

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

5 February 2017



Parish Priest: Canon Vincent Berry

Presbytery: 51 Langdon Street, Tring, Herts, HP23 6BA  
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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

Last Sunday's Gospel told us about the Sermon on the Mount and the Eight Beatitudes. Today we hear of Jesus teaching his disciples. He uses two images, salt and light. He tells them that they are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We take salt and light for granted in our society, but these commodities were very precious in ancient cultures. Just as now, salt was used in Jesus' time for flavouring, as a preservative, and as a healing agent. Similarly, the widespread use of electricity in the modern world makes us less aware of the value and importance of light in our lives. I remember when I was only about eight years old, I was on holiday in Dublin and my mother took me to visit an old family friend whose house had no electricity at all. When it began to get dark, the old lady lit the oil lamp, with a beautiful porcelain base, which lit up the whole room. It was brighter than the electric light we had at home. Pope Francis has used the images of salt and light when he has spoken about the Church's social teaching. Our commitment to social justice flows from the exhortation that Jesus gives us in today's Gospel.

When Pope Pius IX died in 1878, he had been pope for thirty two years. The cardinals decided they did not want another long pontificate so they chose an old man of 68 who took the name of Leo XIII. In fact, the Holy Spirit had other ideas. Pope Leo was pope for twenty five years and died at the age of ninety three! Man supposes but God disposes.

Pope Leo was the first pope to speak seriously about the poor and disadvantages and how some people who had plenty of money were living rich and extravagant lives and ignoring those who were poor. He introduced a set of principles in an encyclical (circular) letter to all the bishops. The opening words of the letter were Rerum Novarum which mean concerning new things and this letter was the first declaration by a pope to talk about what we now call social justice. His letter was not well received by rich and powerful men

among the laity and the clergy. He was denounced as a socialist and a communist. Some bishops responded positively to the pope's letter, especially Cardinal Manning who was the second archbishop of Westminster.

Pope Leo's letter was published in May 1891. Forty years later, Pope Pius XI issued a follow up letter entitled *Quadragesimo Anno* which meant "in the fortieth year." He wrote it in May 1931 when much of Europe was suffering the period of depression after the First World War. The fiftieth anniversary of *Rerum Novarum* was in 1941 in the middle of World War II and Pope Pius XII used the occasion to attempt to update the social teaching of the Church despite the horrors of war. On 15 May 1961 St John XXIII celebrated the seventieth anniversary of *Rerum Novarum* with a beautiful presentation of the Church's social teaching in advance of the Second Vatican Council. It was called *Mater et Magistra*, Mother and Teacher. The centenary of *Rerum Novarum* was marked by St John Paul II in May 1991 in which the Church's social teaching was updated once again.

St John Paul II marked the beginning of the Third Millennium with a letter which was a compendium of the writings of his predecessors about how we as members of the Church, pope, bishops, priests, religious and lay people all have a part to play, together "as a pilgrim people, guided by Christ, the great shepherd, the Way, the Truth and the Life, confirm our faith and hope in him, the one saviour and goal of history." He wanted us to see non Catholics and non-Christians as travelling companions along the same journey of faith. He said: "Guided by the perennial light of the Gospel and ever attentive to evolution of society, the Church's social doctrine is characterized by continuity and renewal." It is in the light of the continuing teaching of his predecessors that Pope Francis stresses not only the dignity that is proper to all humanity but the duty of us all to respect the world in which we live.

The developing message of the Church can be traced back to the Works of Mercy spoken by Christ but re-affirmed by Pope Francis. When we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, console those who mourn, and so on, we show ourselves to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Within the community of faith, which is the Church, we are indeed acting as "a city set on a mountain top" that cannot be hidden.

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

#### **SISTER MARY-JULIA BROGAN**

Sister Mary-Julia was head teacher of St Frances De Sales Convent School before the school closed in the year 2000. She died in Austria on 22 January this year aged 82. May she rest in peace.

#### **ECUMENICAL EVENTS**

There are a number of ecumenical events coming up in the next two months: (1) CTT (Churches Together in Tring), Annual General Meeting on Tuesday evening this week, at 8.00 pm in Corpus Christi Church. Margaret Donnelly will give a report about the work of the Justice and Peace Group. (2) Lenten Lunches on the Wednesdays of February and March. 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 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)

#### **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.

## **Notices for the week beginning 5 February 2017**

#### **Sunday 5 February Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Mass Book, pages 7 and 133

Mass 6.00 pm (Vigil) People of the Parish; 8.30 am Jock Scotland (Anniversary)

10.30 am Sister Mary-Julia Brogan

Monday *St Paul Miki and the Martyrs of Japan*

No Mass

Tuesday *Feria*

No Mass

Wednesday *Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Private Intention

Thursday *Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Private Intention

Friday *Saint Scolastica*

Mass 10.00 am People of the Parish.

followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday *Our Lady of Lourdes*

Confessions 10.00 – 10.30 am; 5.15 – 5.45 pm

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

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

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:** Sister Mary-Julia Brogan; **Anniversaries:** Father Paulus Cyrel D’Hoine, Joan Askey, Mary Carmey, Margarita Cepozzo, David Ciano, Charles Donovan, Harry Hornsby, Florence Ives, Dorothy Long, Margaret Mahoney, Charles Morgan, Pru Nowaczewska, Jock Scotland, Mary Taaffe, Elsie Walker, Charles Whitmarsh, and Gladys Whitmarsh. May they rest in peace.

### PARISH MINISTRIES

2017		6.00 pm	8.30 am	10.30 am
11/12 Feb	E	O Conway M Todd	A Halliday K Andrew	H Houston
	R	D Leadbeater J Lee	S Wright L Hutt	G Maloney P Apps
	W		S Kerr	A Farrow

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Envelopes £242.50      Loose £188.78      Building Fund £38.40

January Standing Orders: Offertories £1,912.00      Building Fund £96.00