

## Notices for the week beginning 14 December 2014

### Sunday 14 December 2014 Third Sunday of Advent

Mass Book, pages 7 and 90

Mass 6.00 pm (Vigil) Fr Frank Hickman (Anniversary); 8.30 am Intentions of Sue Valentine; 10.30 am Amy and Damascene De Souza and Anthony Bentley RIP

Monday *Advent Feria*

No Mass

Tuesday *Advent Feria*

No Mass

Wednesday *Advent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Harold & Margaret Leadbeater (Anniversary)

Thursday *Advent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Kathleen O'Connor (Anniversary)

Friday *Advent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Margaret Demedecka (Anniversary)

followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday *St Lucy*

Confessions: 10 – 10.30 am; 5.15 – 5.45 pm

### Sunday 21 December 2014 Fourth Sunday of Advent

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, 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; *Lately Dead*: Fr Brian Nash and Malcolm Cottle; *Anniversaries*: Fr Frank Hickman, Sr Cecile Agnes, Sr Cecile Madeleine, Sr Louise Françoise, Sr Marie Alexis, Robert Andrew, Frank Bates, Anthony Bentley, Robert Bonsall, Annie Brogan, Ann Cooke, Richard Cusack, Edith Davies, Margaret Demidecka, Michael Gamble, Bob Hart, Vincent Keough, Maureen Lawless, Harold and Margaret Leadbeater, Teresa McLaughlan, Harry Moore, Mary Muir-Mackenzie, Kathleen O'Connor, Bernard Petersen, Florence Roden, Colin Shepherd, Ludmilla and Emanuel Sitta. May they rest in peace.

### PARISH MINISTRIES

2014		6.00 pm Vigil	8.30 am	10.30 am
20/21 Dec	E	G Booth F Sherratt	A Halliday	P Apps W Hinds
	R	M Miles J Lee	S Wright L Hutt	S Lewington H Houston
	W		D Kerr	J Brown

### OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

Envelopes: £373.36

Loose: £175.56

Building Fund: £73.51

# PARISH NEWS

14 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](mailto: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](mailto:danyouthwork@gmail.com)

Local Catholic Schools: St Thomas More (Primary), Berkhamsted, phone 01442 385060 website: [www.stmore.herts.sch.uk](http://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](http://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

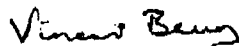
The entrance chant at mass today begins with the words (in Latin) Gaudete in Domino semper, which in English means: Rejoice in the Lord always. As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Saviour means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. As a symbol of this joy the priest wears rose coloured vestments instead of purple or violet which is the customary colour for Advent.

Today we first hear the words of the prophet Isaiah which Our Lord himself read out in the synagogue at Nazareth: "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God." This message continues in the first letter written by St Paul where he tells the people of Thessalonica to rejoice in the Lord always, to pray without ceasing, to give thanks in all circumstances because, he says "this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." He goes on to say: "Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets; but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil."

Today we hear about the mission of John the Baptist from St John's Gospel rather than St Mark's Gospel, a man who was sent by God to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. Religious leaders from Jerusalem came to find out who he was. John tells them that he is not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet. All he will say to them is: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord. When they ask him why he baptises the people, he answers: "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." John is telling them that he is the forerunner of the Messiah, the one who will give them the essential truths of life.

There was something special about John. Our Lord himself said: "Of all of the men born of women, none was greater than John the Baptist." Advent is a time of special grace for us. We should take John the Baptist as an example. He put Christ first. When Jesus arrived on the scene, John's mission was over. He withdrew, even sending Andrew and his other disciples to Jesus saying: "He must increase, I must decrease."

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. Many thanks to all of you who have volunteered so far.

### **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 today.

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

Churches Together in Tring has published a flyer giving the times of services of the churches in Tring and surrounding villages. This is included with today's newsletter.

### **FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES**

The children are now preparing for their First Confession (First Reconciliation). At the 10.30 mass today they will be presented with their books.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:tring@rcdow.org.uk).

### **WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK**

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

### **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](mailto:tring@rcdow.org.uk).

### **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](http://www.justgiving.com/HarrietteElizabethHickey). Many thanks to all who have already contributed to her Appeal.