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Saturday, 8 October

Dear friends,

St Leonard's Day at St Mary-the-Virgin, Kenton : Sunday, 6 November at 6pm

I hope you are well. I am writing to you at the suggestion of a member of the congregation at St Mary's, Kenton, to introduce myself as the new Vicar. I began in post on 23 September, and have been deeply touched by the warmth of the welcome I have so far received. My Induction Mass was a happy but busy occasion, and I would therefore very much appreciate the opportunity to meet the extended St Mary's "family" at a more relaxed event.

Accordingly, I am delighted to invite you to our celebration of **St Leonard's Day**, on **Sunday, 6 November at 6.00pm**. Before St Mary's was built in the 1930s, a mission church served Kenton, dedicated in honour of Saint Leonard: this is thus a special way in which to mark our past with thanksgiving, while looking ahead to our future with hope. The preacher will be Fr James Power, who is Vicar of St Mary, Harrow-on-the-Hill, and Chaplain to Harrow School. There is a poster for this event printed on the reverse of this letter.

It would mean a lot to me if you were able to join us, for Mass and afterwards for fireworks and what will no doubt be a very well-catered party! Perhaps it has been a while since last you were at St Mary's; or perhaps you started to attend, before other commitments made this more difficult. Whatever your situation, we would love to see you - and I hope you will be able to respond positively to this personal invitation. If it is difficult for you to come to church in person, do remember that our services are all live-streamed; I can also come to you, to visit you at home or elsewhere - simply be in touch.

St Mary's is a church for everyone - and my task as parish priest is to serve all of you. You are of course always welcome to any of our services and events; and, if you would like to speak with me, or to arrange for me to visit, simply be in touch. You and your family will be in my prayers: I hope to meet you soon.

Yours faithfully,

Fr Richard Norman