

## Notices for the week beginning 24 January 2016

### Sunday 24 January 2016 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Book, pages 7 and 129

6.00 pm (Vigil) Intentions of Helen Sherratt ; 8.30 am Kate Andrew and Family;

10.30 am People of the Parish

Monday *Feast of the Conversion of St Paul*

No Mass

Tuesday *St Timothy & St Titus, Disciples of St Paul*

No Mass

Wednesday *Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Private Intention

Thursday *St Thomas Aquinas*

Mass 10.00 am Private Intention

Friday *Feria*

Communion Service 10.00 am

followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday *Feria*

Confessions 10.00-10.30 am; 5.15-5.45 pm

### Sunday 31 January 2016 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

6.00 pm (Vigil) Sheila McGrath (Lately Dead); 8.30 am Andrew Scotland (Anniversary);

10.30 am Dennis Kelly (Sick)

### PRAYERS

Please pray for: **Sick:** Terry Andrew, Nina & Erica De Cesco, Michael Hornsby, Mary and Michael Howlings, Adeline Lewis, Colin McHugh, Gerry O'Shaughnessy, Honor Owen, Sam Patel, Lana Ridley, Claire Sutton, Warren Ward, Naomi Wadling, Anne Wilkinson and Susan Wright; **Lately Dead:** Sheila McGrath.; **Anniversaries:** Father Henry Hardy (Founder of our Parish), Liz Atthews, Margaret Bambridge, John Bass, Mollie Cahle, Kathy Copcutt, Alice Durkin, Joanne Hussey, Henry Kerr, Bridget Kirkum, Margaret McCarthy, Eliese Mazzullo, Kathleen Nearly, Lenore Potter, Alistair Pratt, Andrew Scotland, Lyn Smith, Margaret Taylor, Molly Wall and Harvey Wright. May they rest in peace.

### PARISH MINISTRIES

2015		6.00 pm	8.30 am	10.30 am
30/31 Jan	E	F Sherratt	A Halliday	D Marsh
		O Conway		A De Cesco
	R	M Sherratt	D Crauford	G Maloney
		D Leadbeater	L Hutt	P Apps
	W		S Kerr	J Brown

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Envelopes: £121.66      Loose: £109.25      Building Fund: £23.50

## PARISH NEWS

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

24 January 2016



Parish Priest: Canon Vincent Berry

Presbytery: 51 Langdon Street, Tring, Herts, HP23 6BA  
telephone 01442 823161      email [tring@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:danyouthwork@gmail.com)

Local Catholic Schools: St Thomas More (Primary), Berkhamsted, phone 01442 385060

website: [www.stmore.herts.sch.uk](http://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](http://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

Last Wednesday Pope Francis, on a cold winter's day, greeted thousands of people in the warmth of the Paul the VI hall instead of St Peter's Square. He spoke about the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which finishes tomorrow, the feast of the Conversion of St Pauli. He reflected on the theme for the week taken from the first letter of Saint Peter, "Called to proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord", which he said was chosen by an ecumenical group in Latvia. He said that this Week of Prayer invites us to "reflect on, and bear witness to, our unity in Christ as God's People." He went on to say that all those baptized, reborn to new life in Christ, are brothers and sisters, despite, "our divisions."

Continuing on the theme of baptism, he said that it meant rediscovering the source of mercy, which is a source of hope for all, and he underlined, "no one is excluded from God's mercy." Sharing this grace, he added "creates an unbreakable bond between us Christians", so that, by virtue of Baptism, we can consider ourselves brothers. He concluded by saying: The Lord would help all Christians to grow in that unity "which is greater than what divides us," adding, "together, may we respond to his call to share with others, especially with the poor and forgotten of our world, the gift of divine mercy which we ourselves have received."

This year, on most Sundays, we hear the Word of the Lord from St Luke's Gospel. St Luke was a Greek, well educated, a physician who came from Antioch, the place where the followers of Jesus would later be called Christians. He never met Jesus but he tells us how he gathered information from those had met him. As a doctor he had a special concern for the sick, the handicapped and the poor. His gospel stresses the love and mercy of Our Lord. St Luke might easily have written the words engraved on the Statue of Liberty on the edge of New York harbour: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door." The words are part of a sonnet called the New Colossus written by an American poet who died in 1887.

Pope Francis and an Italian journalist have just published a book entitled "The name of God is Mercy." We may find it strange that Pope Francis keeps going on and on about mercy. I have an old prayer book called the Crown of Jesus published about 1850. Over half of its contents are about sin, hellfire, retribution and punishment. Everything seems negative. What Pope Francis is doing is peeling back the layers of condemnation and reproof. Instead of concentrating on the Ten Commandments, which will always be important, he concentrates on the Commandment that overrides them, the Commandment of Love into which Mercy is enshrined. He talks about sin in the context of the twenty-first century with us as a flawed people who screw up our lives. We often seem to have no sense of mercy being possible, that we are not sure that God will forgive us. "This is the fragility of the time we live in," he writes, "believing that there is no chance of redemption, a hand to raise you up, an embrace to save you, forgive you, pick you up with infinite, patient indulgent love, to put you back on your feet." He attempts to explain what mercy is. Forgiveness is part of it. So is compassion.

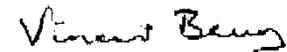
Pope Francis writes movingly of the need for people to be compassionate to one another, and lambasts society today for what he calls "the globalisation of indifference", the view that the poor, the homeless, and refugees have no call on us. But mercy is essentially about God's love for people, his divine judgment that is boundless in its generosity.

Pope Francis keeps assuring us that it is possible to both admit mistakes and move on from them. For those who do not believe, he gives a useful insight into Christian thinking and possibly even more than that. He urges a focus on what Catholics call the corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the traveller, comfort the sick, visit those imprisoned, bury the dead. Who could argue with that? As St John of the Cross, whom Francis quotes, said: "In the evening of life, we will be judged on love alone."

A few weeks ago I distributes a little book which can be our companion during this Jubilee Year of Mercy. There are still a few copies left. Please take one.

I am very sorry that I have to tell you that Sheila McGrath died a week ago on Saturday 16 January. She was a long-standing member of our parish family. I first met her when she served on the committee that oversaw the building of our new church. I was sent to represent Cardinal Hume at the early planning meetings. Sheila acted as a registrar for marriages in our church. She was the local organiser for the red boxes for the foreign missions. She was a real stalwart and will be sadly missed. May she rest in peace. Her funeral will be on Friday 5 February.

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

### **LIZ AND DAVID LONG**

Liz, David and family would like to thank everyone who has supported them in their recent bereavement. They are most grateful for all the messages of condolence and especially for the prayers which have sustained them through this most difficult time.

### **CORPUS CHRISTI FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

We have formed a friendship group in our Parish. It meets on Monday mornings at 10.30 am. 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.

### **PRAYER BREAKFASTS**

It has been the custom for many years for people from the different churches in Tring to meet once a month, on the first Saturday of each month, for a prayer breakfast. We gather by rota in one of the churches for a simple breakfast at 8.30 am followed at 9.00 am with time for prayer.

We shall be acting as host church on Saturday 6 February. Please come along and join in. We also need a few people from 8 o'clock onwards to prepare the hall for breakfast.

### **VISIT TO QUASAR IN HEMEL HEMPSTEAD**

We are having a church trip to Quasar in Hemel on the 8th of February. It is for school year 3+. Children and young people are all welcome! The trip cost £5 and the time is 6.30-8.00 pm.

T forms are at the back of Church with all information.