23 January 2022 Divine Office: Week 3

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND ST CECILIA**

**Parish Administrator:** Mgr. Francis Jamieson

**Landline:** 01258 452051 **Mobile:** 07826 732493

**Hospital RC Chaplains:**

**Dorchester:** Fr. Barry Hallett 01305 255198**, Poole:** Deacon Declan McConville 01202 442167

**Newsletter**: [newsletterblandfordcatholics@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:newsletterblandfordcatholics@yahoo.co.uk)

website: [blandfordcatholics.org](http://blandfordcatholics.org/)

**Please keep in your prayers:**

**Keith Wareham; Leander; Father Tom and all at the Care Home where he is Chaplain;**

**and all families of those suffering at this time.**

**MASS INFORMATION CORRECT AT THE TIME OF PUBLISHING BUT MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C**

**(Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity until 25th)**

**Saturday January 22**

**St Vincent, Deacon, Martyr (Opt Mem)**

**9.30am (EF) HOLY MASS**

**5.30pm HOLY MASS OF SUNDAY : THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

**SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**Sunday January 23**

**9am HOLY MASS**

**Monday January 24 9.30am HOLY MASS St Francis de Sales, Doctor of the Church (Mem)**

**Tuesday January 25 6.30pm HOLY MASS The Conversion of St Paul, Apostle (FEAST)**

**Wednesday January 26 9.30am HOLY MASS St Timothy *and* St Titus (Mem)**

**Thursday January 27 9.30am HOLY MASS St Angela Merici (Opt Mem)**

**Friday January 28 9.30am HOLY MASS St Thomas Aquinas, Doctor of the Church (Mem)**

**followed by Benediction**

**Saturday January 29**

**9.30am (EF) HOLY MASS**

**5.30pm HOLY MASS OF SUNDAY : THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

**Sunday January 30**

**9am HOLY MASS**

**We shall keep enhanced hygiene, cleaning, and safety measures in place.**

**IT IS NOW MANDATORY TO WEAR MASKS IN CHURCH.**

**CHILDREN'S MASS** From the **first Sunday of February - the 6th.** - we shall take up the children’s Liturgy of the Word again, whereby they leave the church once we have assembled and return at the Offertory to bring up the bread and the wine for the Mass, in the meanwhile having had their own service in a form which they might find easier to join in and also to learn something more of our faith.

**“SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS”** We have received very, very few of the forms asking for your opinion that can be taken into account during the present opportunity Pope Francis has asked to be created for everyone in the Church to be able to listen to each other.

If you would rather give your opinions on line, this is the link:

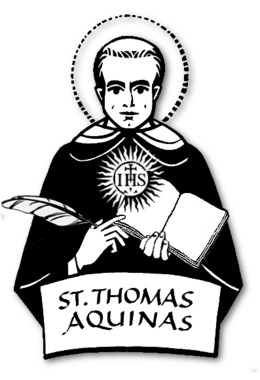
https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9MVCQ7M

Please do say what you would like to. No voice is unimportant.

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** £146.00 . **CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S SOCIETY (CRIB)** £485.45. **AMOUNTS FOR DECEMBER** - Gift Aided £1,717.50, Non Gift Aided £100.00*.* Thanks to all who contributed. *Ruth*

With blessings on every one of our parish family.

Father Francis

**St Thomas Aquinas** (1225-1274) When St Thomas Aquinas decided in 1244 to join the Dominicans, his brothers imprisoned him in a castle. They even tempted him with a prostitute, trying unsuccessfully to untrack his vocation. As Dominicans were looked down on as beggars, the family preferred that Thomas at least become a Benedictine. Then perhaps he might become abbot of prestigious Monte Cassino, where he had gone to school.

But after a year Thomas escaped and became a Dominican. At Paris and Cologne he studied philosophy and theology with St Albert the Great. Probably referring to Thomas' physical bulk, Albert accurately predicted that "the lowing of this dumb ox would be heard all over the world".

For the next two decades Thomas divided his time between Paris and Italy, teaching and writing prodigiously. Between 1259 and 1264 he developed one of his major works, the Summa Contra Gentes. Using Aristotle, who was popular among Muslim, Jewish, and pagan scholars, Aquinas strove in this book to give these peers rational arguments for Christianity.

