

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

22 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

The village of Capernaum was a fishing village on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Our Lord made it his headquarters. It is not mentioned in the Old Testament which gives credence to the suggestion that it was not built until a hundred years or so before the birth of Jesus. Its name means “village of Nahum.” Recent excavations reveal an area where there would have been a fish market. This was probably the spot where Peter and Andrew were repairing their fishing nets when Jesus called out to them and said: “follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”

Archæologists have discovered the ruins of three synagogues built one above each other. One is dated to the first century AD. There is a stone amid the ruins which has the words Pontius Pilate carved upon a stone, which sets the right date for the building in which Our Lord preached and healed the man with the withered hand. It was above an earlier one dating back to the first century BC and below a later one built in the second century AD. We know about this middle synagogue in the gospels. It was built by a Roman centurion, who had asked Our Lord to heal his servant who is sick. When Jesus approached the centurion’s house he was told: “Lord, I am not worthy to receive you under my roof. Say but the word and my servant will be healed.” The word servant was changed to soul and became a preparation prayer for us before the distribution of Holy Communion. Most of Capernaum is now in ruins but the Franciscan friars, who have traditionally been guardians of most of the Holy Land shrines, have carried out excavations on the site of the synagogue and on a house nearby that was possibly the home of St Peter and his brother Andrew.

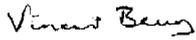
In today’s mass we hear the prophet Isaiah foretelling the coming of a Saviour to Galilee of the nations, to the people who walked in darkness but who had seen a great light. This is perfect background for the ministry of Jesus, the light of the world. Isaiah speaks of the land of Zebulun, the land of Naphtali, the road by the sea, the land west of the Jordan,

land which St Matthew speak's about in today' Gospel. Jesus, like John the Baptist, calls for repentance and invites his first followers – the fishermen – to leave everything behind to follow him.

In our own life-time we have lived through periods of division and disunity. Winston Churchill spoke about the Iron Curtain which stretched from Stetin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic. Later came the Berlin Wall which divided the the city of Berlin. Further back in time there were divisions in Ireland. The city of Dublin was surrounded by a wooden barrier called the Pale within which the Anglo-Irish were protected from the native Irish who lived "beyond the Pale." The Reformation in the seventeen century created divisions between Catholics and Protestants not just in this country but in Ireland and Scotland. All over Europe Lutherans and other Protestant communities even went to war with Catholics. Pope Francis recently went to Sweden to mark the five hundredth anniversary of Martin Luther's protests again abuses in the Catholic Church.

Religious disputes among Christians date back to the time of the Apostles. St Paul wrote to the Christians about the dangers of rivalry and schism. In today's reading he appealed to the Christians of Corinth to stay united in Christ. St John, in his epistles, condemned a group of people known as the gnostics. In today's epistle we hear of St Paul begging us not to fall into divisions.

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

On Wednesday last week we began 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 and their 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 an annual period of prayer for church unity. He began with a three day triduum which developed into an eight day octave of prayer.

We in the Catholic Church 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 during the past week, we have been holding a number of special services each day during the Week of Prayer. The daily prayers, a fifteen minute service of prayer and meditation each weekday at 12 noon, have been celebrated at St Peter & St Paul, New Mill and High Street Baptist Churches will continue on Monday at St Martha's Methodist Church and on Tuesday at Corpus Christi Church. This afternoon, there is a united service at St Mary's Church, Puttenham at 3.30 pm and Canon Berry will be the preacher. Please try to attend at least one of the services, especially the services at Puttenham and Corpus Christi. Let us also reflect on the words of a Russian Orthodox Bishop who said: "the walls of separation do not rise as far as Heaven."

CANON BERRY'S BIRTHDAY & RETIREMENT PARTY

Next September we are going to celebrate Canon's eightieth birthday and also his retirement as our parish priest. On Saturday 23rd September, we have booked Hastoe Village Hall for a sit down meal. The celebration will start at 7 pm sitting down at 7.30. We shall finish at 10 pm. The car park takes 40 cars. On Sunday 24th September, there will be a Buffet Lunch after the 10.30 mass for people who are not able to attend the Saturday Celebration. We have arranged for outside caterers to cover both events so that our regular parish helpers can enjoy the celebrations with the rest of the parish. Please can you put these two dates in your diary, we will need help for decorating the halls on Saturday & Sunday but we will be putting out lists nearer the time.

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.

Notices for the week beginning 22 January 2017

Sunday 22 January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Book, pages 7 and 127

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 Francis de Sales [Silver Jubilee of Cardinal Nichols' Ordination as Bishop]*

No Mass

Wednesday *Conversion of St Paul*

Mass 10.00 am Mary Gleeson

Thursday *St Timothy & St Titus, disciples of St Paul*

Mass 10.00 am Tom Walsh (Lately Dead)

Friday *St Angela Merici*

Mass 10.00 am People of the Parish

Saturday *St Thomas Aquinas*

Confessions 10.00 – 10.30 am; 5.15 – 5.45 pm

Sunday 29 January Fourth 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