

Notices for the week beginning 10 January 2016

Sunday 10 January 2016 Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord

Mass Book, pages 7 and 118

6.00 pm (Vigil) Intentions of David and Mary Leadbeater; 8.30 am Raxma Whitehead (Anniversary); 10.30 am Intentions of Lana Lucas

Monday *Feria*

No Mass

Tuesday *St Aelred of Rievaulx*

Mass 11.00 am **Funeral of Mary Gray**

Wednesday *St Hilary*

Mass 10.00 am Intentions of the family of Wendy Hinds

Thursday *Feria*

Mass 10.00 am People of the Parish

Friday *Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Intentions of David and Mary Leadbeater followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday *Feria*

Confessions 10.00-10.30 am; 5.15-5.45 pm

Sunday 17 January 2016 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

6.00 pm (Vigil) Mary Gray (Lately Dead); 8.30 am Kate Andrew and Family; 10.30 am Inten

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:** Mary Gray, Rita Lonsdale and Betty O'Connolly; **Anniversaries:** Sister Elizabeth Barrett, Ewart Gladstone Barker, Pat Bevan, Thomas Brogan, Maggie Brown, Joseph Chovanec, Joseph Close, Kaspor Grob, Rosa Hammond, Mary Agnes King, Joseph Larkin, Joseph and Lumila Mazany, Peter Miles, Elizabeth Minshall, Margaret Murphy, Neil Moore, Sam Perigini, Margaret Sammons, Gordon Joseph Wallen and Raxma Whitehead. May they rest in peace.

PARISH MINISTRIES

2015		6.00 pm	8.30 am	10.30 am
16/17 Jan	E	F Sherratt G Booth	A Halliday	D Long H Houston
	R	D Leadbeater S Wright	W Winstone L Hutt	P Apps G Maloney
	W		S Kerr	J Brown

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Envelopes: £241.08 Loose: £228.42 Building Fund: £46.50

PARISH NEWS

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

10 January 2016



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

Today our celebration of the birth of Jesus comes to an end and we move forward in time to his baptism in the River Jordan. The cover picture for today's newsletter shows Pope Francis visiting the spot where traditionally the baptism of Our Lord took place.

Our Lord had a mission in life. He was the Son of God, full of knowledge, but he was also the Son of Mary and as a human being he had to learn from human experience. There was a transition between being a tiny baby born in a stable, getting lost in the Temple a year before his Bar Mitzveh when officially he reached maturity according to Jewish custom. Now at the age of thirty he was about to begin his public ministry. He did not need to be baptised by John the Baptist. He was no repentant sinner seeking purification. St John told him that they should reverse their roles. However, Our Lord insisted because he saw the event as an important moment as he began his public ministry. Most painters of the scene show God's presence in the dove coming down from heaven. The Church understands this moment as the point in his life when he made a firm commitment to fulfilling what his heavenly Father had asked him to do. Later, in the presence of Pontius Pilate, he would admit it: I was born for this. Commitment is a special moment in all our lives. It is when we make an important decision. Perhaps, what we will do when we leave school, or when we decide to get married, or decide to be a priest or join a religious order. When we make a commitment there is no going back. In today's Gospel St Luke tells us that Jesus was at prayer when the baptism took place. Luke refers to the fact that he was praying at several important moments in his life. We hear the words of the Father: "You are my beloved Son; my favour rests on you." St Luke seems to want us to understand that this was some form of commissioning for Our Lord.

What is this mission? The prophet Isaiah tells us today how the Messiah will fill in valleys and flatten hills and valleys. In other words he is removing obstacles that will get in the way of the glory of God being revealed. The prophet also speaks of the Messiah as feeding his flock like a shepherd and gathering lambs in his arms to carry them in his bosom to take them to the mother ewe. St Paul tells his friend Titus that Our Lord wants us to set aside "worldly passions" that will get in the way of achieving what Our Lord has in mind for us to do as part of his mission. Today's celebration of Our Lord's baptism gives us the opportunity to reflect on our own baptism. For most of us it happened a long time ago when it "made" us into Catholics. I was only ten days old when I was "christened" in a ceremony lasting just a few minutes in the presence of the priest and two godparents. My father was there but had no part to play in the ceremony. My mother was still at home in confinement and not allowed out of the house. Such was the practice in those days. One of the great changes that came out of the Second Vatican Council was to involve the parents in the ceremony. The ceremony is now seen as the beginning of a lifelong journey, no longer just a private family affair. As babies we cannot speak for ourselves. Our parents and godparents speak for us. At some later stage in our lives we will be called to be a living witness to the Gospel, to be the salt of the earth, to be a light shining in the darkness. Our baptism is a never-ending call to follow in the footsteps of Christ.

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

CORPUS CHRISTI FRIENDSHIP GROUP

We have formed a friendship group in our Parish. It meets on Monday mornings at 10.30 am. Until recently it met in Anusia's Coffee Shop in Tring High Street. Unfortunately Anusia's has had to close. For the time being it will meet in the Akeman, Akeman 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.

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.

A BIG THANK YOU

Margaret, Heather and Sheree would like to thank you for your very generous donations for the Christmas Flower Fund. Your contributions came to £285.35. They would like to wish you and your families every blessing for a happy and peaceful New Year.

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 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.