

Notices for the week beginning 21 December 2014

Sunday 21 December 2014 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass Book, pages 7 and 90

Mass 6.00 pm (Vigil) Bob Hart (Anniversary); 8.30 am Halliday, Roper, Croxford & De Clasca Families RIP; 10.30 am Thanksgiving

Monday *Advent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Friends of Wendy Hinds

Confessions 10.30 – 11.00 am, 7.30 – 8.00 pm

Tuesday *Advent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Intentions of Maura & Lisa O'Donovan

Confessions 10.30 – 11.00 am, 7.30 – 8.00 pm

Wednesday *Christmas Eve*

Mass 10.00 am Thanksgiving

Children's Mass 5.00 pm People of the Parish; Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Thursday *Christmas Day*

Mass 8.30 am; 10.30 am

Friday *Feast of St Stephen (Boxing Day)*

Mass 10.00 am Margaret Demedecka (Anniversary)

Saturday *Feast of St John the Evangelist*

Confessions: 10 – 10.30 am; 5.15 – 5.45 pm

Sunday 28 December 2014 Feast of the Holy Family

Mass 6.00 pm (Vigil) Bob Hart (Anniversary); 8.30 am Halliday, Roper, Croxford & De Clasca Families RIP; 10.30 am Thanksgiving

PRAYERS

Please pray for: **Sick:** Terry Andrew, Gaby Boccino, David Bolton, Nina & Erica De Cesco, Sheila De Rosa, Bertram De Souza, Lorraine Davey, Breda Farrington, Eric Hazel, Gwen Herbert, Bill Holliday, Michael Hornsby, Sheila McGrath, Peter Miles, Gerry O'Shaughnessy, Honor Owen, Peter Miles, Lana Ridley, Sylvina Rodrigues, Merridee and Naomi Wadling; **Anniversaries:** John Apps, Reg Axtel, Gladys Bass, John Brennan, Mai Briscoe, Helen Cerrutti, Fergus Cusack, Jeremiah Dineen, Victor Fairfield, Albert Fenner, Lucy Garner, Malcolm Garner, Alice Geary, Ellen Mary Goddard, Bob Hart, Alan Heggie, Mervyn How, Thomas Kay, Chris Kelly, Sadie Kelly, Sarah Lynds, James McAul, Desmond McGuinness, Ermanno Misseri, Harold Minshall, Doris Pullig, Margaret Reilly, Elizabeth Roberts, Douglas Routley, Sadia Sawicka, Joseph Smith, Sheila Margaret Smith, Patrick Sunderland, Rose Thomas, Helin Young, May they rest in peace.

PARISH MINISTRIES

2014		6.00 pm Vigil	8.30 am	10.30 am
27/28 Dec	E	G Booth F Sherratt	A Halliday	D Long H Houston
	R	D Leadbetter J Ruck	K Masterson C Pennicott	W Hinds G Maloney
	W		S Kerr	

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

Envelopes: £373.36

Loose: £175.56

Building Fund: £73.51

PARISH NEWS

21 December 2014



Corpus Christi Church, Tring

Parish Priest: Canon Vincent Berry

Presbytery: 51 Langdon Street, Tring, Herts, HP23 6BA
telephone 01442 823161 email tring@rcdow.org.uk

Pastoral Assistant: Wendy Hinds 01442 824369

Hall Bookings: Nicola Hickey 01442 826906

Youth Worker: Dan Marsh 07776 124434 email: danyouthwork@gmail.com

Local Catholic Schools: St Thomas More (Primary), Berkhamsted, phone 01442 385060 website: www.stmore.herts.sch.uk; Head teacher: Miss Isabel Cerasale

John F Kennedy (Secondary), Hemel Hempstead, phone 01442 266150
website: www.jfk.herts.sch.uk; Head teacher: Mr Paul Neves.

Times of Services

Sunday Mass: 6.00 pm (Vigil), 8.30 am and 10.30 am
Holydays Mass: 10.00 am and 7.30 pm
Weekday Mass: Wednesday to Friday 10.00 am
Saturday Sacrament of Reconciliation: 10.00 – 10.30 am
5.15 - 5.45 pm

Letter from Langdon Street

My dear people

Every morning Pope Francis celebrates mass in the chapel of the Santa Marta guest house where he has lived since he was elected pope. His daily homily is always worth reading. At the beginning of Advent he asked the people to use the graces that are offered to us at this time of year. He said: "Let us ask the Lord to draw us closer, closer to his mystery and do so on the path that he wants us to take: the path of humility, the path of meekness, the path of poverty, the path of recognising we are sinners." On another occasion he highlighted the importance of Advent when he said: "We rediscover the beauty of all being on a journey: the Church, with her vocation and mission and all humanity, peoples, civilisations, cultures, all on a journey across the paths of time."

