

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

11 December 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

The word Advent means “coming.” Today is Gaudete Sunday. The word Gaudete means “rejoice.” Half way through Advent the Church puts aside purple vestments, symbolising repentance and puts on rose coloured vestment, symbolising joy. As we draw ever closer to Christmas, today’s readings teach us that waiting has its own special value. For this we rejoice.

Advent is a time for waiting, a time of expectation. We are a people waiting for the Messiah to arrive in our lives and in the world. His first arrival, when he was born in a stable, is commemorated at Christmas. There is also his second arrival, when he will come as King and Judge on the Last day, may be anticipated. There is also his daily coming into our lives, in prayer, in the people we meet and in the activities we do.

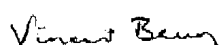
Waiting is part of our lives. A priest I know used to work at Westminster Cathedral. He spent a lot of time just walking around the Cathedral waiting in case somebody wanted to speak to him about a problem. He called it loitering with intent. It required a lot of patience to do this. Impatience can lead to frustration, anxiety, anger, cynicism and, ultimately, unhappiness. Unhappiness prevents us from doing anything constructive to sustain and prepare us while we wait. Our waiting is in vain and, inevitably, we are not ready when the time finally comes. He never saw his loitering with intent as a waste of time.

Last week we heard the message of John the Baptist calling people to repentance when they came to him to be baptised in the River Jordan. Today we hear his message from prison. He had heard reports of Jesus beginning his ministry and was a bit confused. Jesus was not doing what he expected him to do so he sent his disciples to ask Jesus: ‘Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for somebody else?’ John was the last in a long line of prophets who had been waiting for generations for the Messiah to come. Jesus replied: “Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor.”

The message of Advent, then, is that we should wait patiently for the Lord to come into our lives. We hear today how the Jewish people in exile in Babylon experience the harshness of God's anger for their faithlessness. Yet the prophecy of Isaiah came to bring them hope. "God will come and save you." In the pain of exile Isaiah gave them, and us, the vision of what this joy and hope will look like: "The eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unstopped," conveying the same message of Our Lord in the Gospel. St James in today's epistle tells us about the farmer who waits patiently for the harvest to come. He has worked hard to sow the seed and had to be patient to see it bear fruit at harvest time. Our waiting can be a time of enrichment during which some positive change can occur. Our Lord speaks highly of John: "I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen."

John the Baptist was a man of passionate commitment to what he believed in. He strongly believed in the coming of the Christ. This man of faith was tested when Our Lord turned out to be a different type of Christ or Messiah from what he expected. He was a man with a lot of conviction and truth. He preached what he believed. He practised what he taught. Pope Francis has turned out to be a different type of pope from his predecessors. He told us recently that there is no prayer in which Jesus does not inspire us to do something. He said that our faith in Jesus is seen in strong action. The poor are helped by pre-Christmas collections. Here at Corpus Christi over fifty children who have a parent in prison will receive a present from members of our parish. We are not asking what we might get for Christmas, but how our Christmas might help others. While preparing to make this a happy time for our own families and close friends, we must reach out to those in need so that everyone know the truth of God's coming into the world.

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY CONCERT

Many thanks to all who supported the concert last Saturday 3rd December. The amount raised for the charity 'Children at Risk in Asia (CARA)' amounted to £1006. A report and photos can be seen on the Justice & Peace Group website www.justiceandpeacetraining.org (Go to the News and Events page). One of the organisations that CARA support is 'One Sky Foundation' in Thailand. Donations of 2nd hand children's clothes for One Sky are invited, and Michael and Jum Demidecki will arrange for these to be taken out to Thailand. If you would like to donate please leave children's clothes in the Narthex before 15 January 2017 with a note reading 'For Thailand' or telephone 01442 823514 if you would like them to be collected.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

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 on Friday evenings at 8 pm. For further information, please contact Jane Glover on jane_glover@rocketmail.com

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.

THE PASSAGE CAROL SERVICE

The Passage is a charity working with homeless people and has a day centre beside Westminster Cathedral. It is holding its annual carol service on Friday 16 December at 6.00 pm in St Margaret's Church, Westminster, the parish church of the House of Commons. Readers include Nick Hancock, Lynda Baron, Kathryn Pogson and Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Admission by advanced ticket only from The Passage tel. 020 7592 1856 email tickets @passage.org.uk. The minimum recommended donation is £25.

Notices for the week beginning 11 December 2016

Sunday 11 December 2016 Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

Mass Book, pages 7 and 88

6.00 pm (Vigil) Holy Souls; 8.30 am Amy and Damascene De Souza (Anniversary);

10.30 am Mary Teresa Finnegan (Lately Dead)

Monday *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

No Mass

Tuesday *St Lucy*

No Mass

Wednesday *St John of the Cross*

Mass 10.00 am Intentions of Wendy Hinds

Thursday *Advent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Margaret Demidecki (Anniversary)

Friday *Advent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Intentions of Kathleen O'Connor

followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday *Advent Feria*

Confessions 10.00 – 10.30 am; 5.15 – 5.45 pm

Sunday 18 December 2016 Fourth Sunday of Advent

6.00 pm (Vigil) Holy Souls; 8.30 am Tony Bentley (Anniversary);

10.30 am Holy Souls

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, Tom Walsh and Anne Wilkinson; **Latently Dead:** Mary Teresa Finnegan; **Anniversaries:** Sister Cécile Renée, Frank Bates, Anthony Bentley, Robert Bonsall, Esther Bryan, Wilfrid Clark, Ann Cooke, Richard Cusack, Amy De Souza, Margaret Demidecki, Gina Ferreira, Rita Gibney, Michael Gamble, Mary Gregory, Christine Hanley, Bob Hart, Boleslaw Kargol, Maureen Lawless, Bernard McDonough, Spike Marlin, Florence Rodden, Elizabeth Shaw, Ludmila & Emanuel Sitta, Joyce Taylor, Stephen Waite and Delbert Warrington. May they rest in peace.

PARISH MINISTRIES

2016		6.00 pm	8.30 am	10.30 am
17/18 Dec	E	F Sherratt O Conway	A Halliday	A De Cesco
	R	J Lee D Leadbeater	S Wright L Hutt	H Houston S Lewington
	W		D Kerr	A Farrow

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Envelopes: £213.00

Loose: £212.67

Building Fund £38.50