

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

25 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

Today we are celebrating the birth of our Saviour. Today is also the first of what we call “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” Nobody is quite sure of the origins of the song. The best bet is that it dates back to the penal times when being a Catholic was very dangerous. Parents were the ones who passed on their faith to their children in secret. It is one of several catechism songs using cryptic language which helped young people to learn the tenets of their faith.

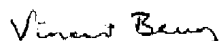
The “true love” in the song does not refer to an earthly sweetheart but refers to God himself. The “partridge in a pear tree” is Jesus Christ. It symbolically presents him as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings. The symbolism is linked with the Gospel story of Jesus weeping over Jerusalem, saying: *Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered you under my wings, as a hen does her chick.* The two turtle doves represent the Old Testament and the New Testament. The three French hens are the virtues of faith, hope and charity. The four calling birds are either the four Gospels or the four Evangelists. The five gold rings are the five books of Moses, the first books of the Old Testament which tells the story of the fall from grace of our first parents, Adam and Eve. The six geese a-laying are the six days of creation. The seven swans a-swimming are the seven sacraments or the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. The eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes. The nine ladies dancing are the nine choirs of angels. The ten lords a-leaping are the ten commandments. The eleven pipers piping are the eleven faithful apostles, minus Judas, and the twelve drummers drumming are the twelve points of teaching that are found in the Apostles Creed.

As we celebrate Christmas let us not forget our brothers and sisters in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere who are suffering so much at this time. Prince Charles referred to this a few days ago when he delivered *Thought for the Day* on the Radio 4 *Today* programme. The prince said he had recently met a Jesuit priest from Syria who described the plight of Christians he was forced to leave behind in the country. He said: "He told me of mass kidnappings in parts of Syria and Iraq and how he feared that Christians will be driven en masse out of lands described in the Bible. He thought it quite possible there will be no Christians in Iraq within five years." The prince went on to say: "Clearly, for such people, religious freedom is a daily, stark choice between life and death." He said that the scale of religious persecution around the world was not widely appreciated and persecution was not limited to Christians, but included many other minority faiths. He concluded by saying: "Whichever religious path we follow, the destination is the same - to value and respect the other person, accepting their right to live out their peaceful response to the love of God."

As we reflect on the wonder of the mystery of Our Saviour's birth, of the hardships he endured in his lifetime let us renew our own determination to share with others the good news of Our Saviour's birth and play our part in building up the kingdom he came on earth to die for.

I wish you and yours every joy this Christmas and every blessing in 2017.

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Many thanks for your contributions last Sunday for the collection for Christmas Flowers. The total raised was £263.97.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Parents who wish to have their babies baptised at Corpus Christi should get in touch with Canon Berry to complete an application form. They will then be invited to attend a pre-baptism talk for parents, which are held once a month. We like both parents to attend this talk. Baptisms are usually held at weekends, on a Saturday if there are no weddings booked, or on a Sunday. We can arrange the ceremony for late morning or during the afternoon. Parents are encouraged to consider having the baptism during the Sunday mass that they usually attend. Families who live outside the boundaries of Corpus Christi St Mary's will need the permission of their own parish priest.

GETTING MARRIED

It is important that people who plan to get married within the next twelve months should get in touch with Canon Berry as soon as possible. If you plan to marry abroad there is a great deal of paperwork to be completed and the sooner this is completed the better. At Corpus Christi we confirm time and dates six months before the wedding. Latecomers may not be able to get married at the time and date they would prefer because that time has already been booked by somebody else. If there are two weddings on the same day there needs to be a gap of two hours between the two weddings.

WORDS OF WISDOM

The secret of getting ahead is getting started.

It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt.

Love is like anything precious – you have no right to it unless you can afford it.

Those who risk nothing risk far too much.

We pay dearly for chasing after what is cheap.

Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do little.

Man is made of clay – it takes a woman to make a mug out of him!

The reason we don't like conceited people is we're too interested in ourselves!

It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt

When you kill time make sure you don't murder a big opportunity.

If we dance to every fiddle we'll soon be lame in both legs.

Envy provides the mud that failure throws at success.

Love looks though a telescope – envy through a microscope.

Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none.

We are such stuff as dreams are made on; and our little life is rounded with a sleep.

Notices for the week beginning 25 December 2016

Sunday 25 December 2016 Christmas Day

5.00 pm Children's Mass Lorraine Costelloe (Sick)

11.30 pm Midnight Mass People of the Parish

8.30 am Mass of Dawn People of the Parish

10.30 am Mass of the Day People of the Parish

Monday Feast of St Stephen (Boxing Day)

Mass 10.00 am David Brown (Anniversary)

Tuesday *St John the Evangelist*

Mass 10.00 am

Wednesday *The Holy Innocents*

Mass 10.00 am Intentions of the Hinds Family

Thursday *St Thomas Becket*

Mass 10.00 am Una Kelly (Lately Dead)

Friday *The Holy Family*

Mass 10.00 am Holy Souls

Saturday New Year's Eve

No Mass

Confessions 10.30 am and 5.15 am

Sunday 1 January 2017 Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

Mass 6.00 pm (Vigil); 8.30 am People of the Parish;

10.30 am People of the Parish

PRAYERS

Please pray for: **Sick:** Debbie Bewley, Patrick Foster, Wendy Hinds, Michael Hornsby, Adeline Lewis, Peter McDonald, Paul Mostyn, Honor Owen, Sam Patel, Tom Walsh and Anne Wilkinson; **Lately Dead:** Canon John McDonald; **Anniversaries:** Mother Anne de Sales, Ted Ainsworth, John Apps, Reg Axtel, Gladys Bass, Mai Briscoe, Helen Cerrutti, Kenneth De Silva, Jeremiah Dineen, Albert Fenner, Ellen Mary Goddard, Doris Green, Sheila Heather- Hayes, Alan Heggie, George Herbert, Mervyn How, Bridget Keough, Sarah Lynds, James McAul, John Charles McKerham, Phyllis Potter, Doris Pullig, Joseph Smith, Sheila Margaret Smith, Laurie Taylor, Rose Thomas, Helen Young, Sheree Watson and Raxma Whitehead. May they rest in peace.

PARISH MINISTRIES

| 2016 | | 6.00 pm | 8.30 am | 10.30 am |
|--------------|---|------------|-------------|------------|
| 31 Dec/1 Jan | E | F Sherratt | A Halliday | H Houston |
| | | G Booth | K Andrew | A De Cesco |
| | R | M Sherratt | S Whitehead | G Maloney |
| | | M Hart | D Crauford | P Apps |
| | W | | S Kerr | |

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Envelopes: £217.50

Loose: £234.39

Building Fund £42.50