30 January 2022 Divine Office: Week 4

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND ST CECILIA**

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**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**

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

**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**

**Monday January 31 9.30am NO MASS St John Bosco (Mem)**

**Tuesday February 1 6.30pm NO MASS**

**Wednesday January February 2 9.30am NO MASS THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (FEAST)**

**WORLD DAY CONSECRATED LIFE**

 **Thursday February 3 9.30am NO MASS St Blaise *and* St Ansgar (Opt Mems)**

 **Friday February 4 9.30am HOLY MASS**

**followed by Benediction**

**Saturday February 5 St Agatha (Mem)**

 **9.30am (EF) HOLY MASS**

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

**Sunday February 6**

**9am CHILDREN'S MASS**

**Fr. Francis apologises that there will be no Mass in church next week on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday: January 31st. and February 1st., 2nd., and 3rd.**

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

**IT IS STILL 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.

**Rosemary - Rosie - Caldwell**, who has been helping us wonderfully on the organ. will be received into the Church and confirmed by Fr. Francis by delegation from the Bishop at the 9 o’clock Mass on Sunday, March 13th.  Thank God for his grace.  Please pray for her, and pray, too, that we may welcome her warmly as a new sister in Christ.

**“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** £162.70 . **CAFOD** - The wall box near the side door entrance to the church has been emptied and £11.34 has been sent to CAFOD. C**OUNTS 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

**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY**

**For religious sisters and consecrated women**

We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

**St John Bosco (1815-1888)**  God must have laughed heartily at the joke he played when he gave St John Bosco to the 19th century. Don John Bosco was a man of great faith in an age of great unbelief. He was a wonder-worker who routinely performed miracles, was guided by dreams, read peoples' consciences, and accurately predicted the future.

 However, Don Bosco was mainly an evangelist, educator, and leader of men. He used all of his gifts, both spiritual and natural, for others. For nearly half a century he catechized and cared for homeless youth s in Turin. And he founded a religious order that has extended his ministry throughout the contemporary world.

 In 1841 a newly ordained priest, he came to Turin to study theology. Soon he gathered about himself hundreds of street youths. First they flocked to his Sunday events for fun, games, food, catechism and worship. Over the next fifteen years he collected abandoned youths in a ragtag but impressive community. With nothing but faith he built them residences, workshops, schools, and churches.

 But the most valuable thing Don Bosco gave his boys was love. Most soaked up his affection and responded be getting their lives on track. In a letter to a colleague, the saint explained the role of charity in his educational method:

*...It is more fitting to be persistent in punishing our own impatience and pride than to correct the boys. We must be firm but kind and patient with them.*

 *I give you as model the charity of Paul which he showed to his new converts. They often reduced him to tears and entreaties when he found them lacking docility and even opposing his loving efforts.*

*See that no one finds you motivated by impetuosity or wilfulness. It is difficult to keep calm when administering punishment, but this must be done if we are to keep ourselves from ... spilling out our anger.*

 *Let us regard those boys ... as our own sons ... Let us not rule over them except for the purpose of serving them better.*

 *This was the method Jesus used with the apostles. He put up with their ignorance and roughness and even their infidelity. He treated sinners with a kindness and affection that caused some to be shocked, others to be scandalized, and still others to hope for God's mercy. And so he bade us to be "gentle and humble of heart".*

 *They are our sons, and so in correcting their mistakes we must lay aside all anger and restrain it so firmly that it is extinguished entirely.*

 *There must be no hostility in our minds, no contempt in our eyes, no insult on our lips. We must use mercy for the present and have hope for the future, as is fitting for true fathers who are eager for real correction and improvement.*

 A small band of priests joined Don Bosco. In 1854, at a time when Italian anticlericals were banning religious orders, he successfully organized them into a community. He named them Salesians after St Francis de Sales, his favourite saint. He had an incredible vision in 1883, showing him that his brothers would travel to the ends of the earth via automobiles, freeways, **and** airplanes! A dream that has come true, as now there are about two thousand Salesian communities in 113 countries. (*The Times Book of Saints*)

