

Notices for the week beginning 29 November 2015

Sunday 29 November 2015 First Sunday of Advent

Mass Book, pages 7 and 82

6.00 pm (Vigil) Dymphna O'Shea and Pauline Lynch; 8.30 am Holy Souls;

10.30 am People of the Parish

Monday *St Andrew*

No Mass

Tuesday *Advent Feria*

No Mass

Wednesday *Advent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Holy Souls

Thursday *St Francis Xavier*

Mass 9.30 am Holy Souls

Friday *Advent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Holy Souls

followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday *Advent Feria*

Confessions 10.00-10.30 am; 5.15-5.45 pm

Sunday 29 November 2015 First Sunday of Advent

6.00 pm (Vigil) Mary Gallagher (Lately Dead); 8.30 am Margaret Monninabarry;

10.30 am Intentions of Michael Apps

PRAYERS

Please pray for: **Sick:** Terry Andrew, Rose Beck, Nina & Erica De Cesco, Frank Dalton, Melanie Edwards, Gwen Herbert, Michael Hornsby, Mary and Michael Howlings, Adeline Lewis, Sheila McGrath, Colin McHugh, Gerry O'Shaughnessy, Honor Owen, Sam Patel, Lana Ridley, Michael Rogers, Claire Sutton and Naomi Wadling.

Lately Dead: Father John Formby and Alexander Turner; **Anniversaries:** Charlotte Angheltesku, Tess Bradley, Langston Buck, Frank Czaykowski, Paul Grimm, John Hurley, Margorie Kelly, Richard Kennedy, Josefa Kowalewska, Michael Lyons, William McCall, Ellen Mitchell, Ted Molloy, Jenny Morley, Muriel Morris, Elias Vasili, Mary Walker, Geoffrey Whitehead and all the Holy Souls. May they rest in peace.

PARISH MINISTRIES

2015		6.00 pm	8.30 am	10.30 am
28/29 Nov	E	F Sherratt G Booth	A Halliday	D Long W Hinds
	R	M Sherratt D Leadbeater	W Winstone L Hutt	S Lewington H Houston
	W		D Kerr	

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Envelopes: £176.21 Loose: £190.50 Building Fund: £50.92

PARISH NEWS

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

29 November 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
Holydays
Weekday
Saturday

Mass: 6.00 pm (Vigil), 8.30 am and 10.30 am

Mass: 10.00 am and 7.30 pm

Mass: Wednesday to Friday 10.00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 10.00 – 10.30 am

5.15 - 5.45 pm

Letter from Langdon Street

My dear people

The picture on the cover of this week's newsletter is the official logo of the Jubilee Year of Mercy which begins in a week's time, on Tuesday 8 December, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. This date is also the fiftieth anniversary on the closing of the Second Vatican Council. It was to mark this event that Pope Francis decided to declare a holy year. The motto of the Year of Mercy is "Merciful like the Father." Sometimes, when we think of the word *mercy*, we picture someone throwing themselves on their knees before a cruel villain, pleading to be spared some punishment. This is not our understanding of God's mercy. We do not ask for God's mercy because we are afraid of incurring his wrath as punishment for our sins. Rather, when we call on God to have mercy, we are calling on God in the only way we know him—as one who responds with compassion to those in need. When we show mercy to others, we are responding as God responds, with compassion.

Pope Francis recently spoke about the parable of the Merciful Father, the one we normally call the parable of the Prodigal Son. He said: "I am always struck by this parable. It impresses me because it always gives me great hope. Think of that younger son who was in the father's house, who was loved; and yet he wants his part of the inheritance. He goes off, spends everything, hits rock bottom, where he could not be more distant from the father. Yet when he is at his lowest, he misses the warmth of the father's house and he goes back. And the father? Had he forgotten the son? No, never. He is there, he sees the son from afar; he was waiting for him every hour of every day. The son was always in his father's heart, even though he had left him, even though he had squandered his whole inheritance, his freedom. The father, with patience, love, hope, and mercy had never for a second stopped thinking about him, and as soon as he sees him still far off, he runs out to meet him and embraces him with tenderness, the tenderness of God, without a word of reproach: his son has returned! And that is the joy of the father. In that embrace for his son is all this joy: he has returned!"

God's love for us is revealed not just as love but also of mercy and compassion. Those of you who are of my generation will remember having to learn the catechism off by heart. One group I remember is what we call the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. These are actions that we can perform to extend God's mercy and compassion to those in need. The Corporal Works are those kindly acts by which we help our neighbours in their material and physical needs. The Spiritual Works are acts of compassion by which we help our neighbours with their emotional and spiritual needs.

The Corporal Works of Mercy are to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned and bury the dead. The Spiritual Works of Mercy are to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offenses, bear wrongs patiently and pray for the living and the dead.

Pope Francis hopes that the Jubilee Year of Mercy will be for all believers a true moment of encounter with the mercy of God and a living experience of the closeness of the Father.

Yours sincerely

Vincent Berry

Parish Priest

CORPUS CHRISTI FRIENDSHIP GROUP

We have formed a friendship group in our Parish. It meets on Monday mornings at 10.30 am in Anusia's Coffee Shop in Tring High Street. Our aim is that we meet together and enjoy each other's company. If you are interested, please phone Wendy on 01442 824369 or Simon on 01442 826681. Lifts can be provided if necessary.

PREPARING FOR OUR JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

We are preparing for this year's Nativity Play. The Holy Family were displaced (having to go to Bethlehem to conform with Roman regulations) and later having to flee for their lives (Herod's massacre) to become refugees in Egypt for several years. The world has not changed!

The Nativity Play will be part of our Christmas Eve Mass for families which will bring together the children who are part of SPOG, the Sunday Children's Liturgy Group and the First Communion Class. We hope other children will join in. We need to start planning for this as soon as possible.

SWEET SINGING IN THE CHOIR

We would like to form a choir to sing the Christmas Midnight Mass. We already have a group of singers but we would like more members. If you would like to volunteer please send an email message to tring@rcdow.org.uk.

THE PLAYING OF THE MERRY ORGAN

It is sad to say farewell to Barrie Maloney who has played the organ at mass Sunday after Sunday for nearly eight years. He has recently moved to North Yorkshire and will be sadly missed. We need to find a replacement. Jane Bird and Chris Howlings continue to play but their work commitments mean that they are often away at weekends. If you play the piano or keyboard you will be able to canon play the organ. Please come and try. We have music at the Saturday 6 pm mass and at the Sunday 10.30 mass. If anyone has trained to play the organ, so much the better. Please contact Canon Berry at tring@rcdow.org.uk

THE ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This will take place on Saturday 12 December, from 7 to 10 pm. This is an opportunity to prepare for Christmas with various local bands singing acoustic blues and jazzy music. Tickets cost £2. All are welcome. A tuck shop will be available. Please contact Dan for tickets.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Each year we invite you to contribute to the cost of decorating the church with flowers for the Christmas celebrations. There will be a collection after mass on the weekends of 6 and 13 December.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY CONCERT

The Christmas Community Concert, organised by the Justice and Peace Group, will this year be next Saturday 5 December 5 in the Victoria Hall, Akeman Street starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Beechwood Fine Foods, 42 Frogmore Street, Tring. This year as well as community singing there will be musicians from Tring School and the Franciscan Choir. Net proceeds will go to the Sethule Orphans Trust, Zimbabwe

