

Notices for the week beginning 23 August 2015

Sunday 23 August 2015 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Book, pages 7 and 123

6.00 pm (Vigil) Terry Lynch (Anniversary); 8.30 am; Private Intention;

10.30 am Mary Sanger (Anniversary)

Monday *St Louis*

No Mass

Tuesday *Blessed Dominic Barberi*

No Mass

Wednesday *St Monica*

Mass: 10.00 am Mary Sanger (Anniversary)

Thursday *St Augustine of Hippo*

Mass: 10.00 am Evie Hutt (Thanksgiving)

Friday *The Passion of St John the Baptist*

Mass: 10.00 am Tim Hynds (Anniversary)

followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday *Saints Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line and Margaret Ward*

Confessions 10.00-10.30 am; 5.15-5.45 pm

Sunday 30 August 2015 22st Sunday in Ordinary Time

6.00 pm (Vigil) Terry Lynch (Anniversary); 8.30 am ; Private Intention;

10.30 am Mary Sanger (Anniversary)

PRAYERS

Please pray for: *Sick*: Terry Andrew, Rose Beck, Gaby Boccino, Maria Breen, Barbara Clarke, Rob Court, Nina & Erica De Cesco, Frank Dalton, Melanie Edwards, Jenny Fulcher, Gwen Herbert, Michael Hornsby, Adeline Lewis, Charlie Lynch, Sheila McGrath, Colin McHugh, Gerry O'Shaughnessy, Honor Owen, Lana Ridley, Gill Rollsprayer, Charlie Rossley, Claire Sutton, Roy Underhill and Naomi Wadling.

Lately Dead: Brian Wolfenden; *Anniversaries*:

Sr Bertha Gonzaga, Sr Mary Bernadetta,

Eileen Brady, John Keane, Peter Keough, Edwina Johnson, John Keane, Eleanor Lettin, John Malone, Micada Matejak, Hermann Ostman, Harry Rogers, Henrietta Thorpe, Peter Wallen and Mary Watts. May they rest in peace.

PARISH MINISTRIES

2015	6.00 pm	8.30 am	10.30 am
29/30 August E	F Sherratt	A Halliday	D Long
R	J Lee	C Pennicott	H Houston
W	M Valentine	M Hart	P Apps
		S Kerr	G Maloney
			J Brown

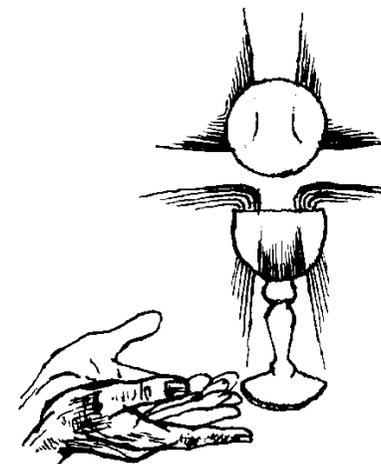
OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Envelopes: £263.00 Loose: £199.37 Building Fund: £47.00

PARISH NEWS

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

23 August 2015



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

The Gospel today tells us that in life we are sometimes offered a fundamental choice. We come to a crossroad where we have to choose one direction or another. This choice was originally offered by Joshua who succeeded Moses to lead the people of Israel into the Promised Land. Before crossing the river Jordan they had to choose between serving the Lord, the one God, or serving pagan gods. Our Lord offers us a share in a unique, loving and utterly faithful relationship with God that would last for eternity.

During the last few weeks we have listened to the words of Jesus in St John's Gospel about the mystery of the Eucharist. Today we come to the final passage where Our Lord explains the way we can receive life from him. The very thought of eating his flesh and drinking his blood was too much for some of the people listening to him. They walked away. He was not prepared to water down his teaching to curry favour and stop them walking away. He then asked the apostles what they were going to do. Were they going to walk away too? Peter spoke up for them all when he said: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the message of eternal life."

