

<u>SAFEGUARDING NOTICE</u> In line with Diocesan safeguarding regulations, children of primary school age must be accompanied by an adult if they need to leave the church to use the toilets during Mass or other Church services. Thank you for your help in keeping our children safe.

### News and Activities

<u>CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS!</u> On behalf of Sr Lydwin, Sr Rita, Fr Sean and myself, I would like to wish you every blessing this Christmas! Although many of us are having to cut back on what we can do to celebrate, the important truths of Christmas cannot be dimmed; to celebrate Emmanuel- God is with us, and to spend time with family and friends, remembering loved ones who have passed, and treasuring important times of being together. May God bless you and all your families over the 8 days of the Christmas Octave, leading into the coming of the New Year! Fr Mark

**SPECIAL MASS TO WELCOME 2023** There will be a Mass to bring in the new year at Midnight at SS Peter & Paul's Church. This will be preceded by a time of Prayer and Praise beginning at 11.30pm on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**LEAVING CELEBRATION FOR SR RITA** Sr Rita has devoted the last five years of her life doing God's work in our parish so we hope to give her a good send off as a sign of our appreciation. There will be a special collection next weekend and an appeal for refreshments. There will be a **'Bring and Share' meal at 1.00pm on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January** in St Michael's Hall. This will be a lovely opportunity for all of us who know Sister Rita, to be able to say our farewells! There will be sheets to sign at the back of each Church on the weekend of Dec 31st and Jan 1st. All our prayers and best wishes go with her as she starts her new role in India.

YEAR PLANNING MEEETING In order to organise the year ahead with parish events, would it be possible for all parish organisations to send along a rep to a special diary planning meeting for 2023? It will take place in the Sacristy Meeting Room at St Michael's on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 12.00 noon. We will be discussing events like parish barbecues, quiz nights, pilgrimages, retreat days, children's discos, Christmas Fayres etc, etc! It will be most useful if all parish groups are represented at this meeting. Many thanks.

**EPIPHANY CONCERT WITH WULFRUNA LADIES CHOIR.** Saturday 7th January at 2.30pm at St Michael's. The Catholic Women's League warmly invite all ages to their traditional concert for charity. Free entry. Raffle and refreshments available. Details from Sarah - 07948 963325

<u>CHILDREN'S PREPARATION FOR RECONCILIATION AND HOLY COMMUNION</u> Classes for children in year 3 or above who are not in Catholic Schools will be starting in January. There will be two enrolment Masses on **Sunday 15th January**, one at SS Peter and Paul's and the other at St Michael's.

*Please pick up a registration form for your child as soon as possible.* They are available in the sacristy of each church for you to pick up. These need to be handed in to one of the priests well before January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**FEBRUARY - DEANERY VOCATIONS PROMOTION MONTH** The diocese is starting a new initiative whereby each deanery has a special month to pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life. Our Deanery, Dudley and Wolverhampton, has been allocated February each year. As we have only just discovered this, it may be a bit late this year to organise too much, but we will be having a special **Wolverhampton Celebration for Vocations at SS Mary & John's on Friday February 3**<sup>rd</sup>. (*There will be a similar event in the south of the deanery in Stourbridge*). The **Vocations Celebration** will start with a **Holy Hour from 11.00am**. This is followed by **Mass at Noon** and there will be a social event afterwards in the hall. All the religious of the deanery will be invited to this event and at the end of the social, we would like to launch a Vocation Promotion Group. This would consist of a couple of parishioners from each parish who would join the group. This group would primarily pray for vocations, but would also organise events. If you would like to volunteer to be one of our parish reps, please contact Fr Mark. Many thanks.

<u>CLEANERS AT SS PETER & PAUL</u> Although we do have a few members on the team, they often cannot predict their shift work, so sometimes many of them cannot come. Please could we then have some more volunteers so that we can cover weeks when other members have to go into work? Please let Mary Faherty know, or one of the priests. Many thanks.

**IT VOLUNTEER NEEDED** Are you good at setting up IT projectors and checking sound systems with Bluetooth etc., etc.? We need someone to volunteer to set up all the necessary technology for Parish Events such as retreat days or film shows, or even providing online music in Church when we do not have an organist. At present this often falls to Fr Mark or Fr Sean, but this is not ideal. If you think you might be able to volunteer for this essential ministry in the parish, please contact Fr Mark. Thank you.

<u>ALTAR SERVERS' GUILD OF ST STEPHEN</u> This year we will be renewing our promises and receiving new members and *handing out medals* at the Masses on **New Years Day, Sunday 1**<sup>st</sup> **January.** This will take place in your own Church, rather than all coming together for one Mass. So, if you serve at St Bernadette's you need to come to the 9.00am Mass, if you serve at SS Peter & Paul's, come to the 10.15am Mass, and if you serve at St Michael's, come to the 11.30am Mass.

