

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

12 February 2017



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Presbytery: 51 Langdon Street, Tring, Herts, HP23 6BA  
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Pastoral Assistant: Wendy Hinds 01442 824369

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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*

<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 5.15 – 5.45 pm</b>

## *Letter from Langdon Street*

My dear people

At mass today we hear more of Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount. The sermon is in fact a series of different sermons spoken on different occasions and in different places. St Matthew puts them all together and explains how different Our Lord's sermons were from that of the scribes and Pharisees. When they preached they laid down the Law. They put stress on the letter of the law and on its external observance rather than the spirit of the Law. When Jesus spoke to the people about the Law he said that he had not come to destroy the Law but to complete it.

In today's gospel Christ raises the standard, he raises the bar. He comments on each commandment and helps the people to understand they were capable of better. He is not abolishing the ten commandments, but he is asking his followers to adopt a more perfect, a more sincere, fulfilment of them. He is establishing a charter, a constitution, a new law, Christianity. The old law is not being abolished, but is being deepened and given a new life. The commandment against murder is not enough. We must not only not injure our neighbour or his good name, but we must be ever ready to help him and prevent injury to him, whenever and wherever we can. We must not only not bear false witness, we must be truthful always, and keep our word. Keeping the ten commandments is our way of proving to God that we are grateful, obedient and loyal to him who gave us all we have. We must observe the Law, not just the letter but also the spirit of the Law.

In English we have the expression about dotting the eyes and crossing the tees. Today we hear Our Lord using the Hebrew equivalent of jot and tittle. Jot or Yod is the ninth letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It is the smallest letter in the alphabet and looks like our

apostrophe. It means a very small amount. The title is even smaller than a jot. It is a stroke. In today's gospel we hear Our Lord say: "Till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved." A modern translation puts it this way: "Until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved."

When St Matthew speaks of "the Law and the prophets" he means the whole Scripture. The Law and the Prophets take up the major part of the Old Testament. When the Messiah brings the fullness of the kingdom none of scripture will be done away with. Instead it will be fulfilled. St Matthew explains that Our Lord does not overturn the Law of Moses, nor does he set his followers free from the Law. He requires his followers to go beyond the Law by doing more than the Law requires. He wants us to understand that we are capable of doing better than the strict letter of the Law requires.

The Law condemned murder. Jesus condemns anger. The Law condemned adultery. Jesus condemns even lustful looks. St Matthew's Gospel was written primarily for Jewish converts who had always been faithful to the Law and was meant to help them understand the message of Jesus. The new Judeo-Christian community needed how to understand the difference between the faith they had grown up with and the fulfilment of that faith proclaimed by Jesus and the kingdom he had come on earth to proclaim. The written scriptures and their interpretation in tradition are surpassed by Jesus whose life and teaching are the definitive revelation of the will of God. Today's first reading is taken from the Book of Ecclesiasticus, also known as the Book of Sirac. Sirac was the author of the book. It was a popular book in the early Church and was used so frequently that it became known as the Church Book (Ecclesiasticus). Today's passage stresses that goodness is possible for everyone. No one has permission to sin. The second reading links the first reading and the gospel reading. St Paul, writing to the people of Corinth, tells us that true wisdom of life is found in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

#### **ECUMENICAL EVENTS**

Lent Lunches will take place on the Wednesdays of February and March. The weekly prayer breakfasts will be on the first Saturday of each month. Details will be posted at the back of church.

#### **MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE**

If you are engaged to be married you will need to do a marriage preparation course. There will be a two day course on the 11th/12th March at Felden Lodge, Hemel Hempstead. For more information contact Charles and Kryisia Golabek on their website where you can find more details about the weekend and can also book: [wwme.org.uk/marriage-preparation](http://wwme.org.uk/marriage-preparation)

#### **CATHOLIC SINGLES FOR THE OVER 50s**

This is on Friday 24th Feb 2017, 7pm - £15 per person. Lebanese food tasting experience courtesy of Mandaloun Restaurant of Westfield and Fulham Road, Chelsea. Cash bar. Register with [claire@austin-forum.org](mailto:claire@austin-forum.org) or call 020 8748 3254. All proceeds go towards funding our free English Lesson programme.

#### **NURSERY ADMISSIONS 2017/18**

Parents of children born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 can apply online for a nursery place at Hertfordshire nursery schools and classes from Monday 6th February 2017. St Thomas More will be holding two 'Open Mornings' to view the Nursery (and main school if desired) on Monday 20th February at 11am and Tuesday 14th March at 9.30am. Please call the school office on 01442 385060 to book a space. Many thanks.

#### **ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL, HARPENDEN**

Due to the retirement of the current Head of St Dominic's Primary School, the governors are seeking a new Head Teacher from September 2017. Further details and application packs are available online at [teachinherts.com](http://teachinherts.com).

#### **YOUTH WORKER**

The Westminster Justice and Peace Commission to promote peace and social justice concerns in schools and parishes across the diocese is seeking to appoint a youth worker. Energy and enthusiasm to encourage young people to make a difference in the world around them is key. See diocesan website for details. Closing date Feb 21st 2017.

## **Notices for the week beginning 12 February 2017**

#### **Sunday 12 February Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Mass Book, pages 7 and 136

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

10.30 am Wendy Hinds (Sick)

Monday *Feria*

No Mass

Tuesday *Saint Cyril and St Methodius*

No Mass

Wednesday *Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Special Intention

Thursday *Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Wendy Hinds (Sick)

Friday *Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order*

Mass 10.00 am People of the Parish.

Saturday *Feria*

Confessions 10.00 – 10.30 am; 5.15 – 5.45 pm

**Sunday 19 February Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

10.30 am Private Intention

### PRAYERS

Please pray for: **Sick:** Debbie Bewley, Edith Burch, Patrick Foster, Wendy Hinds, Michael Hornsby, Rita Laverty, Adeline Lewis, Peter McDonald, Paul Mostyn, Honor Owen, Michael Rogers and Anne Wilkinson; **Anniversaries:** Sister Agnes de Sales, Derrick Barber, Julie Connolly, Agnes Gibb, Diana Harwood, William Kehoe, Josefa Kowalewski, Edward Magdycz, Aenne Marx, Zygfryd Newton, Frances Noon, Peter Norton, Nora Russell, Joan Salmons, Margaret Smyth, Ken Valentine, Eric Gordon Wallen, Joe Ward and Edward Wolveridge, May they rest in peace.

### PARISH MINISTRIES

2017		6.00 pm	8.30 am	10.30 am
18/19 Feb	E	O Conway	A Halliday	A De Cesco
	R	M Leadbeater	K Andrew	
		M Miles	S Whitehead	S Lewington
	W	M Sherratt	D Crauford	H Houston
			D Kerr	J Brown

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Envelopes £228.51      Loose £232.87      Building Fund £23.50