centre**. In order to get a certificate showing that you are a regularly practicing Catholic you need to bring the following to the meeting:

1. Your child's Baptism Certificate
2. The School Application Form including any Supplementary Information forms
3. The Holy Rood Attendance Card with your signatures since the Card system was started in September

Please note that there will be a separate Certificate supplied for each school that you are applying to.

**St Joan of Arc-Exam Invigilators:** The school has the following casual staff vacancies for efficient, organised individuals with good people skills are required to facilitate the administration of exams in the school. No previous experience required as training will be given. Invigilators are usually required for exams in December, January, May and June each year. Application forms are available from the school on 01923 773881 or at the school website: [www.joa.herts.sch.uk](http://www.joa.herts.sch.uk). Closing date for applications: **Thursday 25th February 2016**.

**The Saturday Coffee Shop:** raised £361.21 in the 4 months ending December. The total for the year was £1138.66, donated to Rubbish Tip Kids. This year's charity is 'Alternatives', a local mother and baby charity. We would love to see more customers after 11am Mass on Saturdays. At £1.20 for tea/coffee and cake, we are cheaper than anywhere in Watford! All very welcome.

**Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony: Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 14th May 2016 at 3pm.** The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their **10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th** (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2016. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number if no email) by the 7th March 2016.

**Funerals:** Jim Lankester Monday 8th February 12 noon

<p><b>Last Weekend's Collection: Envelopes: £968.63      Loose: 839.30</b> <b>Standing Orders: £ 498.38. Thank You Sincerely</b></p>
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