

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.

2nd March 2014
Sunday Next Before Lent

Hymns for Today
691, 314, 457, 77, 718, 225

TODAY

A Warm Welcome to Reverend Robert Toogood who will be leading both our 8.00 am and 9.30 am services today. Fr Alec is away this weekend at a wedding.

Holy Baptism At 2.00 pm today Louis Watson is to be baptised. All are welcome at this service, to be led by Fr Gordon Randall.

PANCAKE FUN!

This afternoon, 2nd March,
3.30 pm – 5.00 pm in the Parish
Room. All welcome.

Fairtrade Fortnight continues and St Mary's **Traidcraft Stall** will be available immediately after today's 9.30 am service. The theme of this year's Fairtrade Fortnight 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.

THIS WEEK

Ash Wednesday Services

There will be an Evening Eucharist with ashing at **7.30 pm**.

All are welcome to receive ash at a non-Eucharistic service at St Mary's Junior School at 10 am.

The Diocesan Lent Course begins this Thursday 6th March at 7.30 pm in the Parish Room and will continue on Thursday evenings during Lent. Please sign up on the on the sheet in the lobby if you are planning on coming along.

LOOKING FORWARD

Palm Crosses A reminder please to return your palm crosses by tomorrow and place them in the basket by the North Door in

preparation for the Ash Wednesday evening Eucharist.

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.

BITS AND PIECES

Monday Discussion Group: During Lent we will meet on five consecutive Mondays commencing on Monday 10th March at 1.45 pm in the Parish Room. We will be using the US Lent study course for 2014 – 'A heart for mission.' For further information if you wish to join our group please speak to me. *Ann Price (320388)*

Food Bank News The Food bank Box has been reinstated in the church porch. The requests from the bank at the moment are for Fruit Juices, 500gms Sugar, choc/ treats, tea, coffee, dried milk. There is a particular need for items that can be reconstituted with just hot water, e.g., Instant potato/mash, or cuppa soups etc as these latter items can be used by flood victims from the Buckskin area of Basingstoke who are in temporary accommodation. Many thanks for your continued support. *Myrna*

RSCM Choir Conductors Workshop

A very happy and successful time was had last Saturday at the workshop hosted by St Mary's Church Choir for 12 conductors arriving for instruction and advice from Frances Novillo, a Regional Music Advisor for The Royal College of Church Music. 16 adult church choir members, choristers Joseph, Esme and Hana, were joined by 5 of our other adult singers. It was extremely interesting, responding to the different styles and experiences of all the conductors as the workshop progressed. It gave insight into the two way process and interaction of singers with the conductor, indicating how dependent each is on the other to produce a good result. However, most of all it showed that the singing of choral music can be fun, very enjoyable and very rewarding. *Myrna*

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 and also to Myrna and Geoff Lewis who kindly stepped in and have coped with all the banking, which involved six journeys to the

bank. 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. *Thelma Gregson.*

New Rotas I shall shortly be preparing the new rotas for the months of April, May and June. It would be appreciated if you could let me know your availability over this time, including whether you're able to assist at the Easter services. Thank you. *Debbie Filer*

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

FROM FR ALEC

Sometimes in life God grants us a vision of the Kingdom of God- of how things could be in a world ordered according to his love and grace. It is hard often to catch these glimpses in the midst of our lives, and it is important to hold onto and cherish them of promises of the glory to come.

The story of the Transfiguration is the model for this.

At his crucifixion, we meet Christ in, as it were, the photo-negative of God's glory. But his companions on the mountain received this brief glimpse of Jesus divine reality as a promise of what was to come.

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.
- Louis Watson 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, Joyce Atkin; Canon Simon Wilkinson; Bea Preston; 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. Deo Gratias Registered Charity No. 1136606

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