There are moments in our life when we receive the grace of the sacraments. Some we receive only once, like baptism. The Holy Eucharist is meant to be received regularly. The first Christians received it every Sunday when they gathered together for what they called the breaking of bread, the Eucharist and the Sacred Mysteries and what we call the Mass. It was a tragedy for a Christian to fall from grace by sinning. They were expelled from the community which prevented them from receiving Holy Communion. They were excommunicated. It was only after doing penance that they were reconciled to the Church and restored to full communion with their fellow Christians. They could then receive Holy Communion once again.

We have for a long time understood that if anyone gets divorced and remarries, they are in a permanent state of excommunication which deprives them of the sacraments until they are approaching death. Last week Pope Francis suggested that such people should not be considered excommunicated. This has set the cat among the pigeons. Bishops and theologians are arguing among themselves about this. What do we mere mortals, priests and people in our local parishes, have to say about this? Will our voices be heard when the bishops meet with the pope at the Synod later this year?

Today's mass includes a passage from St Paul's letter to the Ephesians where he talks about our relationship with Christ and the Church, symbolised by the loving relationship between a husband and wife. Every Christian is called to integrity of life, to holiness. This is a message from the Second Vatican Council. A Polish priest, Maximilian Kolbe, who was martyred in Auschwitz Concentration Camp, travelled the world calling people to holiness. He said: "Today, holiness is a necessity, not a luxury." Most people achieve holiness within and *through* their marriage partnership. This idea might make some people nervous, because they have too austere an idea of holiness; consequently they find it hard to see how their marriage fits into it. For too long the idea of vocation has been restricted to people who have chosen celibacy in the priesthood and religious life. The vocation of marriage was the poor relation. The vocation to holiness and the choice of married life have been seen as two parallel lines which don't intersect. By contrast, St Paul saw the faithful living of family life as a basic

way to holiness. This is not some second-best option for those who have neither the talent nor the zeal for apostolic works. Our Church links holiness with lovingly embracing our role in this world. The married Christian's vocation is to show genuine love as husband, wife, mother or father. Of course, to exercise this love with integrity is not so easy. The statistics of marriage breakdown suggest how hard it is to sustain a permanent relationship. Nevertheless, the Church, which includes you and me, must continue to stress the ideal of marriage as a loving, life-long and life-giving relationship.

Most of us have met people of extraordinary courage who remained faithful despite the strain of marriage difficulties such as a partner's prolonged illness, or separation due to work commitments. The promise made in Christian marriage is the commitment to no longer being the sole master or mistress of our own destiny. The married Christian can no longer think merely in terms of "my life" – for everything is now related to another. This commitment is not one-sided but is mutually shared and mutually life-giving. At root of it all is the mystery of Christ's love, laying down our life for another. It is in and through this loving relationship, in the joy of giving and receiving love, that the married Christian is called to holiness.

Please remember Barbara Clark in your prayers. She is gravely ill. She and her husband Frank are devoted members of St Martha's Methodist Church and are active members of Churches Together. They always attend the monthly prayer breakfast and other inter-church events. In two weeks' time it will be our turn to act as hosts for the Prayer Breakfast.

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

ASSISTED SUICIDE

On Friday 11th September the House of Commons will debate and vote on a Bill to legalise assisted suicide. This will put the most vulnerable people in our society at risk. Please contact your MP, urging them to attend the debate and vote against the Bill. You can send an e-mail to your MP via the Catholic Bishops' Conference website (www.catholicnews.org.uk/assisted-suicide) or send a letter by post, a draft of which can be found at the back of the Church. Even better, you could ask to see your MP and express your concerns directly. There are cards available in church today.

FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2016

In September we shall be preparing children in the parish for their First Holy Communion next spring. Application forms are available at the back of church.

NEW MILL BAPTIST CHURCH

It is 360 years since a Baptist Chapel was opened for the people of New Mill. All are invited to join them on Saturday 26 September, between 11.00 am and 4.00 pm to celebrate the opening of their new church hall. Full details are on the notice at the back of our church.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 1 September, 7.30 pm, Pray and Fast at New Mill Baptist Church
Saturday 5 September, Prayer Breakfast at Corpus Christi Church at 8.30 am
Thursday 1 October, 12.30 pm, Pray and Fast at High Street Baptist Church