



**Domestic and pastoral arrangements:** Rita Mackay left the Rectory on Wednesday evening and, until her successor is in place, there will need to be some amendments to our domestic and pastoral arrangements. It is very important that Molly is looked after properly, and not left on her own too often, or for very long periods. For the next few weeks, I may have to curtail some of my routine visiting, though in cases of serious illness or pastoral need I will, of course, respond at once. Also, it may be that enquiries by telephone may not be answered immediately. I do ask parishioners to be patient, and normal service will be resumed in the not too distant future. On occasions, I may need to ask for volunteers to be in the Rectory if I have to be away on Diocesan or Deanery business. If anyone is willing to volunteer, please leave a note through the Rectory letter box, giving times of availability and contact details. Endless tea and coffee (and stronger if requested) will be available, and Molly is not a troublesome companion. Volunteer dog walkers will also be gratefully welcomed, though this is not really likely to arise. I am grateful for all the help given to us during these past days and for the understanding of so many.

**Ecumenical celebration of Baptism:** All the comments about our Ecumenical Celebration of Baptism have been entirely favourable. Thanks, particularly, to Chris Harvey and Danny McCormack for their meticulous planning; to Matthew, his fellow organists, and the assembled Choir for the very high standard of music performance; to those who read and the servers who came along in support; and to Lynn Grealy and those who helped provide such excellent refreshments. This celebration has started our Year of Celebration really well. Congratulations all round.

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Please collect your copy of the rota for February from the back of Church today.

**Baptism:** Congratulations to CALUM KENNEDY and his family. He is to be baptised this afternoon.

**Funeral:** The Funeral Service (not Mass) for MARY MORGAN is on Tuesday at 11 am. She will be buried in Kidderminster Cemetery.

**PACT Meeting:** The next meeting of the Greenhill PACT will be in the Adams Lounge on Monday January 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. All local residents are invited to attend, and contribute to the efforts to improve the quality of life for all our residents.

**The Montini Group:** We had a very stimulating meeting last Tuesday evening on Sin and Forgiveness. We meet again in the Montini Room on Tuesday at 7.45 pm to discuss 'RIGHT AND WRONG – the choices we make'. Our meeting will think about the importance of objective morality, and the role of conscience in making decisions.

**Bible Study:** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2 pm for 2.30 pm start at the home of Teresa Alexander, 34 Aggborough Crescent (K.741794). You are most welcome.

**Wyre Forest Women's Ecumenical Fellowship:** The next meeting is on Wednesday at Trinity Methodist Church: 9.15am for 10.45am. Please see notice board for details.

**First Holy Communion:** A meeting for parents who would like their children to receive Holy Communion for the first time this year has been arranged to take place on Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup> in the School Hall at 6.30pm. Children who are 7+ years of age (Year 3) or older can be included. The Parish Priest will lead a discussion on the responsibilities we all have towards our children as they approach this very important milestone on their journey of Faith.

**Catholic Men's Society:** The first meeting of the St. Ambrose's Branch will be in the Wheatley Room on Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup> at 7.30pm when Brother Joseph Moran will lead our discussion on the challenges following the recent YEAR OF MERCY. This meeting is open to all men of the Parish.

**Candlemas:** The Mass next Thursday at 11.30 am will be preceded by the Blessing and Procession of Candles. The Feast Day commemorates the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, and is the last celebration of the Christmas Season. The traditional blessing of throats, in honour of St Blaise, will be given after Mass on Friday morning.

**Sung Mass:** There will be a Missa Cantata next Sunday at 3 pm. This Mass will fulfil the Sunday obligation, books are available and we join for tea and cake in the Rectory afterwards.

**Society of St Vincent de Paul:** the next meeting will be on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 7.15 pm in the Adams Lounge.

**Charity Concert:** in aid of Mandalay School for the Deaf (Myanmar, formerly Burma). February 10<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm in Kidderminster Town Hall. Details on the notice board.

**Mass for the Sick:** Our second Sacramental Celebration will be on Saturday February 11<sup>th</sup> (the World Day of Prayer for the Sick) and the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. There will be Mass at 12 noon during which the Sacrament of the Sick will be given. The Principal Celebrant and Preacher will be Fr Craig Fullard, Parish Priest of St Joseph's, Wolverhampton and Chaplain to the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, and Archbishop's Advisor on Health Care. We have invited priests and people from our neighbouring Parishes to join us. Lunch (with soup and a buffet) will be available afterwards in the Borromeo Hall. In order that our celebrations this year can be truly inclusive, please let all of us do our best to ensure that anyone who is sick, elderly, normally housebound or suffering with emotional conditions of any sort, is not deprived of the opportunity to attend. Joy Farmer and Richard Tovey are co-ordinating the arrangements for this Mass, and I hope that they will be fully supported by Eucharistic Ministers, SVP members, family members, neighbours and others involved in the care of the sick in offering transport etc.

**St. George's Church:** We have the West Mercia Police Band on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm and the bar will be open from 7pm. Tickets are £8 prior to the concert and £10 on the door, Phone 01562 60370 or text 07887500110.

**Gardener wanted:** In the Hagley area, preferably with an interest in growing vegetables. (07831421889)

**Auxiliary Bishop of Bamenda:** Parishioners may be pleased to know that Fr MICHAEL LEARBUSHONG MIABESUE BIBI, who spent two years in our Parish (2003- 2005) has been appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Bamenda.

**Finances:** i. **LIFE:** Next Sunday will be the annual Archdiocese of Birmingham collection for LIFE, founded in this Diocese, to support women and men who feel abortion is their only option, through counselling, housing, practical and emotional support, and work in schools. Please be prepared to give generously.

ii. The Offertory last week was £942.44. Thank you. Loose £480.68. Envelope Scheme: £461.76.

iii. Donations to CAFOD were £125.57, and to the Mite Scheme were £121.78.

iv. We acknowledge with gratitude a donation of £5,000 from the estate of Jackie Peck who died last year in a Nursing Home in the Parish. Also we are grateful for a donation of £100 in memory of Veronica Neal, a longstanding and faithful parishioner.

**Borromeo Hall/Adams Lounge:** available for functions of all kinds; parties, receptions etc. Please contact Peter Grealy 07513 295817 or 07742 730680.

**Every Friday:** Folk music in the Adams Lounge with visiting musicians/singers and instrumentalists. Free admission 8pm-late.