In thefollowing selection,forexample, he explains reasonably how an unchangeable God can answer prayer without changing: "The immutability of providence does not mean that prayer is unprofitable, any more than it means that there is no room for contingency within the domain of providence. Prayer is not made to God in order to get the eternal plan of providence changed, because this is impossible. Its purpose is that people should obtain what they desire from God. It is appropriate that God should assent to the pious desires of rational creatures. Not as if our desires moved the immovable God, but it is a consequence of his own goodness that he brings about what they desire in a suitable way. All things naturally desire the good. And it belongs to the excellence of God's goodness to distribute being and well-being to everything in an ordered way. It follows that, in line with his own goodness, he fulfils the pious desires which are unfolded in prayer.

God loves his creatures, and he loves each one the more, the more it shares his own goodness, which is the first and primary object of his love. Therefore he wants the desires of his rational creatures to be fulfilled because they share most perfectly of all creatures the goodness of God.

And his will is an accomplisher of things because he is the cause of things by his will. So it belongs to the divine goodness to fulfil the desires of rational creatures which are put to him in prayer."

In 1266, Thomas began to write his most important work, the *Summa Theoligica*. In five hefty volumes he developed a systematic statement of his mature thought on all Christian doctrine. But Thomas left the *Summa* unfinished. An experience at Mass in December 1273 persuaded him to stop writing. "All I have written," he said, "seems to me like straw compared to what I have seen and what has been revealed to me."

Thomas Aquinas died a year later. For a half-century after his death the saint was under a cloud of suspicion because of his innovation. But through the centuries he has come to be esteemed as one of the greatest Catholic theologians of all time.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Dear All, For those of you with quizzical minds and who are up for a fun evening (albeit remotely unfortunately), I’m running a quiz on **Saturday 05 February** in aid of the **BLANDFORD WELCOME GROUP.** Inroads are being made to our minimum target of £9,000, which (amongst other criteria) enables us to seek Home Office approval to receive a refugee family.

Friends, family and fellow parishioners are most welcome. As well as raising funds for the cause, these evenings are always good fun and there will be a nominal prize for the winning team! Entry is £10 per link, with payment via BLANDFORD WELCOME GROUP - Give A Little. This will generate an e-mail receipt which should then be forwarded to aprwas@hotmail.com and we will forward you a Zoom link to join the quiz. I look forward to you hopefully joining us on the 5th. With kind regards.  *Anthony*

 We plan to have our **PARISH MEAL** together next month on the day after the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, a very suitable way of celebrating Our Lady’s patronage of our parish. That is, **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12th**., at 12.30.

We shall know exactly where in a day or two.

**For the sake of our parish community, please do try to come.** *Father Francis*

 **UNCOLLECTED CHRISTMAS CARDS** The cards still to be collected from the back of church are for Marie Vardill, Arlene, Ava, Bronagh O’Donellan, Sandra, Christopher Welles, Richard Wilson.

 The Diocese are running an online event on **8 February** about refugees and migrants which will also have a focus on community sponsorship and someone will be sharing the experience of Sidmouth parish which is the first to welcome a refugee family. Should you wish to join, the link is https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/welcome-the-stranger/ The time of the event will be advised beforehand. *Anthony*



**WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 2022**

Our pilgrimage to Walsingham this year will be from **Monday 11th  - Thursday 14th July**, led by Fr. Francis.  Full details and booking forms will appear shortly.  It will be wonderful to go again to England’s Nazareth!    *Madeleine*

**We welcome contributions to this newsletter from parishioners; please send in links to websites, hard copy, email pictures, prose or poetry, whether to inform or to entertain....**

“I'll be more enthusiastic about encouraging thinking outside the box when there's evidence of any thinking going on inside it.”

― Terry Pratchett (contributed by Avis)

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"My most pleasant task is saying my Rosary and praying to my heavenly Mother. It is the most pure joy of my heart!"

- St Francis de Sales (contributed by Hilary)

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"Johnson quoted some Latin, and Edwards said: 'You are a philosopher, Dr Johnson. I have tried too, in my time, to be a philosopher; but, I don't know how, cheerfulness was always breaking in." - James Boswell, *The Life of Samuel Johnson* (contributed by Avis)