

SAFEGUARDING: PERMANENT NOTICE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese's policies and procedures at all times.

Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is J. Barr who can be contacted

at sg.stfrancis.kenilworth@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

SUNDAY CLOSURES HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED FOR KENILWORTH'S WARWICK ROAD OVER THE COMING WEEKS.

Please note that Kenilworth Town Council has announced the town centre road will be shut between St John's roundabout and St John's Road **towards the town centre**, on **Sunday 28 January, Sunday 4 February and Sunday 11 February 2024**. The road is expected to be closed between 8am and 5pm. The closures are for drainage works.

OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Thank you to all who attended the Service at St John's Church last Sunday.

It was good to see a number of parishioners there.

SVP: FOODBANK COLLECTION

If you have been unable to attend the food collection, but would still like to donate, then please phone 01926 858436 – we can collect from your doorstep.

Thank you to all who have already contributed.

We would like to thank parishioners for their generous support throughout 2023.

A DATE FOR THE DIARY

The Friends of the Holy Land will be hosting the Lenten Lunch in the Parish Centre on **Sunday 25 February**. **Tickets price £8 will be on sale after Sunday Mass from 3 February**. All proceeds raised will go directly to help the Christian's who now more than ever are in need of our support.

Contacts are Pam 01926 859532 Lyn 01926 854994.

QUIZ EVENING TO BE HELD AT ST FRANCIS' PARISH CENTRE

This event will take place on **Friday 2 February**. Doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start. The evening will end at 10:15pm. It is open to teams of between 6 – 8 people and will cost £10 per person and includes raffle tickets and snacks. Students are £5 per person. Contact is susannejm@btinternet.com Funds will go towards the publishing of an anthology by Warwick MA Students and Book Trust, a charity which supports children with reading.

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS ON 2 / 3 FEBRUARY

On Friday, 2 February we shall keep the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple or 'Candlemas'. This celebration, forty days after Christmas, reminds us that Christ is the Light of the Nations and the Glory of Israel.

The traditional candle blessing and solemn entrance into church will be observed at the mass at 7.30 pm at St Francis' Church.

The traditional Blessing of Throats for **St Blaise's Day** will **be given at the 10.00am Mass the following day, Saturday 3 February.**

ANNUAL PRO-LIFE CHARITY COLLECTION

The collection in 2024 will take place at all masses over **Sunday 10 / 11 February**. I commend to you all this collection for such an important work locally based and working nationally.

SVP COMMUNITY WARM HUB

The SVP Warm Hub continues to meet every Tuesday morning (10am to 12 noon) in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome to come along to enjoy the warm, friendly atmosphere and free refreshments.

SALVE

Salve Members are collecting the following items on behalf of Carriers of Hope (for refugees etc.) and would be very grateful for donations. Irons, kettles, toasters, saucepans, baby clothes up to two years, blankets, sheets/pillowcases. These must be clean and in good condition. Please leave them at end of narthex by the brown box.

MEDITATION WITH A MANTRA

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 1 February at the usual time of 10.00am**.

For further information please call Pat Southall on 01926 859474 or 07733273858.

CONDOLENCES

The Funeral Mass for Peter Jarvis will be at St Francis' Church on **Wednesday, 31 January at 1.30pm** followed by cremation.

The Funeral Mass for Patrick (Paddy/Pat) Murphy will be at St Francis' Church on **Thursday, 1 February at 11.00 am** followed by burial

The Funeral Mass for Jim McCarthy will be at St Francis' Church on **Friday, 9 February at 11.00 am** followed by burial.

May these, and all recently departed souls, rest in peace.

CONFIRMATION MASS

We hope to welcome Archbishop Bernard Longley, to the parish for the celebration of the Mass of Confirmation on **Thursday 8 February at 7.00 pm**. Please keep in prayer the candidates for Confirmation from St Augustine's School and the Parish Group.

There will be a mass for parishioners at **12 noon on that day** as well as the Confirmation mass.

JUST A REMINDER: LENT 2024

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, this year will be on Wednesday, 14 February, with Mass and Imposition of ashes at 9.30am and 7.30pm at St Francis' Church.

There will be no Masses at school as it is during the half-term holiday.

N.B. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat.

Lent gives us the opportunity not only to think of self-denial but also of renewing and refreshing our spiritual lives by doing something new or taking up again, something from which we may have lapsed. Let us all pray for the grace to keep a good Lent.

Prayer, fasting and concern for others are spiritual keynotes in Lent.

- What about coming to **an extra Mass in the week? Celebrating Reconciliation?**
- Stations of the Cross **Friday 7pm at St Francis' Church**, and usually on Sunday at **4.30pm, at St Austin's Church.**
- **Family Fast Day for CAFOD will be on 23 February** - envelopes will be available.
- 'Walk with Me' booklets and calendars are now available.

WITH EVERY BLESSING AND GOOD WISH TO YOU ALL, FATHER KEVIN.