

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

27 November 2016



Parish Priest: Canon Vincent Berry
Presbytery: 51 Langdon Street, Tring, Herts, HP23 6BA
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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

Last Sunday Pope Francis closed the Jubilee Year of Mercy in a ceremony in St Peter's. He also issued an apostolic letter to explain what we might do to follow up the Holy Year. The Year of Mercy has ended but mercy itself has not ended. He said that love and mercy have a part to play in God's saving plan which embraces all of history. 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, mercy, 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.

Pope Francis describes forgiveness as the most visible sign of the Father's love, which Jesus sought to reveal by his entire life. Every page of the Gospel is marked by this imperative of a love that loves to the point of forgiveness. Even at the last moment of his earthly life, as he was being nailed to the cross, Jesus spoke words of forgiveness: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Mercy is this concrete action of love that, by forgiving, transforms and changes our lives. In this way, the divine mystery of mercy is made manifest. God is merciful. His mercy lasts for ever. From generation to generation, it embraces all those who trust in him and it changes them, by bestowing a share in his very life.

Pope Francis refers to the society in which we live where sadness and loneliness appear to be on the rise, not least among young people. The future seems prey to an uncertainty that does not make for stability. This often gives rise to depression, sadness and boredom, which can gradually lead to despair. We need witnesses to hope and true joy if we are to dispel the illusions that promise quick and easy happiness through artificial paradises. The profound sense of emptiness felt by so many people can be overcome by the hope we bear in our hearts and

by the joy that it gives. We need to acknowledge the joy that rises up in a heart touched by mercy. Let us keep in mind, then, the words of the Apostle: "Rejoice in the Lord always."

Pope Francis tells us that we are called to *celebrate* mercy: "What great richness is present in the Church's prayer when she invokes God as the Father of mercies! In the liturgy, mercy is not only repeatedly implored, but is truly received and experienced. From the beginning to the end of the Eucharistic celebration, mercy constantly appears in the dialogue between the assembly at prayer and the heart of the Father, who rejoices to bestow his merciful love. After first pleading for forgiveness with the invocation "Lord have mercy", we are immediately reassured: "May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life". With this confidence, the community gathers in the presence of the Lord, particularly on the holy day of the resurrection. Many of the "Collect" prayers are meant to remind us of the great gift of mercy. We are immersed in the great Eucharistic Prayer with the Preface that proclaims: "You so loved the world that in your mercy you sent us the Redeemer, to live like us in all things but sin." The pope also says: I am convinced that our faith-filled pastoral activity should lead to a direct experience of how the liturgical signs and our prayers are an expression of the Lord's mercy. It is the Lord himself who offers words of hope, since nothing and no one can ever separate us from his love.

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. Please leave your gifts at the back of church and leave a label on it with the reference number and the name of the child. PACT will arrange to collect, gift-wrap and distribute your present.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY CONCERT

This annual concert will take place next Saturday 3rd December at 7.30 pm in the Victoria Hall, Akeman Street. There is now only a week 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*.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This will be on Saturday 10 December starting at 7.30 pm. Tickets are available at the back of church.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY CELEBRATION

'The Nativity Play 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. This 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 AND WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK

These are both available at the back of church.

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM POPE FRANCIS

Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs". (LS 1)

Notices for the week beginning 27 November 2016

Sunday 27 November 2016 First Sunday of Advent

Mass Book, pages 7 and 82

6.00 pm (Vigil) Pauline Lynch & Dymphna O'Shea (Anniversary); 8.30 am Sarah Harris (Lately Dead); 10.30 am Deceased

Relatives of the Lee Family

Monday *Advent Feria*

No Mass

Tuesday *Advent Feria*

No Mass

Wednesday *St Andrew*

Mass 10.00 am Phyllis Conathy (Lately Dead)

Thursday *Advent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am November Dead List

Friday *Advent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am November Dead List

followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday *St Francis Xavier*

Prayer Breakfast 8.30 am (in hall)

Confessions 10.00 – 10.30 am; 5.15 – 5.45 pm

Sunday 4 December 2016 Second Sunday of Advent

6.00 pm (Vigil) November Dead List; 8.30 am People of the Parish;

10.30 am November Dead List

PRAYERS

Please pray for: **Sick:** Debbie Bewley, Nina & Erica De Cesco, Melanie Edwards, Gareth Elford, 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:** Anna Donnelly and Phyllis Conathy; **Anniversaries:** Sister Françoise Marguerite, Charlotte Anghesku, Nell Bell, Langston Buck, Paul Grimm, Georgina Horlick, John Herbert Hurley, Marjorie Kelly, Richard Kennedy, Jozefa Kowalewski, Pauline Lynch, Michael Lyons, William McCall, Ellen Mitchell, Ted Molloy, Jenny Morley, Muriel Morris, Dymphna O'Shea, Mary Singlehurst, Elias Vasili and Mary Walker. May they rest in peace.

PARISH MINISTRIES

2016		6.00 pm	8.30 am	10.30 am
3/4 Dec	E	O Conway M Leadbeater	A Halliday K Andrew	A De Cesco
	R	D Leadbeater	P Milton L Hutt	S Lewington H Houston
	W		D Kerr	J Brown

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Envelopes: £181.15

Loose: £172.93

Building Fund £50.50