

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

17 July 2016



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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*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mass: 6.00 pm (Vigil), 8.30 am and 10.30 am</b>
<b>Holydays</b>	<b>Mass: 10.00 am and 7.30 pm</b>
<b>Weekday</b>	<b>Mass: Wednesday to Friday 10.00 am</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation: 10.00 – 10.30 am 5.15 - 5.45 pm</b>

## *Letter from Langdon Street*

My dear people

As we gather to celebrate mass today the message for us is all about hospitality. We hear first how Abraham welcomed and offered hospitality to three strangers. There is a deeper meaning to this story, not just a welcome to strangers. They are revealed sometimes as angels or messengers of God and sometimes as God himself revealed in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The famous icon by Rublev shows the latter interpretation.

Abraham provided water for his guests to wash their feet. This was something Simon the Pharisee did not offer to Our Lord when he arrived as a guest at Simon's house.

The gospel tells us of the welcome given by Martha and Mary to Jesus. Martha is the one who actually welcomes Jesus into her house and appears to be the cook and organiser. Jesus would have appreciated having a good meal after his journey. It was her way of welcoming Jesus. Mary on the other hand welcomes Jesus by sitting at his feet and listening to him. These are two different ways of welcoming someone. What Jesus meant by saying that "*Mary had chosen the better part*" was that at that particular moment that was the best response for her. At another time she might need to take on the role of cook and organiser.


There is a deeper meaning in the story. At the time of Jesus only men sat at the feet of the Rabbis or Teachers of the Law. It was not the place for women. The cultural roles would have been very strict as regards the role and place of women in society. So Jesus is emancipating or freeing women to be equally entitled to do this. He is saying that God's love and word is addressed to everyone, men and women alike.

One thing we know is that Our Lord began to make regular visits to Martha and Mary whenever he needed to get away from it all. It became a bolt hole for him. The last visit was just days before his crucifixion.

When Martha invited Jesus into her home she offered traditional hospitality which is still present in Middle East life today. He wanted her to understand that things like food and drink were important but that there was something deeper that she did not grasp but her sister Mary did. This deepest of all human hungers is satisfied to some degree in human friendship but ultimately, it can only be satisfied in friendship with God. Saint Augustine prayed, "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." Julian of Norwich, one of England's greatest mystics, like so many saints, expressed the same truth, "For by nature our will wants God, and the good will of God wants us. We shall never cease wanting and longing until we possess him in fullness and joy. Then we shall have no further wants."

The same message is given to us today in the Letter to the Colossians where St Paul tells us about a mystery that has been hidden for ages but is now manifested to God's holy ones: "*The Mystery that God revealed to the world is Christ himself among us.*" He is present as the Son of God, as our Saviour but also as our friend. There is an old Latin adage: "Venit hospes, venit Christus," which means "When a guest comes, Christ comes."

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

**OUR BIG PARISH PARTY  
TODAY AFTER 10.30 MASS**

**No need to go home for lunch.**

**Hog Roast and all the trimmings.**

**Relax with a Pimms or soft drinks.**

**Farewell Party for Dan**

**A COLLECTION FOR DAN**

We want to make a presentation to Dan to thank him for all the work he has done for us during the past three years. There will be a collection at mass today.

**PETE EMMOTT**

Sacred Heart's Youth Worker Pete Emmott (plus wife Cassie and growing family) is looking for somewhere to rent in and around Berkhamsted or Tring. His present lease ends at the end of July. If anyone knows of anything that would be suitable for us, please contact Pete on 07541 412 128, or [pete.emmott@gmail.com](mailto:pete.emmott@gmail.com)

**FIRST COMMUNIONS 2017**

We shall begin our preparation course after schools resume in September. The First Communion Mass will be on Saturday 20 May 2017. Application forms will be available at the back of church next Sunday.

**YOUTH GROUPS**

SPOG and the Youth Club have now closed for the summer holidays. They will re-open in September.

**SEA SUNDAY**

Thank you for your donations to the Apostleship of the Sea last Sunday which raised £244.73.

**ST AUGUSTINE AND CREATION**

This is the title of a talk, an Augustinian response to Pope Francis' Letter *Laudato Si'* with Sr Margaret Atkins O.S.A on 1 October, 11 am to 4 pm, at Austin Forum, 55 Fulham Palace Rd, W6 8AU. Admission is free.

**Notices for the week beginning 17 July 2016**

**Sunday 17 July 2016 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Mass Book, pages 7 and 111

6.00 pm (Vigil) Intentions of Frances Sherratt & Family; 8.30 am Michael Hayes & Malcolm Shelley (Anniversary); 10.30 am John Hunt (Lately Dead)

Monday *Feria*

No Mass

Tuesday *St Ferial*

No Mass

Wednesday *Ferial*

Mass 10.00 am Margaret Valentine (Sick)

Thursday *Ferial*

Mass 10.00 am Sylvie Lobo (Lately Dead)

Friday *St Mary Magdalen*

Mass 10.00 am Wendy Hinds (Sick)

followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday *St Bridget of Sweden*

Confessions: 10.00 to 10.30 am; 5.15 to 5.45 pm

**Sunday 21 July 2016 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

6.00 pm (Vigil) John Byrd (Anniversary); 8.30 am People of the Parish;

10.30 am Andrew and John Livingstone (Anniversary)

### PRAYERS

Please pray for: **Sick:** Debbie Bewley, Nina & Erica De Cesco, Melanie Edwards, Patrick Foster, Wendy Hinds, Michael Hornsby, Adeline Lewis, Paul Mostyn, Honor Owen, Sam Patel, Lana Ridley, Tara Ridley, Elizabeth Rogers, Margaret Valentine, Warren Ward, Anne Wilkinson and Susan Wright; **Lately Dead:** Jack Godwin; **Anniversaries:** Frederick Abbotts, Mary Bergonzi, Elizabeth Branson, John Byrd, Briget Carr, Jason Fahey, Cecelia Hinds, Mary McArdle, Carol Mora, Timothy O'Shaughnessy, Eric Tuft and Lindie White. May they rest in peace.

### PARISH MINISTRIES

2016		6.00 pm	8.30 am	10.30 am
23/24 July	E	M Leadbeater	A Halliday	A De Cesco
		M Todd	S Whitehead	H Houston
	R	D Leadbeater	C Pennicott	G Maloney
		J Lee	W Winstone	S Lewington
	W		S Kerr	

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Envelopes: £229.00

Loose: £171.49

Building Fund £94.00

Apostleship of the Sea: £244.73