



1. This bulletin will cover two weeks, as Fr Richard is away on holiday for one week, beginning on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January. **This coming Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time** – readings can be found on page 132 of the Parish Mass Book. **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February is the Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time** and the readings are on page 135. On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February will be celebrate the Feast of **CANDLEMAS**, and on the following day, **St Blaise's Day**, the traditional blessing of throats will be given after Mass (the bishop and martyr, St Blaise, is said to have saved the life of a boy who was choking on a fishbone – and hence throats are blessed on his feast day).
2. **A new social committee – your help needed!** As we emerge, God willing, from the Covid pandemic, we can begin to think about holding social events in the parish again. Indeed, this was something that was strongly requested in responses received to the 'synodal process'. However, as with all such activities, we can only organise them if we have people willing to help. Happily, we already have a couple of volunteers, led by Victoire Spahn – but they will need more help if we are to get things going. If you are interested in helping – or would just like to find out more – please drop us an email at [balham@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:balham@rcaos.org.uk) – and either Fr Richard or Victoire will be very happy to chat with you and let you know more.
3. This coming weekend (29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> January) there will be a retiring collection for the charity 'LEPRA', which works to help those suffering from leprosy. You can watch a short film about their work here: [WLD22 - YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spySldD9mpc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spySldD9mpc) . Despite being curable with modern medicine, leprosy can cause life changing disabilities and even blindness if left untreated.

Due to misinformation and prejudice, it can also lead to people being cast out of their communities and forced to live isolated lives away from family and friends. It costs Lepra just £25 to change a life, and if found early enough and treatment is provided, the disease can be halted, preventing disability. In other cases, reconstructive surgery often restores the use of limbs and sight to both adults and children. With a course of multidrug therapy, it is possible to cure leprosy, and with your help we hope that leprosy will one day be beaten. Displayed in the porch this weekend is a poster informing you of the work Lepra is doing through St Joseph's Leprosy Centre in India – one of many such centres they run. Please have a look as you leave Mass today, and please give generously to the retiring collection.

4. **Fully escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland**, celebrating the feast of St. Patrick. 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight with 10kg hand luggage, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Lunches on days out. Wheelchair accessible rooms. Single room supplement £100. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com). Knock Pilgrimages is a member of the Travel Trust Association and is fully protected by ATOL T7613.
  
5. **Recollection for ladies** – led by Fr Frank Calduch - 11 February 2022. Timetable as follows - 9:00 Rosary - 9:30 Holy Mass - 10:00 Adoration - 10:15 First Meditation - 10:45 Personal silent prayer and examination - 11:00 Second Meditation - Confession available before and after meditations.

With our prayer and blessing,

Fr. Richard and Fr. Giovanni

