

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

26 February 2017



**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*

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <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><br><b>5.15 – 5.45 pm</b> |

## *Letter from Langdon Street*

My dear people

We are used to addressing God as our Father and to describe his fatherly qualities. In today's first reading the Prophet Isaiah speaks about God's motherly qualities. The first time I read about God as father and mother, I was quite shocked. Pope John Paul I, on the Sunday after his election, spoke to the people in St Peter's Square and said the following: "We are the objects of undying love on the part of God. We know. He always has his eyes open on us, even when it seems to be dark. He is our father; even more he is our mother. He does not want to hurt us, He wants only to do good to us, to all of us. If children are ill, they have additional claim to be loved by their mother. And we too, if by chance we are sick with badness, on the wrong track, have yet another claim to be loved by the Lord." He was challenged later about this but in reply he said he was quoting St Augustine.

Early Christian authors also speak of the maternal nature of God. Mother Julian of Norwich, a medieval English mystic, describes God as both Father and Mother: "God rejoices that he is our Father, and God rejoices that he is our Mother." St Anselm of Canterbury depicts Christ as a mother in a devotional prayer. For Anselm, Christ is "the great mother" who brought forth sons through his death and who comforts the frightened with his gentleness.

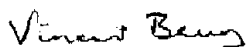
Describing God using characteristically feminine terms can help us understand important aspects of God's nature such as God "giving birth, nursing, comforting, and caring." God's creation of humans—male and female—in God's own image signifies that God is the fullness of masculinity and femininity. Understanding God as "Mother" and drawing on the maternal images of God found in scripture and Christian tradition illuminate important aspects of God's character. We are reminded that although there are limits to every metaphor, God's love, comfort, and care know no bounds. The Prophet Isaiah tells us that God's love creates, redeems, forgives and renews all peoples.

Today we also hear more of St Paul writing to the Church community in Corinth. He describes himself as having been born out of time. He had not walked with the earthly Jesus among the hills Judea, or along shore of the Sea of Galilee. He had not heard Jesus preach or see him die. In fact he had done his best to eradicate the Christian movement in its early stages of development. For this reason, many questioned his right to call himself an apostle and criticized his claim to teach authoritatively in Jesus' name. Paul claimed to be a servant of Christ.

In today's Gospel St Matthew tells us that if we truly believe in Jesus as the Son of God, we must choose either to worship God or be caught up in the idolatry of worldly possessions. He tells us: No one can serve two masters. He will either *hate* the one and *love* the other; or be *attentive* to one and *despise* the other." Only when God is valued above every other value will the subordinate values of food, clothing, livelihood, etc., fall into their proper perspective.

We can then seek first the kingdom of God, and everything else will be added to us.

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

#### **PARISH DIARY**

There are still a few copies left of our parish diary. The publishers are now preparing next year's diary and are looking for adverts to subsidise the cost of printing etc. If you are interested in including an advert for your company or service, please contact David of Nordic Press by phone on 01530 811629.

#### **ECUMENICAL EVENTS**

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

#### **WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

This day of prayer began in the nineteenth century in North America. It was celebrated in this country for the first time in 1932. It is held on the first Friday in March. The churches in Tring take turns to act as host and this year it is the turn of Corpus Christi. There are two services, at 2.30 pm and at 7.30 pm. We need at least six volunteers to prepare for each service and serve refreshments. If you can help, please put your contact details on the list at the back of church.

We also need the ladies of the parish to attend the service. Men are also invited. This is an important ecumenical service and we would like to see as many people as possible from Corpus Christi to join their fellow Christians from the Anglican, Baptist and Methodist Churches.

#### **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 Krysia 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)

#### **MASS FOR BEREAVED PARENTS**

Following the Year of Mercy we in the Westminster Diocese are being offered a number of events which may be of help to us. As part of a season of prayer and action 'Called to Serve the Sick', Cardinal Nichols wants this to be a time to remember, to pray, to give thanks and to entrust our children to the Lord.

The first is a mass for bereaved parents at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 11 March at 2.30 pm. It will be celebrated by Bishop Paul McAleenan. During Mass, after the homily, parents will be invited to write the name of their deceased child on a card and the cards will be taken along with the offertory to the sanctuary.

#### **ANNUAL MASS IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY**

Cardinal Nichols invites couples who are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary this year, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> and 60+, to join him for a thanksgiving mass at Westminster Cathedral, on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 3pm. Please send your contact details to Canon Berry not later than 24th March 2017, so that personal invitations from the Cardinal can be sent in time.

#### **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).

## **Notices for the week beginning 26 February 2017**

#### **Sunday 26 February Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Mass Book, pages 7 and 142

Mass 6.00 pm (Vigil) People of the Parish; 8.30 am Derrick & Mary Barber

10.30 am Wendy Hinds (Very Sick)

Monday *Feria*

No Mass

Tuesday *Feria*

No Mass

Wednesday **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Mass 10.00 am Wendy Hinds (Very Sick)

Mass 7.30 pm Special Intention

Thursday *Lent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Private Intention

Friday *Lent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Private Intention

Stations of the Cross 10.30 am and 7.30 pm

Saturday *Lent Feria*

Confessions 10.00 – 10.30 am; 5.15 – 5.45 pm

**Sunday 5 March First Sunday of Lent**

Mass 6.00 pm (Vigil) People of the Parish; 8.30 am Dominic Rocha RIP

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 and Anne Wilkinson; *Lately Dead*: Anna Correia Lewington and Michael Rogers; *Anniversaries*: Terry Andrew, Alice Bennett, Patricia Calladine, Susan Clifford, Doris Couchman, John Diamond, Anna Marmolino Durante, Brian Fitzgerald, Eddie Goodwin, Elizabeth Ellen, and Joseph Lloyd Harwood, James Herring, John Ireton, Sheila McGrath, Barbara Maxwell, Julie O'Mahoney, Andrew Scotland, Douglas Sears and Matilda Valentine. May they rest in peace.

### PARISH MINISTRIES

| 2017      |   | 6.00 pm      | 8.30 am     | 10.30 am    |
|-----------|---|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 4/5 March | E | F Sherratt   | A Halliday  | A De Cesco  |
|           | R | O Conway     | K Andrew    |             |
|           |   | J Lee        | P Milton    | H Houston   |
|           | W | D Leadbeater | S Whitehead | S Lewington |
|           |   |              | D Kerr      | A Farrow    |

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Envelopes £253.50      Loose £244.28      Building Fund £38.50