



## Letter from Langdon Street

My dear people

During the month of July we shall hear passages from St Paul's Epistle to the Romans. It is the first listed among the epistles and it is considered to be the most profound. It is also the longest. Some of the great Fathers of the Church, like St Augustine, have written commentaries on it. Two of the Protestant reformers, Luther and Calvin, also wrote about it at great length.

In today's passage St Paul talks about the Christian life which is rooted in God's Spirit. This fits in with the other readings today. We are all filled with the Spirit at our baptism and that Spirit has the power to transform us if we acknowledge his presence within us. In the Gospel Our Lord warns us not to be overconfident in our own efforts but to have the simplicity and trust that we find in little children. Sometime the learned and the clever fail to understand the real message of Jesus which is revealed to mere children.

The Second Vatican Council made it clear that the treasures of the Bible are to be opened up to everyone. Previously there were a limited number of Sunday readings which were repeated at weekday mass. We now have the Bible opened up with the whole of St Matthew's Gospel read to us this year on Sundays. Next year it will be St Mark's Gospel and the following year it will be St Luke's Gospel. During Lent and Easter it is St John's Gospel that is proclaimed. The first Christians attended mass which was then described as the Breaking of Bread, the Sacred Eucharist and the Divine Mysteries. The scripture readings were seen by some people as merely an introduction to the Eucharist. Vatican II stressed that the words of the Lord in the Scriptures must also be broken open for us to understand their meaning and significance. We are nourished by Jesus, the Word of God in the Eucharist. We are also nourished by the Word of God in the Holy Bible.

Today we have gathered once again to be reminded of our destiny, offered to us and to all who acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God, to be fortified by the Word of God in the Scriptures and in Holy Communion so that when we are called into the Kingdom we shall be ready to take our place at the heavenly banquet.

A few months ago some of you kindly completed a questionnaire that Dan needed as part of his university programme. In quite a few of the replies there was strong support for setting up a parish council. He and I have received a number of requests individually. What I intend to do is to invite parishioners to a special meeting in September to consider the matter.

There are various blueprints available. There can be a group of parishioners elected geographically. There can be representatives of the different pastoral groups in the parish. There can be a group nominated by the parish priest. There can be a mixture of all the above. There can also be a parish in council when there are several open meetings to which all are invited.

Having set up a council, what should be its terms of reference? What items should be on the agenda? It needs to be more than a talking shop. It would need projects to be undertaken. Some years ago there were house groups for the At Your Word programme. I am told that these were excellent but they gradually faded away. There have been attempts to have prayer groups, discussion groups and social activities groups.

During the summer months, please think about this matter and come to the meeting with your suggestions. The provisional date for the meeting is the evening of Wednesday 24 September.

And finally, welcome back to Wendy who is back with us part time. I am most grateful to the team of people who have taken over during her absence and will continue to do some of her previous duties.

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

**Summer Extravaganza! Messy Church BBQ!**

**Sunday 13 July straight after 10.30 Mass**

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

**No need to do lunch! Vegetarian option!  
Pimms, Soft drinks, tea and coffee are available.**

**Fun Activities, Toddler Fun, Messy Stuff.**

**Like to help? more info contact Dan on 07776124434.**

### **APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA**

Next Sunday is Sea Sunday and a speaker from the Apostleship of the Sea will be visiting the parish to talk about AoS. Mgr Dennis McGuinness was in charge of AoS before becoming Parish Priest of Tring.

### **TRING CARNIVAL**

The 2014 Carnival takes place next Saturday in Pound Meadow, from 12 noon to 5 pm. Dan and some of his volunteers will be manning the Churches Together tent so do pop in to say hello!

### **WORKAID**

Workaid is a Chesham based charity supplying refurbished tools & equipment to vocational training establishments in East Africa. It depends on its volunteer workforce. New volunteers are required. If you can help, please contact Jane Bucknall at: [publicity@workaid.org](mailto:publicity@workaid.org) or at [www.workaid.org](http://www.workaid.org)

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

5 July	Prayer Breakfast at High Street Baptist Church
2 August	Prayer Breakfast at New Mill Baptist Church
6 September	St Martha's Methodist Church
4 October	Corpus Christi Church

## **PRAYER BREAKFASTS 2014**

4 January	New Mill Baptist Church
1 February	High Street Baptist Church
1 March	St Martha's Methodist Church
<b>5 April</b>	<b>Corpus Christi Church</b>
3 May	St Bartholomew's Church, Wigginton
7 June	St Peter & St Paul's Parish Church
5 July	High Street Baptist Church
2 August	New Mill Baptist Church
6 September	St Martha's Methodist Church
<b>4 October</b>	<b>Corpus Christi Church</b>
1 November	St Peter & St Paul's Parish Church
6 December	New Mill Baptist Church

Breakfast is served at 8.30 am followed by prayer for local and world needs

## **HOSPITAL PATIENTS**

In case you are admitted to hospital please indicate when you enter hospital, or arrange for someone to do so on your behalf, that your details should be passed to the RC Chaplain. You should also state that you would like the RC Chaplain to visit you. The Data Protection Acts do not allow hospital staff to reveal details of patients to chaplains or anyone else who is not a member of the hospital staff.

## **FOOD BANK**

The DENS Dacorum Foodbank would be grateful for the following items: Hot Puddings (tinned), Cold (tinned), Tuna (tinned) and tinned vegetables. They also need of items to support their other services so if you are able to help with any of the following it would be appreciated: Tin Openers – for use in their New Home Starter Packs, single duvets and kitchen roll – for use across their other Services.

The Foodbank provides emergency food for local people in crisis. Telephone: 01442 250969 or mobile number: 07904 674236. [www.dacorumfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.dacorumfoodbank.org.uk) [www.DENS.org.uk](http://www.DENS.org.uk)

## **WHEN MAKING YOUR WILL**

A very valuable way for you to support our parish would be to make provision in your will for a legacy. There is a leaflet at the back of church, which you may find helpful when you next think of revising your will.

## **RETRouvaille**

Retrouvaille offers a lifeline to troubled marriages. Backed by prayer, this programme has healed and turned around thousands of marriages on the brink of collapse and even brought divorced couples back together again. The next programme starts on the 27<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Don't miss this lifeline if your marriage is painful – visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) or email [info@retrouvaille.org.uk](mailto:info@retrouvaille.org.uk) or call or text 0797 338 0443 in complete confidence.

## **CATHOLIC SINGLES**

Catholic Singles is an organisation which helps single adult Catholics of all ages meet, either one to one or through social events. Please telephone 0161 941 3498, send an email to

[info@catholicsingles.org.uk](mailto:info@catholicsingles.org.uk). You are also invited to visit the Catholic Singles website at [www.catholicsingles.org.uk](http://www.catholicsingles.org.uk). The organisation includes separated and divorced people and has A.S.D.C (Association of Separated and Divorced Catholics.)

## **EVENTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

If you are aged 18-30 you are invited to this special campaign evening for Young Adults on Wednesday 2 July. Come find out what CAFOD is doing to tackle climate change from guest speaker Antony Mbandi, Director of Caritas Kitui (Kenya), and learn how you can help! It will be held at CAFOD's offices in Lambeth, SE1 7JB. Doors open at 6pm, drinks and food provided. Book online at <http://www.cafod.org.uk/Events/youngadultclimateevent> or call 0207 095 5324. CAFOD is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, working with communities in over 30 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, supporting people to find their own solutions to poverty. The agency works with all people regardless of race, gender, religion or nationality.