

PARISH NEWS

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

6 March 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	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

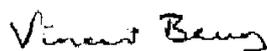
Today is called Mothering Sunday (also Mother's Day), a day which was originally a time when people returned to their Mother Church, the place where they were baptized or where they attended services when they were children. This meant that families were reunited as adults when they returned to the towns and villages where they grew up. In time, it became customary for young people who were working as servants in large houses, to be given a holiday (originally holyday) on Mothering Sunday. They could use this holyday to visit their own mother and often took a gift of food or hand-me-down clothing from their employers to her. In turn, this moved from a holyday towards the modern holiday, on which people still visit and take gifts to their mothers.

Today's gospel is a family story about a man and his two sons. The younger son broke the custom of the time about inheritance by demanding his share while his father was still alive. When his request was granted and his share given to him, he abandoned his duties and responsibilities in the family estate and went abroad to live a life of fun, which left him in the end with nothing. He was eventually forced by poverty to take up the job of feeding pigs which Jews regarded as unclean animals. This is one of the damaging effects of sin; it leads people to a situation where they lose all sense of shame and decency. After squandering his share of the inheritance, he made his way home. The elder son had continued to be committed and faithful to his father all the time his brother was away and resented his father's forgiveness to his prodigal brother. I suspected that most of us would sympathise with the elder brother who had been such a dutiful son. We might even be tempted to say that the younger son did not deserve to be forgiven and welcomed back into the family household.

To see his brother dressed in a fine robe with a ring on his finger, to discover that the fattened calf had been killed and that the whole household was joining in a great feast was all too much for the elder brother. In his anger he distanced himself from his own family, unable to celebrate the return of his own brother with the members of the family.

As we continue our journey through this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we are given to opportunity to think about the moral of this story of the loving father and his two sons. We may be like the elder brother, very ordered, strict, obedient, exact, dutiful, pleased and satisfied with our own good works. This can lead us, though, to be very judgmental and unforgiving. Like him we can stick to our own ideas of fairness and justice and fail to see that the father's ways are not our ways. Some people are shocked or resentful of some of the decisions made by Pope Francis. To some people he seems too lenient. Sticking to the letter of the law can sometimes destroy the spirit of the law. Perhaps Pope Francis wants us to remember that mercy is open ended just as God's forgiveness is open ended. The loving father in today's gospel was also a forgiving father. His younger son had lost all rights to a place in his father's house but the father's love, forgiveness and mercy allowed him back. The elder brother had a difficult lesson to learn. At the beginning of the story the younger son appears to be the bad boy and the elder son the good boy. But by the end of the story we see that both of them in different ways prove themselves to be obstacles to the family unity and harmony which the father desired so much.

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

TERRY ANDREW

Kate and her family are so grateful for the support given to them by members of our parish family and would like to thank all who attended Terry's funeral mass last Thursday and the committal afterwards at Marsworth Church Yard.

PETE EMMOTT

Pete was our parish youth worker before Dan was appointed three years ago. He continues to be the youth worker at the Sacred Heart Church in Berkhamsted. He is looking for somewhere to rent for himself, his wife Cassie and growing family. He would like to live in and around Berkhamsted and Tring. The lease on their present accommodation ends at the end of April. If anyone knows of anything that would be suitable for them, please contact Pete either on 07541 412 128, or pete.emmott@gmail.com

RED BOXES

Sheila McGrath was the local co-ordinator for the Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF) and the St Joseph's Missionary Society (Mill Hill Fathers). Jenny Brown has kindly agreed to take over this important role. She can be contacted on 01442 824627. The principal source of income is from what we call the Red Boxes.

Red Boxes are now due for collection. Money or cheques should be given to Jenny Brown (01442 824627) by Sunday 20 March. If anyone has a box that has not been emptied, please return it to the church ASAP.

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.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE

As part of the Year of Mercy celebrations Cardinal Nichols has invited people throughout the diocese to join him on the Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 9 July. Walsingham is known as England's Nazareth. The theme of the pilgrimage is "Mary, the Mother of Mercy." The day will include an outdoor Mass, procession with the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham and banners along the Holy Mile, prayers and Benediction in the Priory grounds, and free time to visit the Basilica, the Slipper Chapel and the Holy Door. Bring a picnic lunch.

If you would like to express an interest, please put your name on the list at the back of church. At the moment this is not a firm commitment by you. It is just to see if there are sufficient numbers.

The Cardinal is also asking priests to consider cancelling the Saturday evening mass on 9 July to enable them to travel with their parishioners.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

20 March Palm Sunday
25 March Good Friday
27 March Easter Sunday

Notices for the week beginning 6 March 2016

Sunday 6 March 2016 Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mass Book, pages 7 and 168

6.00 pm (Vigil) Julia Hayes RIP; 8.30 am Mary and Derrick Barber (Anniversary);

10.30 am People of the Parish

Monday *Lent Feria*

No Mass

Tuesday *Lent Feria*

No Mass

Wednesday *Lent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Private Intention

Thursday *Lent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Private Intention

Friday *Lent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Intentions of Dan Marsh

Stations of the Cross 10.30 am and 7.30 pm

Saturday *Lent Feria*

Confessions 10.00-10.30 am; 5.15-5.45 pm

Sunday 13 March 2016 Fifth Sunday of Lent

6.00 pm (Vigil) Bernard George Cullen (Lately Dead); 8.30 am Tom and Margaret Blackburn (Anniversary); 10.30 am People of the Parish

PRAYERS

Please pray for: **Sick:** Bettine Byrd, Nina & Erica De Cesco, Sam Hinds, Michael Hornsby, Mary and Michael Howlings, Adeline Lewis, Gerry O'Shaughnessy, Honor Owen, Sam Patel, Lana Ridley, Naomi Wadling, Warren Ward, Anne Wilkinson and Susan Wright; **Lately Dead:** Terry Andrew and Bernard George Cullen. **Anniversaries:** Dorothy Adams, Mary and Derrick Barber, Tome and Margaret Blackburn, Alexei Borisov, Alice Brannon, Mark Carroll, William Cusack, Gina Davey, Theodosia Grabowski, Helen Hart, Walter Hawkins, Frances Pennock, Catherine Proctor, Katie Puma, June Roberts, Liao Sammut, Alice Sherratt, Michael Toman and Jennifer Wright. May they rest in peace.

PARISH MINISTRIES

2015		6.00 pm	8.30 am	10.30 am
12/13 March	E	F Sherratt	A Halliday	H Houston
		O Conway		D Long
	R	J Lee	L Hutt	G Maloney
		D Leadbeater	S Wright	P Apps
	W		S Kerr	J Brown

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Envelopes: £213.42 Loose: £216.42 Building Fund: £34.80

Standing Orders in February: Envelopes: £2145.00 Building Fund: £129.00