

Notices for Christmas until Epiphany

Thursday 25 December 2014

Christmas Morning: Mass at 8.30 am and 10.30 pm

Friday 26 December (Boxing Day) Feast of St Stephen

Mass: 10.00 am

Sunday 28 December 2014 Feast of the Holy Family

Mass Book, pages 7 and 105

Mass 6.00 pm (Vigil) People of the Parish; 8.30 am Laurie Taylor (Anniversary);

10.30 am Mary Fahy (Lately Dead)

Monday *St Thomas Becket*

No Mass 10.00 am

Tuesday *Octave of Christmas, Day 6*

No Mass

Wednesday *St Sylvester*

10.00 am Communion Service

Thursday *Solemnity of the Mother of God (New Year's Day)*

Communion Service 10.00 am

Friday *St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen*

Communion Service 10.00 am

Saturday *Holy Name of Jesus*

Sunday 4 January 2015 Feast of the Epiphany

Mass 6.00 pm (Vigil); 8.30 am; 10.30 am

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; **Lately Dead:** Mary Fahy; **Anniversaries:** Father Vincent Kowalewski, Mother Anne de Sales, Sister Genevieve Brusey, Ted Ainsworth, Godfrey Bambridge, Margaret Cole, Kenneth De Silva, Doris Green, Sheila Heather-Hayes, George Herbert., Jan Kelly, Bridget Keough, John Charles McKerham, Gordon McSweeney, James O'Shaughnessy, John Potter, Phyllis Potter, Julia Sunderland, Laurie Taylor, Mary Towman and James Woodcock. May they rest in peace.

PARISH MINISTRIES

2015		6.00 pm Vigil	8.30 am	10.30 am
3/4 Jan 2015	E	F Sherratt G Booth	A Halliday	P Apps W Hinds
	R	M Valentine J Ruck	P Milton S Wright	H Houston S Lewington
	W		D Kerr	A Farrow

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

Envelopes: £261.52

Loose: £190.87

Building Fund: £61.00

PARISH NEWS

28 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

On the Sunday after Christmas we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Someone once described it as the Unknown Household. We know nothing about the daily life of that family. St Joseph is described as a carpenter so we assume that his house included a work room. We know nothing about the village of Nazareth except the people used to joke about people who came from there. It was a backwater village in a backwater country in a vast empire. Much of the known world had been united under the Roman Emperor. Augustus Caesar, who had ordered a census to be taken at about the time of Our Lord's birth. The chant at Christmas talks about the whole world being at peace, what came to be known as the Pax Romana. The Roman Empire had assimilated much of what was best in the cultures that were incorporated into its own life of culture inspired by great writers like Virgil, Ovid and Cicero.


Our Lord spent most of his life in that Unknown Household of Nazareth. We also speak of it as his hidden life. The family was part of the village. There was nothing unusual about them. They would have taken part in the great events of Nazareth, the funerals and the weddings, rejoicing with those who rejoiced, grieving with those who grieved. They would have joined villagers in their annual visits to Jerusalem. On one occasion Jesus was lost. After that painful incident, painful to Mary and Joseph, Jesus went down to Nazareth and was subject to them, all the time growing in grace and strength.

No one in Nazareth would have known that they were witnessing the dawn of a new age, far more important than the Pax Romana. When Mary and Joseph presented the Infant Jesus in the Temple, two people were called into the Temple, Simeon and Anna. Externally the young family would have been just like any other young family rejoicing at the birth of their new child. Something had drawn the old people and in the presence of Jesus, Simeon and Anna were able to prophesy that the child before them was special.

Family life was no bed of roses for Mary and Joseph. They were not exempt from the burdens and worries that all young couples have to face. We believe that the family is special because for many people it is a haven where there are joys and hopes as well as pains and sorrow, where mutual love binds the family together. Sometimes families break up because the problems they face become too much. Pope Francis is encouraging the whole world to think seriously about family life today. The special synod last October and the synod next October are linked by what the pope considers an important time for prayer and reflection. Cardinal Nichols' Pastoral Letter which is included with this newsletter draws attention to this.

Mary and Joseph gave Jesus a foundation that prepared him for the future, from infancy to childhood, from being a teenager to being fully mature. This is part of the vocation of all parents. Today we pray that through prayer and example, all mothers and fathers may help their children reach maturity and bring courage and joy in bad times and good.

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. Many thanks to the ladies of the Parish who decorated the Church for Christmas.

CRIB OFFERINGS

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

OUR MINISTRY TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We have a number of activities for children and young people and these are starting up again:

The Youth club meets on Monday evenings, from 7-9 pm; SPOG, (Small People of God) meets on Friday evenings, from 4.30-6 pm. There will be a monthly Film Club for children (School years 3+) and the first film is tomorrow, Monday 6 October, from 4.30-6.30 pm. The next Messy Church is on Sunday the 19th of October, from 3-5 pm and there will be a light party disco (school year 3+) on Friday 24th October, from 4.30-6 pm

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.

JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Thank you to all who supported the Community Christmas Concert organised by the Justice & Peace Group held on Saturday 6th December. The choir from Bishop Wood School sang beautifully and the London Heritage Brass Quintet got everyone in the mood for Christmas. The concert raised £1,460 for the work of DENS (Dacorum Emergency Night Shelter), the local charity who run the local Foodbank – they receive regular and generous donations of food but are in need of financial support to run the Foodbank. For photos of the event visit www.justiceandpeacetring.org

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 prize-winner was Liz Westcott.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| 3 January | Prayer Breakfast at High Street Baptist Church at 8.30 am |
| 7 February | Prayer Breakfast at St Martha's Methodist Church at 8.30 am |
| 7 March | Prayer Breakfast at St Bartholomew's Church, Wigginton at 8.30 am |