

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

23 October 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

Parish Youth Worker: Pete Emmott pete@youthshb.org.uk 07541 412 128

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 we hear another parable from Our Lord about prayer and our attitude to prayer. We hear about two men who go up to the Temple to pray. The Pharisee went to tell God what a wonderful person he was, obeying the law completely, fasting and doing everything a good Pharisee ought to do. Unfortunately, instead of praising God in his prayer he was praising himself. Not only that, he compared himself with the man near him, a man he despised, a tax collector. The tax collector knew exactly who he was and what he was, a sinner, an outcast despised by his fellow Jews. All he could do was to bow his head and ask for forgiveness: "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner." Jesus said that it was the tax collector who went home at rights with God.

When Pope Francis proclaimed this year as the Year of Mercy, he wanted us to understand the power of mercy. William Shakespeare puts it beautifully in his play *The Merchant of Venice* where Portia says:

The quality of mercy is not strain'd,
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath: it is twice blest;
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes:
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest: it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown;
His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,
The attribute to awe and majesty,

Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;
But mercy is above this sceptred sway;
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings,
It is an attribute to God himself;
And earthly power doth then show likest God's
When mercy seasons justice

The Pharisees were members of a sect of Judaism active in Jesus' time. They taught a special interpretation of the Law of Moses as the basis for Jewish piety. Some of the Pharisees stand out as good and devout people such as Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. If anyone would be a model for prayer, it should have been the Pharisee in the Temple. Tax collectors were collaborators with the Roman authorities in a system that allowed the tax collectors to line their own pockets by charging in excess of the defined taxes. Yet, in this parable, Jesus offers the humility of the tax collector as a model for the prayer of a disciple, not the example of the Pharisee. The parable reminds us that when we pray, we must remember our need for God in our lives. If we are too full of ourselves, there is too little room for God's grace to work in us.

Today's epistle reminds us of the deep love shown by St Paul, another Pharisee who was proud of being a Pharisee. Many of his epistles begin and end in prayer. Today he shows us of his friendship with Timothy whom he put in charge of the Christian community (which he calls the Church) in Ephesus. He mentions Timothy's mother Eunice and his grandmother

Lois and describes how they are all bound together in faith. The pagans in Ephesus prayed to their local goddess Artemis and believed that the more prayers they said and the faster they said them would be pleasing to her. Our Lord warned his disciples not to pray as the pagans do who believe that "the more they say the more chance they have of being heard." For us, prayer is talking to God. Prayer and faith are very closely connected. It's because we have faith that we pray. We need to pray not just when we are in trouble but at all times. Prayer is not an escape from life but a journey into the heart of life, a life of grace and a life of mercy. In this Year of Mercy we are encouraged to be merciful as God is merciful. Pope Francis talks about the Church, especially in our parish and all other parishes as "an oasis of mercy" Part of our personal mission is to invite others into our "oasis of mercy" when we have drunk from the fountain of mercy ourselves.

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

CAFOD APPEAL

Thank you for your response to the CAFOD Harvest Appeal which raised £405.79.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

It has been over twenty years since the genocide that devastated Rwanda. And while the saying 'time is a great healer' may ring true, many people across this small African nation are still in need of practical, spiritual and emotional support. The Pope's official charity for overseas mission, is appealing to the faithful this year to help heal the broken-hearted, especially the people of Rwanda, some of whom are still traumatised by what happened. It is hard to imagine that in the space of one hundred days one million people were killed.

There are some wounds so deep in human experience that they require the healing touch of God's love. The Church with its vital ministry of caring for victims of senseless and appalling violence allows God's grace to heal those whose lives are broken. World Mission Sunday is celebrated by Catholics in every country where the Church is present. Today parishes all over the world will be encouraged to pray for the missionary work of the Church and share what they can to support faith communities overseas which are in urgent need. There will be a special collection at mass today.

CONCERT IN AID OF THE PASSAGE

The Passage is a day centre just a short distance from Westminster Cathedral. There will be a concert in aid of The Passage on Tuesday 8 November 2016 (American election night). The music includes Bernstein: Candide Overture & Mambo from West Side Story; Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue, I Got Rhythm & Summertime; Barber: Adagio for Strings and Rodgers: Some Enchanted Evening & You'll Never Walk Alone. The performers include Simon Trpceski – Piano, James O'Donnell – Organ, Mark Stone-Baritone & Rebecca Evans – Soprano. The presenters are Petroc Trelawny, Armando Iannucci and Jon Culshaw. Prices start at £12. For more details visit <http://www.anightunderthestars.co.uk/>, email tickets@passage.org.uk, tel. 020 7592186

Notices for the week beginning 23 October 2016

Sunday 23 October 2016 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Book, pages 7 and 155

6.00 pm (Vigil) People of the Parish; 8.30 am Intentions of Michael and Mary Ainger; 10.30 am People of the Parish

Monday *Feria*

No Mass

Tuesday *Feria*

No Mass

Wednesday *St Chad and St Cedd*

Mass 10.00 am Intentions of Ann and Fay Warne

Thursday *Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Intentions of Erica De Cesco

Friday *St Simon and St Jude*

Mass 10.00 am Mickey Flaherty (Sick)

followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday *Blessed Martyrs of Douay College*

Confessions 10.00 – 10.30 am; 5.15 – 5.45 pm

Sunday 30 October 2016 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

6.00 pm (Vigil) People of the Parish; 8.30 am Intentions of Michael and Mary Ainger; 10.30 am People of the Parish

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, Warren Ward and Anne Wilkinson; **Lately Dead:** Christopher James; **Anniversaries:** Jeannie Barker, Jane Barret, Anthony Carbona, Sue Crowhurst, Margaret Eder, Clare Graf, George Hudson, Harold Judd, John Kowalewski, James Malone, Felicia Moderski, Lorraine Pennock, Gwen Shadwell, Joseph Stanworth, Clement Stephens, Lawrence Taaffe, Mary van Eeghen, Olga van Stokem, Edward Wall and Bridie Ward. May they rest in peace.

PARISH MINISTRIES

2016		6.00 pm	8.30 am	10.30 am
29/30 Oct	E	F Sherratt	A Halliday	H Houston
	R	M Todd	S Whitehead	G Maloney
		M Miles	W Winstone	P Apps
	W	D Leadbeater	C Pennicott	J Brown
			S Kerr	

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Envelopes: £213.97

Loose: £151.60

Building Fund £43.00