

Notices for the week beginning 7 December 2014

Sunday 7 December 2014 Second Sunday of Advent

Mass Book, pages 7 and 85

6.00 pm (Vigil) November Dead List; 8.30 am Mary Gregory (Anniversary);

10.30 am Thanksgiving

Monday *The Immaculate Conception of Our Lady*

No Mass

Tuesday *Advent Feria*

No Mass

Wednesday *Advent Feria*

No Mass Communion Service at 10.00 am

Thursday *Advent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am David Brown (Anniversary)

Friday *Advent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Intentions of Michael Apps

followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday *St Lucy*

Confessions: 10 – 10.30 am; 5.15 – 5.45 pm

Sunday 14 December 2014 Third Sunday of Advent

Mass 6.00 pm (Vigil) Fr Frank Hickman (Anniversary); 8.30 am Intentions of Sue

Valentine; 10.30 am Amy and Damascene De Souza

PRAYERS

Please pray for: **Sick:** Terry Andrew, Gaby Boccino, David Bolton, Nina & Erica De Cesco, Bertram De Souza, Lorraine Davey, 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; **Latently Dead:** Fr Brian Nash; **Anniversaries:** Fr Frank Hickman, David Brown, Esther Bryan, Wilfred Clark, Henry Peter Couillault, Amy De Souza, William and Doris Denham, Simon Dobbs, Gina Ferreira, Rita Gibney, Albert Gomez, Mary Gregory, Marion Hampson, Christine Hanley, Boleslaw Kargol, Ulrich Karlen, Bernard McDonough, Spike Marlin, Kate Morgan, Bridget O'Donoghue, Claus Ostman, Valerie Packwood, Marie Perera, Joyce Taylor, Wenefred Toole, Stephen Waite and Delbert Warrington. May they rest in peace.

PARISH MINISTRIES

2014		6.00 pm Vigil	8.30 am	10.30 am
13/14 Dec	E	G Booth	F. Sherratt	D Long H Houston
	R	J Ruck M Valentine	C Pennicott M Hart	P Apps G Maloney
	W		D Kerr	A Farrow

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

Envelopes: £299.95

Loose: £158.30

Building Fund: £43.01

PARISH NEWS

7 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

of Tring, 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

At mass today we are introduced to John the Baptist and his mission to call the people of Israel to be ready to welcome the Messiah. He quotes from the Prophet Isaiah who tells us to prepare a way for the Lord. All the Scripture Readings today tell us about the concern that God has for his people and at the same time admonish the people to prepare the way spiritually for the coming of the Lord, first in the stable at Bethlehem and then at the end of time.

For the next twelve months we shall be listening to words from St Mark's Gospel. Today we hear the opening lines of that Gospel: The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ. The word Gospel means Good News.

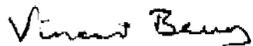
St Mark does not mention the story of Our Saviour's birth. He begins straight away with the announcement of the mission of Jesus to spread the good news of salvation: The Kingdom of God is near at hand. Repent and believe the Good News.

St Mark paints a vivid picture of an imperfect world into which a prophet, John the Baptist, who lives off locusts (a fruit similar to dates) and honey and is dressed in animal skins who suddenly appears to announce a coming change. We are told elsewhere that there was a feeling of expectancy among the people. Crowds of people flocked to hear him. They were aware that their world needed to change. John understood that they were struggling, trying to be good and was very compassionate towards them, urging them to be washed clean in the River Jordan. Even a group of soldiers were encouraged to change their ways. A group of Pharisees, however, were called a brood of vipers.

We know John as the Baptist. In the Eastern Churches he is called the Forerunner. He was the last of the prophets with the special role of announcing that the Messiah was at last coming. He was the last messenger who recognised someone who was greater than him. Once Jesus was ready to begin his ministry John could withdraw from centre stage and withdraw from the scene.

The second reading today gives us a warning. God is patient with us now in order to give us time to repent but the time for repentance will not last. Pope Francis and Pope Benedict before him remind us that we are living in a time of mercy when we have an opportunity to repent. They urge us to receive as much grace as we can from God during this time of Advent. The Lord has no limits to what he wants to give us. It is we who put limits on what he wants to give us. The Lord is waiting to receive us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to take us in his arms and hold us close to his breast. Let us pray as much as we can during this season of Advent. In this season of Advent the Church extends to everyone the call of John the Baptist to repent and confess our sins. We should use this time well.

