

PARISH NEWS

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

3 April 2016



Parish Priest: Canon Vincent Berry
Presbytery: 51 Langdon Street, Tring, Herts, HP23 6BA
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Pastoral Assistant: Wendy Hinds 01442 824369
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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 used to be called Low Sunday marking the end of the High Feast of Easter. It is the day when we have the important story of St Thomas (Doubting Thomas) who had refused to believe that Jesus had really risen from the death. In recent years it has also been known as Divine Mercy Sunday since St John Paul II encouraged the devotions of Mother Faustina when he canonised her in April 2000. Mother Faustina wanted to stress in mercy of God in our lives. During this Jubilee Year of Mercy Pope Francis is stressing the importance of God's mercy.

When Pope Francis became Archbishop of Buenos Aires he chose as his episcopal motto or mission statement: *Miserando atque Eligendo* which come from a homily written by one of England's greatest saints, St Bede the Venerable, who died in AD 735. St Bede was writing about the call of Matthew to be an apostle: Jesus, therefore, saw the publican, and because he saw by having mercy and by choosing, He said to him, "Follow me." Pope Francis adapted the word when he said; "mercy and choosing him" describes the vision of Jesus who gives the gift of mercy and chooses." Pope Francis is very conscious of being chosen to be pope. He will never tire of linking the mercy of God with the love of God.

Pope Francis wants us to understand that the Church must condemn sin, it must relay the truth: 'this is a sin'. But at the same time, it will embrace the sinner and speak to him of the infinite mercy of God. Jesus forgave even those who crucified and scorned him. On the cross he forgave the repentant thief, Dismas, and promised him a place in Paradise. In a recent homily he said: "To follow the way of the Lord, the Church is called on to dispense its mercy over all those who recognise themselves as sinners, who assume

responsibility for the evil they have committed, and who feel in need of forgiveness. The Church does not exist to condemn people, but to bring about an encounter with the visceral love of God's mercy."

He also says something that I consider very important: "I often say that in order for this to happen, it is necessary to go out: to go out from the churches and the parishes, to go outside and look for people where they live, where they suffer, and where they hope. I like to use the image of a field hospital to describe this "Church that goes forth". It exists where there is combat. It is not a solid structure with all the equipment where people go to receive treatment for both small and large infirmities. It is a mobile structure that offers first aid and immediate care, so that its soldiers do not die. It is a place for urgent care, not a place to see a specialist. I hope that the Jubilee [The Holy Year of Mercy] will serve to reveal the Church's deeply maternal and merciful side, a Church that goes forth toward those who are "wounded," who are in need of an attentive ear, understanding, forgiveness, and love."

A number of books have been written by or about Pope Francis and the latest is called "The name of God is mercy." It has just been announced that his long-awaited apostolic exhortation on the family will be published on April 8, and will be known by its Latin name, "Amoris Laetitia" ("The Joy of Love"), on love in the family.

I have just received an update from Westminster concerning my remuneration as parish priest. It includes the offering or stipend for mass intentions. When I was ordained in 1962 the mass stipend was five shillings (25 pence). Cardinal Heenan raised it to ten shillings (50 pence) and later to a pound, then two pounds and finally five pounds. It has remained unaltered since the 1970s. Last year it was raised to ten pounds but I did not announce this at the time. The recent notice about priestly remuneration is an appropriate time to publish the new list of stipends. It has always been at the discretion of a priest to receive a smaller stipend or no stipend at all. I will continue to accept five pounds from those who cannot afford the new stipend. I have never asked for a donation for baptisms but some families have generously given £50. I have therefore included this as the stole fee for future baptisms.

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

REMUNERATION FOR PRIESTS

The Offertory Collections at Christmas and Easter form an important element of the remuneration of the Priest/s of the parish. Priests do not get a salary as such, being 'office holders', but money given in the Offertory at Christmas and Easter, plus money given as Mass Offerings and Stole Fees (for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals), makes up the income of Priests. The money received from these sources is banked in the parish account and then given to the Priest through the diocesan payroll in monthly instalments and the parish is debited for the amount paid out. Most Priests in active ministry of, and in, the Diocese avail of this service offered by the HR Department.

The revised Stole Fees for Tring Parish as from 5 April 2016 are:

Mass Intentions: £10

Baptisms: £50

Weddings £150 (plus office and curial expenses)

Funerals: £150

CORPUS CHRISTI FRIENDSHIP GROUP

We have a friendship group in our Parish which 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. After its break for Easter it will resume on Monday, 4 April, at 10.30 am.

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

Notices for the week beginning 3 April 2016

Sunday 3 April 2016 2nd Sunday of Easter (Low Sunday)

Mass Book, pages 7 and 262

6.00 pm (Vigil) Libby Shaw RIP; 8.30 am People of the Parish;

10.30 am Intentions of Fizah, Issy and the other altar servers

Monday *The Annunciation (Lady Day) transferred from 25 March*

No Mass

Tuesday *Easter Feria*

No Mass

Wednesday *Easter Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Intentions of Mary Todd

Thursday *St John Baptist de la Salle*

Mass 10.00 am Intentions of Anne De Cesco

Friday *Easter Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Intentions of David and Mary Leadbeater

followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday *Easter Feria*

Confessions: 10.00 to 10.320 am; 5.15 to 5.45 pm

Sunday 10 April 2016 Third Sunday of Easter

6.00 pm (Vigil) Intentions of Frances Sherratt and Family; 8.30 am Intentions of Annabelle Halliday and Family; 10.30 am Intentions of Norah Proctor and Family

PRAYERS

Please pray for: **Sick:** Nina & Erica De Cesco, Sam Hinds, Michael Hornsby, Mary and Michael Howlings, Adeline Lewis, Bob Masini, Gerry O'Shaughnessy, Honor Owen, Sam Patel, Lana Ridley, Naomi Wadling, Warren Ward, Anne Wilkinson and Susan Wright; **Lately Dead:** Bobby Clarke **Anniversaries:** Sister Ita Hurley, Patsy Abbotts, Gladys Mary Barnsley, Joseph Betts, Sybil Clay, Verna Evans, Michael Geraghty, Margaret Harte, Adrienne Lewis, Mildred McGrath, John Moran, Barbara Norton and . May they rest in peace.

PARISH MINISTRIES

2015		6.00 pm	8.30 am	10.30 am
9/10 April	E	M Leadbeater O Conway	A Halliday S Whitehead	P Apps M Todd
	R	D Leadbeater J Lee	C Pennicott S Wright	S Lewington W Hinds
	W	M Miles	D Kerr	

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Envelopes: £312.00 Loose: £615.70 Building Fund: £32.50

Holy Places (Good Friday): £235.40