

St Marys Church information for St Mary's Catholic Primary School parents and carers



On behalf of the St Mary's Church family we hope that the first half term of the school year has gone well.

School, Parish and Family are the three sides of a very important triangle which hopefully enables our children to grow and develop as young people of love and understanding. Just as the school begins its journey of learning and exploration, so our Parish Family has launched off on the next stage of its journey, learning and growing all the time. Our First Communion preparation for our children and Confirmation for our young people, our choir and musicians are all now underway.

As you can see from the list of activities below there are all sorts of ways in which we would invite you to become involved; many different ways of serving and getting to know each other while enjoying ourselves and growing as a parish. Please consider involving yourselves and your families in any of the activities which go on in our thriving, sociable parish. It is always lovely when we can come together as a parish, family and school community as we did for the Church Harvest Mass. We aim to keep you informed of some of the activities happening in the Parish, but please take a look at our website too www.stmaryspoole.org.uk

Every single one of us is loved and special to God, every single one of us has a great deal to offer our parish enabling it to become the place of welcome and warmth that God and we want it to be.

We look forward to seeing and welcoming you at our weekly celebration of Mass.

God bless you and all whom you love.

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ALPHA 2019 : Is there more to life than this?

St Mary's and St Anthony's will once again be running an Alpha course on Tuesday evenings, January to March 2018 in St Mary's hall. Each meal, talk and discussion gives an opportunity to think, and talk about, the big questions of life, faith and reason, God and meaning. And it's free!! For details please contact Andrew Williams andrewwilliams1150@gmail.com 01202 460162

FHC DRESS LOAN

In a bid to "live simply" and in keeping with St Mary's environmentally friendly efforts, St Mary's has a dress loan service for the FHC families. We are in urgent need of more donations. If you have dresses sitting in a cupboard gathering dust, please consider loaning them to the church. It will help us raise funds for essential projects while helping the environment simply by reusing these rarely worn clothes.

To loan or borrow clothes for FHC in May see Margaret in the repository after Mass.

RCIA: Course for adults wishing to become full members of the Catholic church:

WOULD YOU LOVE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH? Have you ever considered becoming a catholic? Email or phone the Parish Office.

TRAIDCRAFT/FAIR TRADE AT ST MARYS <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>

What is it all about?

- It focuses on trading with poor and marginalized producer groups.
 - It pays fair prices that cover the full cost of production and enable a living wage.
 - It provides credit when needed to allow orders to be fulfilled.
 - It encourages the fair treatment of all workers, ensuring good conditions in the workplace.
- We have monthly fair trade stalls at St Mary's on the first Sunday of every month. Many thanks to Mike & Karen Royles for running this.

POOLE FOOD BANK: In these very difficult financial times there are many families in Poole who are banking on you!

Many parishioners donate regularly by getting one or two extra items each week when they shop. This worthwhile charity helps those who are struggling to buy food - the demand in Poole is increasing so this regular weekly support is vital. Thank you to all who have donated and please keep the items coming, and leave them in the box in the church porch.

See the food list in the church porch, explaining the work of the food bank

YOUTH HELPERS: If you would like to help the stewards, welcomers or Sacrisants at church please ask. We are always looking for young people to help, so don't be shy!



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Baptism

If your baby needs to be baptised please speak to Fr John or one of the Deacons. Or you can pick up a form from the back of the church and drop it in to the parish office. Someone will contact you.

THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OR SVP 'I wish I could help'...If you have ever said these words to yourself- you can. Whatever your age, whatever your skill all that is needed is just a few hours of your time. Visiting the sick, the lonely, the addicted and those suffering from disabilities forms a large proportion of the Society's work. Here in Poole the SVP helps anyone in need particularly the lonely and the elderly and we run a regular monthly "tea and chat group" for our elderly and vulnerable parishioners and friends. More information from the church office.



CAFOD

We are hoping to set up a small group of people to raise the awareness of the great works by CAFOD. The more volunteers we have the less each individual will have to do. If you are interested please see a member of the clergy or parish council or contact the office. We are hopeful of getting people from across the age range of the parish so no one is too old or too young to be involved and it would be lovely to have parents and children together.

CHURCH BOOK SWAP

Did you know we have a small mobile library which is available after Sunday morning Mass for you to use. We have a constant turnover of books and are always looking for more fiction to replace those which have been taken, Children's books are always very popular. Please do make use of this and donations always welcome.

CHURCH LOTTERY:

We have a long standing and very successful church lottery at St Mary's. The subscription is £4/month and there are three monthly prizes of £100, £60, £40 and £20. The profits go towards paying for the many calls on the church funds. **For more information and to subscribe contact Keith Bowman on email:** keith_bowman50@hotmail.com

COFFEE AFTER MORNING MASS

We are always in need of more volunteers to serve morning coffee. Currently we have 6 teams but it would be great to have a few more people join to make the rota 1:8. Perhaps

you could find a couple of friends to help you. All is expected is you turn up before Mass and set up, serve coffee after Mass then clear away. Tea coffee milk and biscuits all supplied by the parish. Please speak to a Steward if you feel you can help.

AND FINALLY

There are many other ways you can become involved see some examples below please let us know if you would like to help or become involved in any way however small

- Readers
- Eucharistic ministers
- Helping with flowers
- Music group and choir
- Children's liturgy
- Children's Art and craft sessions after Mass
- First Holy Communion preparation
- Church summer and Christmas Fairs
- Prayer groups
- Church cleaning
- Stewards
- Parish Social Events

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1st November: Feast of All Saints (Holy Day of Obligation) Mass at 7.00pm
- 17th November: Fundraising Concert in aid of Forest Holme at 7.30pm
- 24th November: Christmas Bazar: (fundraising in aid of parish funds) starts at 12 Noon
- 8th December: Advent Carol Service at 6.30pm
- 16th December: Senior Citizen's Christmas Meal (helpers needed)

Christmas mass times will be advertised on the new parish website in the next few weeks.

For more information about these and all other parish activities and how to get involved contact the parish office on Tel 01202 675412