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

CHRISTMAS EVE

Our Family Mass on Christmas Eve will include a Nativity. We need three helpers for "crowd control" and for help with lighting and costumes. We need older children to narrate the story and to play the part of Mary, Joseph, Gabriel and the innkeeper and younger children to be angels and shepherds. There will be two rehearsals on Monday and Wednesday, 22 and 24 December from 10.30 to 11.30 am.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

You are invited to contribute to the cost of decorating the church for Christmas. There will be a special collection after all the masses next weekend, 13 and 14 December.

FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP

Joan, Margaret and Heather have very kindly agreed to do another flower arranging workshop on Saturday 13 December in the church at 2.30. These workshops are good fun and we learn to produce some really pretty arrangements for Christmas it also gives us an opportunity to get together and have some fun. At the back of the church is a list, please put your name and telephone number if you wish to come along, or get in touch with Annabelle via e-mail: annabelle_halliday@hotmail.com or by mobile no: 07736669019. Nearer the date we will let you know the items you need to bring.

CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH CHOIR

When we celebrated our parish centenary in 2010 we formed a choir. We would now like to reform it. We invite the former members and newcomers to the parish to join. We are looking for singers. All voice types and levels of experience are welcome. There is no audition and the ability to read music is not essential. Weekly rehearsals will take place in the church, with a view to singing at one mass a week in the run-up to Christmas, and for the Midnight Mass. For further information please contact Jane Glover, jane_glover@rocketmail.com or call 07434 511795.

PARISH DIARY

Our parish diary for 2015 is now available at the back of church. They cost £1. The publishers would be interested in anyone who would like to have a small add in the next issue. Also, if you work for a company that would be interested in having an advert, please contact us on tring@rcdow.org.uk.

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK

This is available at the back of church and costs £4.50.

AN ARTY CHRISTMAS GATHERING

You are warmly invited to the Art Studio of Sheila de Rosa (Lewington) which is at Studio 15 (above the MOT Centre), Akeman Business Park, Akeman Street for an Arty Gathering. It will be on Friday 12 December, from 5 to 7.30 pm and Saturday 13 December from 11 am to 4 pm. There is a new Exhibition featuring six local artists and there will be affordable artworks for sale. It was be a convivial get-together with refreshments and interesting company. Please feel free to contact Sheila on sheiladeros@btinternet.com for more information.

APF RED BOXES

Please arrange to have your boxes emptied this coming week.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY CONCERT

Please support the Community Christmas Concert in aid of DENS next Saturday 6th December at Victoria Hall 7.30pm. Tickets are on sale at Beechwoods in Frogmore Street. Children under 11 have free entry. Please support this wonderful event.

FILM CLUB

The next Film Club is on Monday this week, 4.30 until 6.30 pm. The film is called Nativity! Children from Year 3 + are welcome. Free popcorn.

HARRIETTE HICKEY

Harriett and her family have been members of our parish for many years. She is going to Peru in August 2015 to trek from Cusco to Machu Picchu. This is despite her personal medical difficulties and recent surgery, she is going to make this challenge. She will raise money for Worldwide Cancer Research. Several members of her family and friends have all suffered from cancer. If you would like to sponsor her, you can donate by text to PHQA67 £10 to 70070 or by email: www.justgiving.com/HarrietteElizabethHickey.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 6 December Prayer Breakfast at New Mill Baptist Church at 8.30 am
- 6 December Christmas Community Concert (details above)

PARISH REGISTER

We are updating our Parish Register. It would be helpful to include email addresses. Many thanks to all who recently filled in the form. If you have been away, please send us your email to tring@rcdow.org.uk.

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

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

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.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation year will once again take place at Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted. Application forms are available at the back of church.

FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME

The preparation programme began with a parents meeting last Wednesday and a parents and children's meeting yesterday. The first class is next Saturday from 10.30 to 11.30 am.