

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

4 December 2016



Parish Priest: Canon Vincent Berry  
Presbytery: 51 Langdon Street, Tring, Herts, HP23 6BA  
telephone 01442 823161 email [tring@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:pete@youthshb.org.uk) 07541 412 128

Local Catholic Schools: St Thomas More (Primary), Berkhamsted, phone 01442 385060 website: [www.stmore.herts.sch.uk](http://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](http://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<br>5.15 - 5.45 pm |

## *Letter from Langdon Street*

My dear people

Many years ago Congregation Churches (now part of the United Reform Church) had what they called their Wayside Pulpit which was a weekly message written large on a notice board outside their church or chapel. There is one which I still remember: ***Start the week well. Come and join us.*** This year our bishops throughout the country are asking us to invite people we know to come and join us for Christmas, people who perhaps have been away from church for some time. Pope Francis is appealing to all of this to do this. The call to return to the Lord comes up frequently in the Scriptures. That call by the Old Testament prophets applies also to us. The call of John the Baptist today applies also to us.

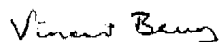
In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist who appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. The description of John is very similar to the description of the prophet Elijah. Today we hear John directing a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, two of the groups within the Jewish community of the first century. John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John is also called the Forerunner, especially in the Orthodox and other Eastern Churches. His baptism is a forerunner of Christian baptism. John himself says: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." John the Baptist's message is a call to repentance, a call for a change of heart and behaviour, a turning of our lives from disobedience to obedience.

John's mission was to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord. John's whole mission was a preparation for the Messiah's coming. When his own disciples came to him and were troubled about the meaning of Jesus' baptism felt that his mission was over, he sent his disciples to Jesus, some of whom came to be apostles. He pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God, the True Light, the Messiah.

The prophets of Israel received a divine call to be messengers and interpreters of the Word of God. The word which came to the prophet compelled him to speak. The prophet is also the conscience of a community and the conscience of a nation. Ezekiel tells us a prophet is like the watchman, the person who is out there watching for what might happen to the community, issuing a warning, trying to alert everyone. When we hear the words of today's Gospel, we hear John the Baptist pointing us to Christ, just as he had pointed the way to those who came to hear him on the banks of the River Jordan.

It was quite a shock to hear of the death last Thursday of the Reverend Sarah Eynestone. She had only been serving at St John the Baptist, Aldbury for a few months. Our prayers go with the priests and people of the Tring Parish Ministry in their time of sorrow.

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 on Friday evenings at 8 pm. For further information, please contact Jane Glover on [jane\\_glover@rocketmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:@passage.org.uk). The minimum recommended donation is £25.

### **ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Next Saturday evening starting at 7.30 pm. Tickets are available in church.

### **COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS**

The Westminster Diocese is using its website and social media to invite people to return to church this Christmas. Information on: [rcdow.org.uk/news/comehomeforchristmas](http://rcdow.org.uk/news/comehomeforchristmas).

### **CALLED TO TEACH?**

The Catholic Division of the West London Teaching School Alliance is currently recruiting graduates (2:2 or above) to train to teach in Catholic primary and secondary schools in London. They are happy to consider career changers. If you need any further clarification do please look on their website [www.wltsa.org.uk](http://www.wltsa.org.uk) or phone the Teaching School office on 0208 748 7600.

### **POPE FRANCIS**

*Laudato si'* is the second encyclical letter of Pope Francis. The encyclical has the subtitle *On Care For Our Common Home*: The Westminster Justice & Peace Committee is giving a weekly reflection taken from the Letter: This sister (our Mother Earth) now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will.

## **Notices for the week beginning 4 December 2016**

### **Sunday 4 December 2016 Second Sunday of Advent**

Mass Book, pages 7 and 85

6.00 pm (Vigil) Holy Souls; 8.30 am Holy Souls; 10.30 am Anna Donnelly (Lately Dead)

Monday *Advent Feria*

No Mass

Tuesday *St Nicholas*

No Mass

Wednesday *St Ambrose*

Mass 10.00 am Holy Souls

Thursday *Immaculate Conception of Our Lady*

Mass 10.00 am Holy Souls

Friday *Advent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Holy Souls  
followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
Saturday *Advent Feria*

Confessions 10.00 – 10.30 am; 5.15 – 5.45 pm

**Sunday 11 December 2016 Third Sunday of Advent**

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

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, Peter McDonald, Paul Mostyn, Honor Owen, Sam Patel, Lana Ridley, Tara Ridley and Anne Wilkinson; **Lately Dead:** Rev Sarah Eynstone and Anne Donnelly; **Anniversaries:** Tess Bradley, Henry Peter Couillault, Frank Czaykowski, William and Doris Denham, Simon Dobbs, Maurice Fox, Albert Gomez, Marion Hampson, Ulrich Karlen, Francesco Marangon, Kate Morgan, Bridget O'Donoghue, Claus Ostman, Valery Packwood, Marie Perera, Karel Sanda, Wenefred Toole, John Uniatowski and Geoffrey Whitehead. May they rest in peace.

**PARISH MINISTRIES**

| 2016      |   | 6.00 pm               | 8.30 am                   | 10.30 am            |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 10/11 Dec | E | F Sherratt<br>M Todd  | A Halliday<br>L Hutt      | H Houston           |
|           | R | M Miles<br>M Sherratt | D Crauford<br>C Pennicott | P Apps<br>G Maloney |
|           | W |                       | S Kerr                    |                     |

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

Envelopes: £243.00                      Loose: £152.61                      Building Fund    £58.50

November Standing Orders:    Offertories    £1,621.00                      Building Fund    £96.00