

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

20 November 2016



Parish Priest: Canon Vincent Berry
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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 another liturgical year comes to an end with the feast of Christ the King. Today is also the day when Pope Francis formally closes the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The Kingdom of heaven is offered to everyone. No one will be excluded, only those who chose to be excluded. In one of his final homilies for the Year of Mercy Pope Francis said: God's mercy, which excludes no one, challenges us to be merciful and open to the needs of others, especially the poor and all those who are weary and burdened. We, who have experienced that love and mercy, have a part to play in his saving plan, which embraces all of history. In his mercy, God calls all men and women to become members of the body of Christ, which is the Church, and to work together, as one family, in building a world of justice, solidarity and peace. God reconciled mankind to himself by the sacrifice of his Son on the cross. He now sends us, his Church, to extend that merciful embrace to our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

Today is also Universal Children's Day, dedicated to promoting the rights of the child, and Pope Francis has launched an appeal "to the conscience of all, institutions and families, that children always be protected and their wellbeing safeguarded, so that they never fall prey to forms of slavery, recruitment for armed groups, and maltreatment. I hope that the international community may watch over their life, guaranteeing to every boy and girl that right to schooling and education, so that they may grow in serenity and look with trust to the future."


Last Sunday I took part in the ceremony to mark the closing of the Holy Door in Westminster Cathedral. Cardinal Nichols invited Archbishop Justin Wesley, Archbishop of Canterbury, who preached to a packed cathedral. These are a few of his reflections:

The Year of Mercy has caught the imagination not only in the Catholic Church but in all churches in a year when the living of mercy has been very absent. Mercy is a word of immense beauty, an offering of infinite riches. When we walk through the door of mercy and allow its meaning to enter our hearts we become different people. Mercy is the gift that goes on giving, it works in us dissolving the hardness of our hearts and the selfishness of our lives.

Pope John XXIII, in his visionary address to the Second Vatican Council, spoke of a movement of the Holy Spirit by which the church moved from acting in severity against error and sin to acting in mercy. This great Year of Mercy 50 years after the end of the Council has been received as water in the desert for global churches sadly lacking mercy, and must be offered as the way of living to a world which sees mercy only in terms of exchange, and never as the excess of abundant love.

The door of the year of mercy calls us back to the invitation to receive mercy by grace and the duty to be a people of mercy. We do this by prayer, by coming confidently into the presence of God, and confessing our sins, in the sacrament of reconciliation, and then in contemplation of the mercy that we find in the Sacrament. Pope Francis, in his address announcing the year of mercy, said: "The greater the sin, the greater the love that must be shown by the Church to those who repent. With how much love Jesus looks at us! With how much love He heals our sinful heart! Our sins never scare Him.

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

REJOICE! SING TO THE LORD ALWAYS

We are looking for singers to join our church choir to sing at the Christmas Midnight Mass. All voice types and levels of experience are welcome, from beginners to experienced. There is no audition and the ability to read music is not essential, although it would be useful. Weekly rehearsals will take place in the church (TBC). For further information, please contact Jane Glover on jane_glover@rocketmail.com

CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Many thanks to all who have responded to the appeal to provide a gift to a prisoner's child this Christmas. The Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) has joined forces with Caritas Westminster to arrange a collection of gifts for children of families who have a parent in prison and who are struggling financially. Details will be given later about when to bring your gift to church. PACT will arrange to collect, gift-wrap and distribute your present.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY CONCERT

This annual concert will take place on Saturday 3rd December at 7.30 pm in the Victoria Hall, Akeman Street. There are only 14 days left to purchase your ticket from Beechwood Fine Foods, 42 Frogmore Street (price £5 for adult and £2.50 for child). This year musicians from Bishop Wood C of E Junior School and Tring School will be performing and there will of course be community singing too. Fundraising at the concert will be for the registered charity *Children at Risk in Asia*.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY CELEBRATION

'The Nativity this year is on Sunday 18 December 4pm in afternoon. We need actors, 3 - 5 speaking parts - but every child who comes can dress up as angels, shepherds and kings. We need help with lighting, music, costumes and props. We need help with Tea/coffee, hot chocolate, mince pies etc afterwards. There will be activities and toys for children. Is anyone willing to help with this while we munch our mince pies. Everyone is invited. There will be a list at back of church to register an interest in helping. Please leave your details and what you would be willing to help with.

TOWN FARM ART SHOW IN CHEDDINGTON

Perfectly timed for that special Christmas gift! Ten artists and makers showing paintings, illustration, ceramics, woodcraft, woodcarving, jewellery & Egyptian quilts, plus willow weaving & sculpture in the garden. Mulled wine, mince pies & Christmas cake in aid of Rennie Grove Hospice Care. ONE WEEKEND ONLY: Friday 25 - Sunday 27 November, 10am - 4pm. 6 Town Farm, Cheddington, Near Tring, LU7 0TT. Please park on High Street - not in Town Farm. Free entry. More info at www.townfarmartshow.blogspot.com.

PARISH DIARY

The 2017 diary is available at the back of church.

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK

The 2017 Year Book is now available at the back of church.

POPE FRANCIS

Laudato si' is the second encyclical letter of Pope Francis. The encyclical has the subtitle "On Care For Our Common Home." Copies of the encyclical letter are on sale at the back of church. The Westminster Diocese Justice and Peace Group has prepared a series of weekly reflections taken from the encyclical. We hope to include one of these as a tailpiece to our weekly parish newsletter.

Notices for the week beginning 20 November 2016

Sunday 20 November 2016 Feast of Christ the King

Mass Book, pages 7 and 167

6.00 pm (Vigil) Gareth Elford (Sick); 8.30 am November Dead List;

10.30 am Intentions of Pete and Cassie Emmott

Monday *Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

No Mass

Tuesday *St Cecilia*

No Mass

Wednesday *St Clement*

Mass 10.00 am November Dead List

Thursday *St Andrew Dung-Lac and the Martyrs of Vietnam*

Mass 10.00 am Sheila Supple (Anniversary)

Friday *Feria*

Mass 10.00 am November Dead List

followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday *Feria*

Confessions 10.00 – 10.30 am; 5.15 – 5.45 pm

Sunday 270 November 2016 First Sunday of Advent

6.00 pm (Vigil) Pauline Lynch (Anniversary); 8.30 am Sarah Harris (Lately Dead);

10.30 am Deceased Relatives and Friends of Lee Family

PRAYERS

Please pray for: **Sick:** Debbie Bewley, Nina & Erica De Cesco, Melanie Edwards, Patrick Foster, Wendy Hinds, Michael Hornsby, Adeline Lewis, Peter McDonald, Paul Mostyn, Honor Owen, Sam Patel, Lana Ridley, Tara Ridley and Anne Wilkinson; **Lately Dead:** Sarah Harris; **Anniversaries:** Sister Françoise-Thérèse, Ninette Ambriano, Jean Claude Barry, Josephine Biggs, Margaret Carter, Patricia Chambers, Maria De Marchi, Patrick Fitzpatrick, Ellen Grimm, George Husfelt, Anthony Kowalewski, Eric Lucas, Pauline Lynch, Kathleen McPherson, Alexander Malone, Bernard Shryane, Josephine Stechi and Sheila Supple. May they rest in peace.

PARISH MINISTRIES

2016		6.00 pm	8.30 am	10.30 am
26/27 Nov	E	O Conway	A Halliday	H Houston
	R	M Todd	K Andrew	
		M Sherratt	S Wright	G Maloney
	W	J Lee	S Whitehead	P Apps
			S Kerr	A Farrow

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Envelopes: £381.58

Loose: £169.21

Building Fund £187.50