

Notices for the week beginning 27 December 2015

Sunday 27 December 2015 Feast of the Holy Family

Mass Book, pages 7 and 105

6.00 pm (Vigil) People of the Parish; 8.30 am Paul Mostyn (Sick);

10.30 am Gwen Herbert (Lately Dead)

Monday *Feast of the Holy Innocents*

No Mass

Tuesday *St Thomas Becket*

No Mass

Wednesday *Christmas Octave*

Mass 10.00 am Patsy Collins (Sick)

Thursday *Christmas Octave*

Mass 10.00 am Laurie Taylor (Anniversary)

Friday *Solemnity of the Mother of God*

Mass 10.00 am Deceased Parents of David and Mary Leadbeater

Saturday *St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen*

Confessions 10.00-10.30 am; 5.15-5.45 pm

Sunday 3 January 2016 Feast of the Epiphany

6.00 pm (Vigil) Intentions of David and Mary Leadbeater; 8.30 am Libby Shaw (Lately Dead); 10.30 am People of the Parish

PRAYERS

Please pray for: **Sick:** Terry Andrew, Nina & Erica De Cesco, 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, Warren Ward, Naomi Wadling, Anne Wilkinson and Susan Wright; **Lately Dead:** Gwen Herbert Libby Shaw; **Anniversaries:** Mother Anne de Sales, Ted Ainsworth, Godfrey Bambridge, Doris Green, Sheila Heather-Hayes, George Herbert, John Kelly, Bridget Keough, James McAul, John Charles McKernan, James O'Shaughnessy, John Potter, Phyllis Potter, Mary Toman, Sheree Watson, Joseph Smith, Raxma Whitehead and James Woodcock. May they rest in peace.

PARISH MINISTRIES

2015	6.00 pm	8.30 am	10.30 am
2/3 Jan 2016	E F Sherratt G Booth	A Halliday	H Houston D Long
	R D Leadbeater J Lee	P Milton C Pennicott	G Maloney P Apps
	W	S Kerr	J Brown

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Envelopes: £242.66 Loose: £212.93 Building Fund: £46.00

PARISH NEWS

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

27 December 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

Today is the last Sunday in 2015 and today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. It is not just about the Holy Family on Nazareth. It is about our own families too. The Holy Family is a model for all Christian families, and for domestic life in general. Our family life becomes sanctified when we live the life of the Church within our homes. This is sometimes called the "domestic church" or the "church in miniature." St. John Chrysostom, one of the early Fathers of the Church, urged all Christians to make each home a "family church." Just how does one live out the Church in the family? The best way is by making Christ the centre of family and individual life. Ways to do this include: reading scripture regularly, praying daily, attending Mass at least on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, imitating the actions of the Holy Family, going to confession frequently, and so forth, all done together as a family unit. A few weeks ago Pope Francis opened the special jubilee year which he has called the Year of Mercy. One of the events which marked the beginning of this special year was to open the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica in Rome. He chose 8 December as the opening day because on that day fifty years ago the Second Vatican Council had come to an end. This Council has had a profound effect on the life of the Church and he reminds us the Council said that "the Church is called to be, in Christ, the visible sign of God's merciful love for the entire human family. Each of us, by practicing charity, mercy and forgiveness, can be a sign of the power of God's love to transform hearts and to bring reconciliation and peace."

When we walk through a door we pass from one space to another. When we walk through one of the Holy Doors, such as the one at Westminster Cathedral, we are passing through a door of mercy. Pope Francis tells us that by passing through the Door of Mercy during this Holy Year, we show our desire to enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ's redemptive love. In St John's Gospel Jesus tells us that he himself is the door to eternal life. He asks us, through genuine conversion, to open the doors of our hearts to a more sincere love of God and neighbour. He says that a special sign of grace in this Jubilee of Mercy is the sacrament of Penance, in which Christ invites us to acknowledge our sinfulness, to experience his mercy, and to receive the grace which can make us ever more effective signs of his reconciling love at work in our world.

In 1939, when this country was standing alone in the dark depths of war, King George VI in his Christmas Day broadcast quotes from a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins: "I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown!' And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.' So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night, and he led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the loan East."

After each of the Christmas masses, I gave out a prayer book compiled by Cardinal Nichols as a companion for the Holy Year. There are spare copies so please take one today.

Yours sincerely

Vincent Berry

Parish Priest

CHRISTMAS THANKS

Canon Berry would like to thank all who helped prepare our church for our Christmas services. The Christmas tree and the floral decorations look lovely. You generously contributed over £300 towards the flowers. The Children's mass was spectacular with the Nativity Play. The choir sang beautifully at the Midnight Mass. Everything went off so well.

He would also like to thank you for your Christmas cards and personal gifts and for your very generous Christmas offerings.

TON UP CLUB

The winners of the last draws of 2015 were David Long (no.47) and Ingrid Fido (no.51) winning £50 each and the Christmas bonus draw of £100 was won by Noreen Robinson (no.56). A full list of winners can be seen on the notice board at the back of the church.

A few renewal payments of £20 are still outstanding and anyone who would like to join the Ton Up Club should contact Heather Houston h.houston@ntlworld.com or phone 01442 386657. One monthly prize is £50 is on offer plus the Christmas bonus draw of £100. All proceeds to the church building fund.

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.

PREPARATION FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Classes for First Confession and First Communion begin each autumn. Registration takes place in September.

PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

Classes begin shortly and Registration forms are available at the back of church.

GETTING MARRIED

If you are planning to get married during the coming year, please get in touch with the parish office as soon as possible preferably at least six months before the wedding.

There is a great deal of paper work involved, especially if people are planning to marry overseas. Many countries, including our own, require couples to attend marriage preparation programme. We arrange this in our parish.

Occasionally two couples want to be married on the same day. We confirm the date and time of weddings at least six months before the event. If a second couple wishes to marry on the same day they will have to make their arrangements around the time of the first wedding. There needs to be a gap of two hours between weddings. If a couple have chosen to marry at 3.00 pm, latecomers can only get married at 1.00pm or earlier, Five o'clock would not be possible since it would clash with preparations for the Saturday evening mass.

If anyone is planning a second marriage, please do not make any firm plans until you have discussed your situation with a priest. If the first marriage requires a church annulment, the process takes at least a year.