

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

1 January 2017



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

A week ago on Christmas Day Pope Francis delivered one of his regular blessings “urbi et orbi”, to the city and to the world. It was accompanied by a message of joy and peace. He spoke of the power of the newborn child, Son of God and Son of Mary, power based not on might and wealth but on love. He said that his message went out to the ends of the earth to reach all peoples, especially those scarred by war and harsh conflicts that seem stronger than the yearnings for peace. Today is New Year’s Day and is also a day of prayer for peace. The Pope’s Christmas message was a prayer for peace and he highlighted the men, women and children in war-torn land of Syria, where “far too much blood has been spilled, particularly in Aleppo, the site of horrendous fighting in recent weeks. It is most urgent that, in respect for humanitarian law, assistance and support be guaranteed to the sorely-tried civilian population, who continue to live in desperate straits and immense suffering and need. It is time for weapons to be still forever, and the international community to seek actively a negotiated solution, so that civil coexistence can be restored in the country.”

Pope Francis also prayed for peace in other places: “peace to the women and men of the beloved Holy Land, the land chosen and favoured by God. May Israelis and Palestinians have the courage and determination to write a new page of history, where hate and revenge give way to the will to build together a future of mutual understanding and harmony.” He spoke out for the people in Iraq, Libya and Yemen “whose peoples suffer war and the brutality of terrorism –that they may be able once again to find unity and concord.” He prayed for the people in Nigeria, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, East Ukraine, Columbia and Burma. He spoke of all those who have been injured or have suffered the loss of a loved one due to the brutal acts of terrorism that have sown fear and death in the heart of many countries and cities. He asked for peace, not merely the word, but real and concrete

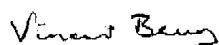
peace, for all who are suffering from hunger and acts of violence, exiles, migrants and refugees and all those who are subject to human trafficking.

Pope Francis concluded his message by addressing the “men and women of goodwill, who work quietly and patiently each day, in their families and in society, to build a more humane and just world, sustained by the conviction that only with peace is there the possibility of a more prosperous future for all.

We face a new year hoping that 2017 will be better than the year that is just ending. The words of King George VI once again ring true when he delivered his Christmas Message in the dark days of war in 1939: “I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: ‘Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.’ And he replied: ‘Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.’ So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.”

As we stand at the gate of another year I wish you and yours a blessed New Year.

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND DECORATIONS

Many thanks to the altar servers, readers, Eucharistic ministers and welcomers and to the choir who sang so beautifully at the midnight mass.

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

Special thanks to all who helped to decorate the Church with flowers and plants and to those who put up and decorated the Christmas Crib and Christmas Tree.

DECEASED CLERGY

Two priests of the Westminster Diocese have died in recent days. Canon John McDonald, who was born in 1930 and ordained priest in 1955. He worked for many years at the Crusade of Rescue before becoming parish priest of the other Corpus Christi church in Maiden Lane, Covent Garden. He had recently been living and being cared for at St Anne's Home, Stoke Newington, where he died peacefully. Canon Charles Acton, younger brother of the present Lord Acton, was born in 1943 and ordained to the priesthood in 1968. Until recently he was a lecturer at Allen Hall Seminary. He had been unwell for some time and wanted to be with his family for Christmas. He was taken ill and brought to Swindon Hospital where he died peacefully.

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.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHES FOR THAILAND

Donations of second-hand children's clothes are invited for 'One Sky Foundation', an organisation in Thailand that supports vulnerable children and their families. Michael and Jum Demidecki can 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'.

Notices for the week beginning 1 January 2017

Sunday 1 January 2017 Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

Mass 6.00 pm (Vigil) Laurie Taylor (Anniversary); 8.30 am Deceased members of the Leadbeater Family; 10.30 am Intentions of Anne De Cesco

Monday *Feast of St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen*

No Mass

Tuesday *The Holy Name of Jesus*

No Mass

Wednesday *Christmas Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Una Kelly (Lately Dead)

Thursday *Christmas Feria*

No Mass Funeral of Canon John McDonald (Westminster Cathedral)

Friday *Christmas Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Holy Souls

Saturday *Christmas Feria*

Confessions 10.00 – 10.30 am; 5.15 – 5.45 pm

Sunday 8 January Feast of the Epiphany

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

10.30 am Kathleen Reddington (Lately Dead)

PRAYERS

Please pray for: **Sick:** Debbie Bewley, Edith Burch, Patrick Foster, Wendy Hinds, Michael Hornsby, Adeline Lewis, Peter McDonald, Paul Mostyn, Honor Owen, Sam Patel, Eileen Scotland, Tom Walsh and Anne Wilkinson; **Lately Dead:** Canon John McDonald, Canon Charles Acton, Una Kelly and Kathleen Reddington; **Anniversaries:** Sister Marthe André, Sister Genevieve Brusey, Godfrey Bambridge, Robert Brown, Bridget Budd, Margaret Cole, Vincent Keeley, Jan Kelly, Anne Kenny, Rita Lonsdale, Gordon McSweeney, Betty O'Connelly, James O'Shaughnessy, John Potter, Cathleen Renihan, Pamela Ryall, Julie Sanda, Julia Sunderland, Mary Toman, Laurie Taylor, Mary Trumper, Francis Warren, James Woodcock and Richard Woods. May they rest in peace.

PARISH MINISTRIES

2017		6.00 pm	8.30 am	10.30 am
7/8 Jan	E	O Conway	A Halliday	P Apps
	R	F Sherratt	S Whitehead	S Lewington
		M Miles	C Pennicott	H Houston
	W	J Lee	S Wright	J Brown
			D Kerr	

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Many thanks for your generous Christmas Offerings, your personal gifts and you avalanche of cards.