

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

15 January 2017



**Parish Priest: Canon Vincent Berry**  
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**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*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mass: 6.00 pm (Vigil), 8.30 am and 10.30 am</b>
<b>Holydays</b>	<b>Mass: 10.00 am and 7.30 pm</b>
<b>Weekday</b>	<b>Mass: Wednesday to Friday 10.00 am</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation: 10.00 – 10.30 am</b> <b>5.15 - 5.45 pm</b>

## *Letter from Langdon Street*

My dear people

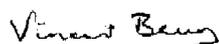
At mass today the Gospel tells us of a special moment in the life of St John the Baptist. He is talking to two of his disciples, Peter's brother Andrew and John's brother James. As he is talking he notices his cousin Jesus walking past. He points him out to his disciples and says "Look, there is the Lamb of God" and tells them he is the one who takes away the sins of the world. We hear these words every time we pray together at mass. This incident reminds us that Jesus, the Lamb of God, is not just a talker. He is a doer. He doesn't just oppose sin, he takes it away. He does not accept sin as inevitable. He wages against it. As individuals and as members of the Church we may sometimes be tempted to water down or soften what Jesus tells us. When Pope Francis speaks about the evil we find in our world today, he doesn't say we can do nothing about it, he tells us to confront it. He reassures us that we are not powerless.

Today we hear the opening sentences of one of St Paul's epistles, the first letter to the Corinthians. He pointed out to the people of Corinth what Our Lord has done for us, whom came so that we can be holy, specially chosen to do great things for God. In some of his epistles he addresses the people as the "saints who are in the Church of Ephesus etc." In today's first reading we hear the words of the Prophet Isaiah where the Servant was called to be the light to the nations, to call people out of darkness. This week, we celebrate the feast of St Anthony the Abbot, also called Anthony of Egypt. He came to realise that the Lord had something special for him to do with his life. The only way for him to carry out his special mission was to give up everything he had in the way of material things. He did this and went out to live in the desert. Centuries later, a young man called Francis who came from a town called Assisi decided that he, like St Anthony, had to give up all his worldly possessions. Another young man called Anthony, born in Lisbon but better known in Padua made the same decision. Throughout the history of the Church we have discovered people who also gave up

everything to commit their lives to the Lord's service. Mother Teresa of Calcutta was inspired by St Teresa of Lisieux. Pope Francis has admitted openly that his own vocation was inspired by St Francis of Assisi.

Pope Francis has left us so many quotes to reflect on. One quote reflects on today's Gospel: What does it mean for the Church, for us, today to be disciples of Jesus the Lamb of God? It means putting innocence in the place of malice, love in the place of force, humility in the place of pride, service in the place of prestige. It is good work! We Christians must do this: put innocence in the place of malice, love in the place of force, humility in the place of pride, service in the place of prestige. Being disciples of the Lamb means that we must not live like a "city under siege," but like a city on a hill, open, welcoming. It means not having an attitude of closedness, but proposing the Gospel to everyone, testifying with our life that following Jesus makes us more free and more joyful. It means that we should remain steadfast in the journey of faith."

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

### **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

On Wednesday this week we begin the annual week of prayer for Christian Unity. It began in 1908 led by a group of Episcopalian priests in America. Father Paul Wattson and his community of Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, based in Greymoor, New York, encouraged people to pray for a week for the unity of all Christians. Within a year the community joined the Catholic Church. The annual week of prayer continued. After the Second World War a priest in Paris, another Father Paul, encountered many Christian refugees from Russia and other East European communities and discovered the rich and ancient traditions of the many Orthodox Churches. This led him to support the church unity octave founded by Father Paul in America and encouraged its growth all over Europe, drawing together Catholics, Orthodox, Lutherans and many other Christian groups. Within the Catholic Church we have become aware of different groups in Eastern Europe and the Middle East who are in unity with the Church of Rome. It was a Russian Orthodox Bishop who said that "the walls of separation do not rise as far as Heaven."

Within the Catholic Church we in this country were a bit slow in taking up what had become to be known as ecumenism. When Pope John XXIII convened the Second Vatican Council he wanted one of the fruits of the council to be the reunion of Christendom. His wish was taken up by Pope Paul VI who went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land and met the Patriarch of Constantinople, head of the Orthodox Churches. This was followed by opening up contact with the Churches of the Reformation, Lutheran, Anglican, Methodist, and Free Churches. Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis have all made ecumenism an important part of their apostolic ministry. The road to unity is long and tortuous but there is now much goodwill on all sides to seek the unity Christ prayed for at the Last Supper – that all may be one.

Here in Tring we are holding a number of special services during they Week of Prayer. There is a fifteen minute service of prayer and meditation each weekday at 12 noon at the following churches: Wednesday (18<sup>th</sup> January), St Peter and St Paul; Thursday, New Mill Baptist Church; Friday, High Street Baptist Church; Monday (23 January), St Martha's Methodist Church; Tuesday, Corpus Christi Church. Next Sunday afternoon, there us a united service at St Mary's Church, Puttenham at 3.30 pm. Canon Berry will be the preacher. Please try to attend at least one of the services, especially the services at Puttenham and Corpus Christi.

### **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'.

### **FINDING SILENCE**

Is life too busy? Slow down and catch up. The priests and parishioners of St Alban & St Stephen's Church, Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, invite you to join them on Saturday 28 January, 10.45 am to 2.30 pm. Bishop John Crowley will lead this time for anyone needing a bit of space and quiet. For further info email [krystyna@faithknowledge.org](mailto:krystyna@faithknowledge.org).

## **Notices for the week beginning 15 January 2017**

### **Sunday 15 January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Mass Book, pages 7 and 125

Mass 6.00 pm (Vigil) Holy Souls; 8.30 am Maura Mulhall (Lately Dead);

10.30 am Andrew O'Keefe RIP

Monday *Feria*

No Mass

Tuesday *St Anthony the Abbot*

No Mass

Wednesday *Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Mary Gleeson

Thursday *St Wulstan*

Mass 10.00 am Tom Walsh (Lately Dead)

Friday *St Fabian and Sebastian*

Mass 10.00 am People of the Parish

Saturday *St Agnes*

Confessions 10.00 – 10.30 am; 5.15 – 5.45 pm

**Sunday 22 January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

10.30 am People of the Parish

**PRAYERS**

Please pray for: **Sick:** Debbie Bewley, Edith Burch, Patrick Foster, Wendy Hinds, Michael Hornsby, Adeline Lewis, Peter McDonald, Paul Mostyn, Honor Owen, Eileen Scotland and Anne Wilkinson; **Lately Dead:** Mary Gleeson, Maura Mulhall and Tom Walsh; **Anniversaries:** Fr Geoffrey Eneh, Pat Bevan, John Cook, Sydney Cooper, Olive Crisp, Rosa Hammond, Anne Jacobs, Violet Kenny, Mary Agnes King, Joseph Larkin, Henry Lee, Kate McDonnell, Leo Maloney, Edward Michaels, Peter Miles, Margaret Murphy, Roger O'Donnell, Philip O'Donohue, John Piggott, Margaret Sammons, Hazel Stokes, Gordon Joseph Wallen and Howard Whitmarsh. May they rest in peace.

**PARISH MINISTRIES**

2017		6.00 pm	8.30 am	10.30 am
14/15 Jan	E	F Sherratt M Todd	A Halliday S Whitehead	H Houston
	R	D Leadbeater M Sherratt	L Hutt S Whitehead	P Apps G Maloney
	W		S Kerr	J Brown

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

Envelopes £209.00      Loose £181.45      Building Fund £63.00

Crib Offerings: £59.18 which will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society