Our Advent journey for 2014 is nearly over. Just a few more days and we shall re-live the birth of our Saviour. Each day we re-live the precious moments that lead us to this, beginning today with the story of the Angel Gabriel visiting Our Lady to tell us that God wanted her to be the mother of the Messiah. She could not have said yes without the humility that Pope Francis speaks about. She was just a teenager but she had to absorb the enormity of what Gabriel was asking her to do. Having been reassured by the Angel she said: "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let what you have said be done to me."


A little known carol called the Cherry Tree Carol, composed in the fourth century by St Ephrem the Syrian, talks about Joseph as a young man courting the Virgin Mary, the maid of Galilee. Like any young couple, they would have thoughts about the future, where they would live, what kind of home they would have, including a carpenter's workshop. They would have had hopes and dreams. When Joseph became aware that Mary was pregnant he had to make a decision. He emerged as a man of honour and took Mary home as his wife.

The young couple were both reassured by the Angel and so their love for each other enabled them to deepen their relationship and cope with all the difficulties they would have to face: the journey to Bethlehem, the flight into Egypt, the return to Nazareth, their growing awareness of who their child really was, the Son of God.

Young people today who are planning to marry have to develop their relationship in a world so different from that of Mary and Joseph. We live in a world which is quite scary. There are demons and monsters committing terrible atrocities but even Mary and Joseph had to live with the violent mood swings of King Herod, the weakness of Pontius Pilate and the fickleness of the crowds who would praise Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and scream for his death just a few days later.

In these last days before Christmas we must see through the glitter and sparkle which is rightly part of our celebrations and think of the great love that God has shown us by sending his Son into our world and calling us to repentance, humility and joy.

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Margaret, Joan and Heather would like to thank you most sincerely for your very generous offerings last Sunday for Christmas Flowers. The Total was £271.59. They also wish you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

CRIB OFFERINGS

Offerings at the Crib and the children's offerings on Christmas Eve will be given to the Catholic Children's Society

CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Youth Club and SPOG (Small People of God) are now taking a break until after the Christmas holidays. SPOG reopens on 16 January and the Youth Club reopens on 26 January 2015.

A MESSAGE FROM CARDINAL NICHOLS

After three years' effort across the parishes of the diocese, our *Growing in Faith* campaign is coming to a close. I want very much indeed to express my thanks to you for the attention and support you have given to its three key themes: strengthening parish life; supporting priests, in formation and old age; and Caritas, our work with the poor. I thank you for your prayers, the work done by the volunteers and I thank all who have made financial contributions. In total, with gifts and pledges, a sum of £37 million has been given. This great achievement will do so much to enable us to meet our needs and look forward confidently. This is a marvellous measure of your great generosity and love for the Lord and His Church. Thank you so much. I also want to take this opportunity to wish you a graceful and peaceful Christmas, full of the Lord's blessings for you all and your family.

PARISH DIARY

Our parish diary for 2015 is now available at the back of church. They cost £1.

PREPARATION FOR BAPTISM

Parents who wish to arrange for the baptism of their children should arrange to meet Canon Berry to complete an application form. Parents are asked to attend a pre-baptism talk which takes place once a month. Baptisms take place normally on a Saturday or Sunday. At least one godparent must be a Catholic.

TON-UP CLUB

The parish has been running the Ton-Up Club for many years and it raises over £1,000 every year. It is a small lottery where members pay £20 per year and there are monthly draws. For 2015 the prize allocation is changing and there will be one £50 prize each month with an additional Christmas bonus prize of £100. There are still a few numbers available on our 100 square so if you would like to subscribe please see Heather at the 10.30am Mass or email h.houston@ntlworld.com. The winners of the November draw were Ingrid Fido, Fiona Long and Katherine Marsterson. Christmas winners were Mary Gray and Jenny Brown. All received £20. The £100 prizewinner was Liz Westcott.

