

Letter from Langdon Street

My dear people

A few days ago we celebrated the feast of St Justin the Martyr. He was a remarkable man who studied different philosophies and religions before committing himself to the Christian Faith. He used his gift of writing to explain to others why he was a Christian. He described how Christians met each week for mass. He used the word Eucharist to describe this, a word which in Greek means Thanksgiving. He described how people met to hear passages from the Bible read and how the meaning of the Scriptures was explained by the priest or bishop who was described as the president of the assembly. After prayers for the community were offered the bread and wine were brought forward to be blessed. He explains it all as follows: We call this food Eucharist; and no one else is permitted to partake of it, except one who has been washed in the washing [baptism] which is for the remission of sins and for regeneration and is thereby living as Christ has enjoined. For not as common bread or common drink do we receive these; but since Jesus Christ our Saviour was made incarnate by the word of God and had both flesh and blood for our salvation, so too, as we have been taught, the food which has been made into the Eucharist by the Eucharistic prayer set down by Him and by the change of which our blood and flesh is nourished is both the flesh and blood of the incarnated Jesus. The apostles, in the Memoirs which they produced, which we called Gospels, have thus passed on that which was enjoined upon them: that Jesus took bread and, having given thanks, said, 'Do this in remembrance of me; this is My Body. And in like manner, taking the cup, and having given thanks, He said, 'This is my Blood.'

What the Apostles and First Christians did long ago is what we are still doing today as we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi. We are celebrating the Mystery of Faith, the Mystery of the Body and Blood of the Lord, God's greatest gift to his people.

For three hundred years the Christians practiced their faith in secret. At the end of mass Holy Communion was taken to the sick and to those in prison. We honour two teenagers, Pancras and Tarcissus, who were arrested when they were on their way to prison. Holy Communion was kept in secret so that the sick could be ministered to during the week. When freedom came with the Emperor Constantine churches were built and pagan temples were converted into churches. The Blessed Sacrament was kept in a secure place, often hanging in a container shaped like a dove. Later the modern tabernacle was used instead, located in a side chapel or at the side of the main altar.

The Blessed Sacrament was reserved for the sick but gradually it became a focal point for devotion to the Real Presence of the Lord. During the Middle Ages processions began in honour of the Blessed Eucharist and the feast of Corpus Christi was introduced. For us in Tring it is also the titular feast of our church and parish. Our 10.30 mass will conclude with a procession in honour of the Blessed Sacrament.

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

GRAND PUDDING QUIZ

The Justice and Peace Group, Tring invite you to a Grand Pudding Quiz next Saturday 13 June. It will be in our parish hall. It will run from 7.30 pm to 9.45 pm. This is a fun quiz for all ages with delicious puddings and cakes during the interval ((included in the ticket price). Tea, coffee and soft drinks provided. Tickets cost £5.00 and £2.50 for under 16s. Please contact Margaret 07767 770505 or email Margaret.donnelly@hotmail.co.uk

OUR MINISTRY TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We have a number of activities for children and young people: 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 is a monthly Film Club for children (School years 3+) from 4.30-6.30 pm and Messy Church is on the third Sunday of the month.

END OF YEAR BBQ

Please make a note of this in your diary, mobile or tablet. On Sunday 19 July after the 10.30 mass. Messy Church, SPOG and the Youth Club are having a combined celebration. All are welcome. We would be glad of help in preparing for this. Please get in touch with Dan.

RED MISSION BOXES

Boxes are now due for collection. Promoters are asked to give cheques and monies to Jenny Brown by the week beginning 22 June. Any boxes not collected can be left at Church for her attention. Tel. No: 01442 824627.

LORETO REUNION

Past pupils of Loreto School are invited to the 2015 reunion on Saturday 27 June, 2.30 to 5.30 pm. The head teacher, Mrs Maire Lynch would like to meet you and give you the opportunity to see how the school has changed and to look to the future. Please phone Eileen and Pat on 01727 863431 or email loretoreunion@outlook.com.

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 tel. 0161 941 3498, visit the website www.catholicsingles.org.uk or email info@catholicsingles.org.uk

WORKAID

Congratulations to WORKAID which is based at the Old Boot Factory, 71 Townsend Road, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 2AA. This local charity provides work training at home and abroad and also tools for the many trades being taught. They rely completely on voluntary donations and have recently been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4 July	Prayer Breakfast at High Street Baptist Church at 8.30 am
19 July	End of Year BBQ, after 10.30 mass
1 August	Prayer Breakfast at St Martha's Methodist Church at 8.30 am
5 September	Prayer Breakfast at Corpus Christi Church at 8.30 am
3 October	Prayer Breakfast at St Peter & St Paul Church at 8.30 am

5 December Prayer Breakfast at New Mill Baptist Church at 8.30 am

Breakfast is served at 8.30 am followed by prayer for local and world needs