

Thanks: We have had a wonderful Lent in this Parish – our Retreat week was very successful and there have been many moments of grace. There does seem to be an emerging sense of common purpose, and I am grateful to all who have helped to bring this about. We thank our Extraordinary Ministers who were commissioned during the very moving Mass at Our Lady's on Monday evening. Thanks to the Ladies of the UCM, and the Cahill family for our most well attended Passover on Wednesday evening; to our musicians and readers and servers for the ceremonies of the Triduum. At this season, the ladies who arrange the flowers come into their own, and excel; and all of us are grateful to those who work unobtrusively in cleaning our Churches and altar linen, and the sacred vessels. As Parish Priest, I am proud and grateful for all that we do together, and for the loyal support of our Deacons, and their wives.

St Ambrose's School: Our Headmistress, Mrs Marie Yates, writes: On the afternoon of 30 March 2007 we 'buried' a steel box in the wall of our new courtyard. Inside the box were the original Victorian bottle, Latin scroll and the paperwork and coins placed behind the Junior School foundation stone in 1968. Our 2007 time capsule had coins and stamps, photographs and letters from four of our Y5 children written to 'the children of the future'. The whole school gathered around the new courtyard to witness the placing of the capsule and its sealing into the wall. Pupils were asked to remember this day and to pass on an eye-witness account to their children and grandchildren in the future St Ambrose's School.

Welcome: Our congratulations to Miriam Cunliffe and Kate Magee, who entered full Communion with the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil. We thank God for them, and welcome them and their families.

Resurrection: Three parishioners died during Holy Week. Laurence Charnock, of Westley Court, had lived in the Shrubbery Nursing Home for the last months of his life. His funeral is at Stourbridge Crematorium on Tuesday. The Revd Peter Hesketh will preside at the cremation of Mary Machin on Wednesday. She was a resident at Nightingales in Wolverley, though her home was in Bridgnorth. On Tuesday evening Irene Brown, of Wolverley, died peacefully at the age of 95 years. She will be buried in Wolverley Churchyard on Friday after Funeral Mass in St Ambrose's. May they rest in peace.

Easter Monday Men's Mass: Those attending the Men's Mass at St Chad's Cathedral tomorrow are asked to assemble at St Ambrose's ready for a prompt departure at 8.00 am. Thanks to our intrepid servers who will be attending the Archbishop – Peter Greal, Paul and Matthew Stride, Andrew and Patrick Hunt, Elliot and Harvey Kelsall, and Jack Bennett.

Society of St Vincent de Paul: The next meeting of the SVP takes place on Friday, 13 April 2007 at 8.00 pm in the Hall/Rectory. New members welcome.

Children's Liturgy and Children at Mass: Thanks to those who have volunteered to pool ideas and perhaps help in this important area of Parish life. A meeting will be held in the Rectory next Saturday at 10.15 am to discuss possibilities for supporting our families and children in making Mass attendance more fruitful. Anyone with an interest in helping this is very welcome to attend.

Kidderminster Male Choir: Spring Concert featuring Wessex Male Choir on Saturday, 14 April in Kidderminster Town Hall at 7.30 pm. Tickets (Hall £8, Balcony £10) from Kidderminster Town Hall, Cleancall (Stourport), John Beard, Ironmongers (Kidderminster), Designs by Kim Johnson (Comberton Hill), the Choir ticket officer (K751922) or any choir member.

Pope Benedict's 80th Birthday: Those participating in the celebratory luncheon to mark the 80th birthday of His Holiness, Pope Benedict, are asked to gather next Sunday in the Borromeo Hall by 12.30 pm. (Lunch £8.50, wine courtesy of the Parish Priest).

St Petersburg Blagovest Ensemble: This fine group of Russian singers will give a recital of sacred and national folk songs in St Ambrose's on Thursday, 26 April at 7.30 pm. Admission free. Retiring collection.

Catholic Men's Society: Many thanks to all who took Derby Draw tickets to sell. Could all counterfoils and money be returned either to a member of the CMS or to the Rectory by 6 May at the latest, as we have to send them away to be entered into the draw.

Stourport Choral and Operatic Society: Present 'The Showman and the Showboat' (the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber and a concert version of Showboat) at Kidderminster Town Hall on 3 and 4 May. Tickets £10 (£8 concessions) available from the Rose Theatre box office, K 743745, Mon – Sat 10 – 4. Ask about our special discount, too!

What Happens at Mass: This is the title of an excellent book by an American Benedictine, Fr Jeremy Driscoll OSB. It is one of the best titles on the Mass I have ever read. It is published by Gracewing at £7.99. Please sign the lists at the back of our Churches if you would like us to order a copy for you.

Parish Finances:

- i. The Offertory last week was £879.99 (envelope scheme £244.10; loose £635.89), for which many thanks.
- ii. Donations to CAFOD were £24.75
- iii. Donations of £42 have been received for the Priests' Training Fund.
- iv. We acknowledge, with gratitude, donations of £42 in memory of Owen McPhillips.
- v. Collection this weekend is the traditional Easter Offering to the Clergy of the Parish.