

WELCOME

All Christians who would normally do so are invited to receive communion. If you wish not to receive, please come forward for a blessing. You are warmly invited to coffee afterwards.



CHILDREN

Children are very welcome at St Mary's Junior Church takes place in the Parish Room during the Sung Eucharist. There is a children's corner in Church for supervised pre-school children.

23rd February 2014

Second Sunday Before Lent

Hymns for Today

392, 665, 332, 162, 23, 684

TODAY

Holy Baptism At 2.00 pm today Rudi Medhurst is to be baptised. All are welcome at this service.

THIS WEEK

Men's Breakfast This Saturday 1st March at 8.45 am in the Parish Room.

Holy Dusters Saturday 1st March, 10am – 12 noon Our annual church cleaning session, an extra time for cleaning areas and pieces within the church not routinely dusted, polished or washed will take place on Saturday 1st March. If you have a couple of hours to spare, do come and join us, no special skills required, bring your favourite cloths or dusters, wear old clothes, sensible shoes, coffee and biscuits will be provided. *The Churchwardens*

LOOKING FORWARD

Lent Course A flyer is now available giving details of this year's Lent Course. This year, as a parish, we will be following the Diocesan Lent Course, which Bishop Tim has commissioned specially to explore the priorities set at the Conference last year. Meetings will be on Thursday evenings during Lent, and I hope you can all find time to attend as we walk together with Christ the transforming journey of Lent. *Fr Alec.*

Pancake Fun! The Social Group are planning a Pancake tossing event on Sunday March 2nd. 3.30 - 5pm. in the Parish Room. Plan to be there! We need supporters, participants and judges. Prizes to be won. There will be refreshments (including Pancakes!).

Ash Wednesday Services All are welcome to receive ash at a service at St Mary's Junior School at 10 am (there will be no Eucharist at St Mary's at 10 am on Ash Wednesday). There will be an Evening service starting at 7.30 pm

Palm Crosses During the Ash Wednesday evening Eucharist the congregation will receive the imposition of ash on the forehead, ash being derived from the burning of last year's Palm Crosses. This ashing is a reminder of our human mortality and of repentance and these words are used at the imposition "*Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return. Repent and believe the Gospel*".

Please therefore return your palm crosses and place them in the basket inside the north door. Please do this before March 3rd at the latest.

BITS AND PIECES

Fairtrade Fortnight begins tomorrow. The theme of this year's event is "Abolish Unfair Bananas" and as Basingstoke is the home to the largest banana ripening plant in Europe, Bishop Peter is chairing an evening on this subject at the United Reform Church on Thurs 6th March from 7pm – 9.15 pm. All are welcome. St Mary's Fairtrade stall will be available as usual next Sunday, 2nd March.

The Women's World Day of Prayer will take place this year at Old Basing Methodist Chapel on Friday 7th March at 10.30 am.

The Children's Society – Box Holders Well done everyone, our annual total from the boxes amounted to £545.34 this year. Thanks to you all. I must also express my thanks to my friend, Betty Newman, who counted 70% of the boxes for me this year.

If there is anyone in the Parish who would consider having a box (odd change is all that is needed) then please give me a call on 01256 324065 or email

thelmagreg@sky.com. Many thanks - *Thelma Gregson.*

Walsingham Pilgrimage April 22nd - 24th One place has unexpectedly become available - if you are interested please speak to Penny Potter as soon as possible [01256 333249]

Confirmation If you (young or old) would like to be confirmed, or just discuss the possibility, please speak to Fr Alec. Classes will begin during Lent, with a view to a confirmation service being held in June.

FROM FR ALEC

Jesus challenges us again this week by inviting us to lead lives of radical trust – putting our faith completely in the providence of God.

We may find this thought disconcerting. Planning for the future and protecting ourselves against the chances of life seems like common sense- but this anxiety about the future can be a way of closing of both our connection and our concern for others and spiritual relationship to God.

As we prepare ourselves for Lent, it is valuable to remember how fasting is a process of rediscovering these connections and relationships.

Please pray for:

- Tim, Peter & Jonathan, our bishops; especially for bishop Peter preparing for his new appointment.
- A Church renewed in unity and mutual respect.
- Those driven from their homes and livelihoods by flooding.
- The persecuted church in the Middle East.
- Rudi Medhurst being baptised today;
- Those who are sick or suffering, among them: Penelope Bickley; Pat and David Sacree; Beryl Streether; Mavis Lloyd; Sylvia Dark; Margaret Lomax, Des & Joyce Atkin; Canon Simon Wilkinson; and all others in pain or sorrow;
- All those who have died recently; Freda Leavey; George Barber; and for all those whose anniversaries fall at this time;

During the service a collection will be taken during the Offertory Hymn. If you miss this collection, gifts can be placed in the wall pillar. Gift Aid envelopes are available in the pews. DeoGratias Registered Charity No. 1136606

PARISH CONTACTS: Vicar - The Rev'd Alexander Battey 354707 vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk