

Notices for the week beginning 4 January 2015

Sunday 4 January 2015 Feast of the Epiphany

Mass Book, pages 7 and 118

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

Monday *Christmas Feria*

No Mass

Tuesday *Christmas Feria*

No Mass

Wednesday *Christmas Feria*

Communion Service 10.00 am

Thursday *Christmas Feria*

No Mass

Friday *Christmas Feria*

Communion Service 10.00 am

followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday *Christmas Feria*

Sunday 11 January 2015 Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord

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, Bertram De Souza, Lorraine Davey, Breda Farrington, Judie Fernandes, Eric Hazel, Gwen Herbert, Bill Holliday, Michael Hornsby, Adeline Lewis, Sheila McGrath, Peter Miles, Gerry O'Shaughnessy, Honor Owen, Peter Miles, Lana Ridley, Sylvina Rodrigues, Merridee and Naomi Wadling;

Lately Dead: Sheila De Rosa and Mary Thomas; **Anniversaries:** Sister Marthe André, Maggie Brown, Robert Brown, Bridget Budd, Martin Conway, Margaret Dinwoodie, Helen Hinton, Beatrice Keeley, Vincent Keeley, Anne Kenny, John Kowalewski, Margaret Lynch, Elizabeth Minshall, Clare Nelson, Cathleen Renihan, Pamela Ryall, Julie Sanda, Anton Tabone, Mary Trumper, Francis Warren, Ernest Williams and Richard Woods. May they rest in peace.

PARISH MINISTRIES

2014		6.00 pm Vigil	8.30 am	10.30 am
10/11 Jan	E	F Sherratt G Booth	A Halliday	H Houston D Long
	R	J Lee D Leadbeater	M Hart L Hutt	G Maloney P Apps
	W		S Kerr	J Brown

PARISH NEWS

4 January 2015



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

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy New Year. When you read this letter I shall be celebrating mass in the parish of my sister Una in Torquay, Australia. Torquay is on the south coast of the state of Victoria. The Great Ocean Road starts in Torquay and heads west towards Adelaide. The weather should be very hot.

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. In some places it is called the Feast of Light. We in the Northern Hemisphere are experiencing long nights and even the days can be dark and grey. Two weeks ago we passed through the shortest day of the year, the Winter Solstice. Although the days are beginning to lengthen, it is still dark when it is time for most of us to get up. We long for light. It will be strange for me to enjoy the long days of the Australian summer.

Five thousand years ago, long before Abraham set off on his journey to the Promised Land of Israel, even before the Great Pyramid of Giza was built in Egypt, ancient peoples in Ireland and elsewhere built burial chambers that would be lit up by the rays of the sun on the shortest day. The one at Newgrange is particularly startling. For just a few moments the sun shines along the man-made tunnel to bathe the hidden shrine with light. These ancient monuments evoke a sense of wonder and mystery. Those ancient people must have looked at the sun rising from the eastern sky and watch its rays light up the shrine which was really a tomb for their ancestors. These people had a sense of the divine just as the Jewish people did as they in their turn waited for the promise to be fulfilled, the promise of a messiah, a saviour who would bring them out of darkness into wonderful light.

One of the stories associated the birth of Our Lord is that of the wise men travelling many miles to worship the new-born King of Israel. They are called Magi by St Matthew, a name of Persian origin. They were learned men who studied the religions of many nations. They were excellent astronomers whose knowledge of the heavens enabled them to be good astrologers. When they saw something special in the heavens in about 6BC they linked it with the expectations of the Jewish people and so they set off on their journey of faith.

The story of the Magi tells us of the gifts they brought. The gift of gold, fit for a king. Frankincense, for the Son of God. Myrrh, to anoint the dead body of the Suffering Servant.

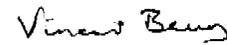
The shepherds and the wise men were called to worship the new-born king who would be revealed as the Son of God. He had a message to give not only to the Jewish people but to all the peoples of the earth. That message is contained in the good news (Gospel) given to us by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Pope Francis invites us to share the joy of the Gospel with the people we meet in our daily lives. There are people who were baptised and brought up in the Catholic faith but who have fallen away from the practice of that faith. Pope Francis and Cardinal Nichols have asked us to help these people to return to join us at Sunday Mass.

The annual feast of Epiphany calls us out of darkness into light. It invites us to find a new path as we begin this New Year.

We should be like Pope Francis and his predecessor Pope Benedict and value the gift of hope as we continue on our journey of faith. We will meet people on the way who are vulnerable, fragile, even lost and in need of a new sense of direction. We may be a bit fragile ourselves. We have the assurance that we are not alone. We are not always aware of his presence but he is our constant companion on the road.

I am most grateful to Father Brian Reynolds who is with us this weekend to celebrate our three Sunday masses.

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Canon Berry would like to thank you for the many cards and personal gifts he received and especially your very generous Christmas Offerings which came to £1,523.65.

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.

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 prize-winner was Liz Westcott.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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