## Mission and Outreach

**<u>CRIB OFFERINGS</u>** Any donations given to the Crib this year will go to the **International Winter Appeal for Ukraine** launched by His Beatitude Sviatoslaw Shevchuk, Major Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

<u>THE NEXT FARESHARE</u> at St Michael's Church Hall is on Wednesday December 28<sup>th</sup> at 1.45pm. FareShare is a UK charity that redistributes good quality, surplus food to community groups. If you, or your neighbour, could do with a little support in these difficult times, please bring a bag and take some free food!

**THE FOOD COLLECTION** continues at all three churches. We continue to welcome donations of FOOD (dried and tinned only please), TOILETRIES, ESSENTIAL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS and SELECTION BOXES. There is NOW a huge need to get supplies into local primary schools. Any of the listed items that you can donate are massively appreciated. This week's donations were distributed to local Penn families. Thank you so much for your continued support.

<u>LIFE CHARITY SHOP & Life Caring Outreach.</u> Please DO NOT leave goods at St Michael's or St Bernadette's between Monday 19th December & Sunday 1st January. Volunteers will not be available to collect donations. We are very grateful for your generosity that has enabled the shop's continuing success during 2022. We look forward to again receiving your donations of clothes, bric-a-brac and books in the New Year. Similarly, after the Christmas break, Life Caring Outreach will again welcome your gifts of baby clothes and equipment for needy local families.



### Finance

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS FOR THE PRIESTS The Offertory collection this weekend will be for the priests of the parish.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK will be for a gift to Sr Rita as she leaves us in January to move on to a new ministry back in India.

200 CLUB Subscriptions now due. Could you please bring in your annual subscription of £12 along with your card and give to one of the sisters at St Michael's and to W A Finnegan in SS Peter & Paul's church. Thank-you.

Total

485.06

240.57

#### SS Peter & Paul St Michael St Bernadette **Card Readers** Website Non-Gift Aid 281.06 123.00 81.00 Gift Aid 147.57 56.00 17.00 20.00 Second Collection

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR SUNDAY 18th December 2022

Standing Order for November 2022: £4050.25

# Regular Prayer Opportunities

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP starting on Thursday 19th January from 6.30pm -7.30pm at St Michael's Church, in the Lady Chapel. St Padre Pio bore the STIGMATA and his life was dedicated to the poor, the sick and the suffering. Through the sacrament of reconciliation, he brought many souls back to God. Through the Padre Pio Prayer Groups, which are now worldwide, render similar service through prayer and penance in winning souls for Christ. All are welcome. For more information, contact Tina Abbiss on 07970196224 or email tina.abbiss59@hotmail.com

LEGION OF MARY meets in the Guild Room every Sunday after the 10.15am Mass at SS Peter & Paul, All welcome!

PRAYER GROUP at SS Peter & Paul the "Divine Light Prayer Group" meets every Sunday after 10:15am Mass. Come along and join us in our Praise and Worship. All Welcome.

LAY ASSOCIATES OF SISTERS OF ST ANN KNOWN AS THE LASA PRAYER GROUP meets on Tuesdays at 5.00pm in the Lady Chapel at St Michael's Church. We welcome new members.

SHEKINAH PRAYER GROUP will meet in the Lady Chapel at St Michael's every Friday for the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.30pm to 7.00pm. All welcome.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR PRAYERS FOR THEIR HEALTH: George Renkevic, Michael Foley, Ray O'Gorman, Krystyna Schlenker, Pat Noad, Peter James Burke, Sheila Powell, Sheila Percy, Margaret Ambler, Rose Curtis, Margaret Gay, Maurice Gay, Audrey Pope, Eileen Whittall, Josephine Mann, Tony Wyer, Anna McGrath, Richard Rogers, Shirley Deffis Whitaker, Andy Hyatt, Mary Hill, Johny Burke, Charles Halldron, Marjorie Halldron, Ben McKearney, Philomena Labdy, Steve Kavanagh, Fr John Lungley, Antony Cosgrove, Sheila Botwood, Pritpal Dhanjal, Paul Green, R. J, Holly Burke, Peter and Margaret Holmes, M Mary, Stephen Briggs, Katherine Poole, Ann Bayley, Patrick Quinn, Jean Hollingshead, Margaret Stokes, Leah Nixon, Pat Pool, John Dolan, Liam Dolan, Marie Looker, Lorna Ciraulo, Helen Porter, **Brendan Bleakley** 

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY: Ann Lerigo, Maria Felicia Fernandez, Terry Carey, Neville Pope, Vittorio Lombardi. May they rest in peace.

This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Registered as a charity. No. 234216. Archbishop of Birmingham + Bernard Longley