

## PARISH NEWSLETTER

Corpus Christi Church, Langdon Street, Tring

26 March 2017



**Parish Priest: Canon Vincent Berry**  
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

The calamity that struck so many innocent people last Wednesday must have been a shock to us all. Pope Francis sent a message to Cardinal Nichols expressing how deeply saddened he had been to learn of the loss of life and of the injuries caused by the attack in central London. He expressed his prayerful solidarity with all those affected by this tragedy. He commended those who have died to the loving mercy to almighty God and invoked divine strength and peace upon their grieving families. He assured the nation of his prayers at this time.

The Cardinal himself sent the following message to all parish priests: Yesterday's attacks in Westminster have shocked us all. The kind of violence we have seen all too often in other places has again brought horror and killing to this city. I know you will lead people in prayer, especially for those who have lost their lives and those who have lost one they love. Pray for Aysha Frade, killed by the car on Westminster Bridge. Her two children attend St Mary of the Angels Primary School. Pray for them and for their father. And please remember the young French students who have been injured. We remember too all who have been injured, and those who care for them.

The Cardinal concluded his letter in the following words: "We pray in particular as well for Keith Palmer, the police officer who died, and for his family, thanking God that so many show such brave dedication to keeping our society safe. Let our voice be one of prayer, of compassionate solidarity, and of calm. All who believe in God, Creator and Father of every person, will echo this voice, for faith in God is not a problem to be solved, but a strength and a foundation on which depend."

While the violence in Westminster was unfolding, preparations were being made for the funeral of Martin McGuinness in the City of Derry. Much has been written and spoken about the tremendous contribution McGuinness made to bring about the end of "The Troubles" in Northern Ireland and the establishment of peace. But others can never forgive him for what took place in his early years. As I read many of the obituaries I came across an explanation as to why Martin McGuinness joined the IRA. It was because of a policeman he saw striking Gerry Fitt who was taking part in a civil rights procession.

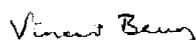
Gerry Fitt grew up in Belfast. He became a city councillor, later a member of the Stormont Parliament and finally MP for West Belfast at Westminster. During the 1960s many people, Catholic and non Catholic, joined various civil rights groups. Some sympathetic MPs were present at the civil rights march in Derry on 5 October 1968 when Fitt and others were beaten up by the Royal Ulster Constabulary. RTE's film, in which Fitt featured prominently, showed images of the police baton charge on the peaceful, but illegal, demonstration which also drew world attention to the claims of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association. It was the sight of Gerry Fitt being beaten about the head by a policeman's truncheon with blood streaming down his face that provoked McGuinness to join the IRA. This does not justify what he subsequently did but it does help us understand why he did it. It also reminds us how often violence leads to violence.

History shows us a long line of terrorists and freedom fighters who eventually came to terms with an often reluctant British Government. Jomo Kenyatta came out of prison and became the first President of Kenya. Archbishop Macarios came back from exile to become the First President of Cyprus. As Martin McGuinness is laid to rest let us remember all who have been victims of violence and injustice.

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Lent but is also called Mothering Sunday. It was originally a time when people returned to the church, in which they had been baptized or where they attended services when they were children. This meant that families were reunited as adults and returned to the towns and villages where they grew up. In time, it became customary for young people who were working as servants in large houses, to be given a holiday on Mothering Sunday. They could use this day to visit their own mother and often took a gift of food or hand-me-down clothing from their employers to her. In turn, this moved towards the modern holiday, on which people still visit and take gifts to their mothers. It was on this day that people ate Simnel cake. A Simnel cake is a light fruit cake covered with a layer of marzipan and with a layer of marzipan baked into the middle of the cake. Traditionally, Simnel cakes are decorated with 11 or 12 balls of marzipan, representing the 11 disciples and, sometimes, Jesus Christ. One legend says that the cake was named after Lambert Simnel who worked in the kitchens of Henry VII of England sometime around the year 1500.

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are traditionally three activities proposed to us during Lent. Our archbishop and his predecessors have designated certain charities for what has been called Lenten Alms. There is a leaflet with today's newsletter which highlights the Cardinal's appeal for this Lent. I am sorry that this is the third appeal in four weeks but tragedies at home and abroad have their own timetables. Please give whatever you can in the second collection next Sunday.

Yours sincerely



Parish Priest

### **LENT FAST DAY**

Thank you for your kind response to the appeal last Sunday for the Lent Fast Day which came to £492.69

### **LENT LUNCHES**

Every Wednesday during Lent, a simple lunch of soup, bread and cheese is served from 12 noon to 2.00 pm in aid of Christian Aid. The local church communities in Tring and some local villages act as hosts on the following Wednesdays: 29th March, High Street Baptist Church; 5th April, St Peter & St Paul Parish Hall; 12th April, St Martha's Church.

### **RED BOXES**

The Red Boxes are now due for collection. If boxes are left in church, please leave them in the sacristy.

### **ST THOMAS MORE SCHOOL**

The Governors of St Thomas More Catholic Primary School & Nursery, Berkhamsted wish to appoint a Deputy Head to join our thriving school. Please contact the school on 01442 385060 for further details. The present Deputy Head, Fionnuala Smith, has been appointed as Head Teacher of St Cuthbert Mayne Primary School, Hemel Hempstead. We wish her every blessing for the future.

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

### **Sunday 26 March Fourth Sunday of Lent**

Mass Book, pages 7 and 164

Mass 6.00 pm (Vigil) Dr Michael Rogers (Lately Dead); 8.30 am Private Intention;

10.30 am Victims of the Westminster Attack

Monday *Lent Feria*

No Mass

Tuesday *Lent Feria*

No Mass

Wednesday *Lent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Giles and Diana Harwood (Anniversary)

Stations of the Cross 7.30 pm

Thursday *Lent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Private Intention

Friday *Lent Feria*

Mass 10.00 am Tom Browne (Lately Dead)

Stations of the Cross 10.30 am

Saturday *Lent Feria*

Confessions 10.00 – 10.30 am; 5.15 – 5.45 pm

**Sunday 1 April Fifth Sunday of Lent**

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

### PRAYERS

Please pray for: **Sick:** Debbie Bewley, Edith Burch, Lily Butler, Patrick Foster, Wendy Hinds, Michael Hornsby, Rita Laverty, Adeline Lewis, Peter McDonald, Paul Mostyn, Honor Owen and Anne Wilkinson; **Lately Dead:** Tom Browne and Dr Michael Rogers; **Anniversaries:** Elizabeth Axe, Sinead Butler, Ernest Couchman, Liam Donovan, William Formosa-Holt, Giles and Diana Harwood, Rose Hollis, Lozia Jabs, David Lawless, Eileen McGuire, Johann Manzenreiter, Maria Messeri, William Orłowski, Rose Rogers, Kathleen Tucker, Douglas Valentine, John Walker and Emilia Zerafa. May they rest in peace.

### PARISH MINISTRIES

2017		6.00 pm	8.30 am	10.30 am
01/02 April	E	F Sherratt G Booth	S Whitehead K Andrew	A De Cesco
	R	D Leadbeater J Lee	S Whitehead P Milton	S Lewington P Apps
	W		D Kerr	

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Envelopes £226.10

Loose £196.95

Building Fund £32.65