**St Ansgar** was the son of a noble Frankish family, born near Amiens in 801 He lost his mother at an early age, and was brought up in Benedictine monastery of Corbie in Picardy. According to the *Vita Ansgarii* ("Life of Ansgar"), when the little boy learned in a vision that his mother was in the company of Mary, mother of Jesus, his careless attitude toward spiritual matters changed to seriousness. He served as a missionary to the pagans in what is now Germany and Denmark. Then in 829, after the Swedish king Björn at Hauge requested missionaries for his Swedes, King Louis the Pious sent Ansgar, now accompanied by friar Witmar from New Corbie, as his assistant. Ansgar preached and made many converts.

 He became a bishop and was appointed to the Archbishopric of Hamburg-Bremen in 831, all the while continuing to send out missionaries to Northern Europe. After many reverses and tribulations, he died and was buried in Bremen in 865, His biographer Rimbert noted that Ansgar wore a rough hair shirt, lived on bread and water, and showed great charity to the poor. Adam of Bremen attributed the *Vita et miracula* of Willehad (first bishop of Bremen) to Ansgar and he is also the reputed author of a collection of brief prayers *Pigmenta.* Pope Nicholas I declared Ansgar a saint shortly after the missionary's death. As the first actual missionary in Sweden and the Nordic countries (and organizer of the Catholic church therein), he was later declared "Patron of Scandinavia".

**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 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 - in the old Powerhouse, Bryanston **village** (that is *not* in Bryanston School). If you are unsure where it is please ask me. Tickets will be £10.

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

 On **Tuesday, February 8th**., there is an online event that gives us the opportunity to reflect on the challenges facing migrants and refugees. All are invited to join Caritas Plymouth for an hour of prayer, reflection, and discussion **from 5 to 6 pm**.

We look forward to welcoming guest speakers from the Jesuit Refugee Service and Brigid McEleney-Smith from Companions, Sidmouth who will highlight the amazing opportunities that can be achieved through community sponsorship.

The event will take place via Zoom, and you can register in order to attend with this link:

 <https://forms.office.com/r/K3uz5LLY2X> or by email: caritas@prcdtr.org.uk

*Father Francis*

**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 be in church next weekend.  It will be wonderful to go again to England’s Nazareth!   *Madeleine*

**STAY AWAKE**’ is taking place for the fourth year on **Saturday 23rd April, 2022** - in-person - at **The Thomas Hardye School**, Dorchester, from **10:00 – 19:00**. It will be a day of inspiring and encouraging talks, Mass, praise and worship, kids' activities, fellowship - all of this will allow ourselves to go deeper with Jesus and build Christian discipleship! There will be pizza in the evening for dinner (and garlic bread and dips)! This is an event for everyone and anyone. Tickets are free for those in Year 9 and under and only £10 for everyone else! Please see [www.stayawakejc.com](http://www.stayawakejc.com/) for more information and to book tickets!

*Pippa Worth*

**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....**

 “What earlier generations held as sacred, remains sacred and great for us too…”

- Pope Benedict XVI

(contributed by Avis)

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"When Mary became the Mother of Jesus, true God and true Man, she also became our Mother. In His great mercy, Jesus wished to call us His brothers and sisters, and by this name He constituted us adopted children of Mary."

 - St John Bosco

 (contributed by Hilary)

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**A brief update about the Blandford Welcome Group**

       Just to remind you, the BWG was set up by a group of parishioners, with a view to welcoming and integrating a refugee family fleeing a dreadful war-torn existence into the local community.

       Before we are considered a viable proposition by the Home Office to receive a family, one of the pre-requisites is to raise (or demonstrate that we can raise) a minimum of £9,000.

       So far, through events such as the barbecue (back in August), a talk at an Ecumenical Service in the town, a stall at the Yuletide Festival and through regular donation. We as a Christian group have thus far raised just over £1,600.

       The project is one not driven by just our parishioners. We are working with the other local churches, together with an organisation called Blandford Cares, who do tremendous work for the poor and under- privileged.

       We’re also currently working closely with the Blandford School, who have offered through their very supportive Head Teacher, use of their facilities to stage a Film Night or two, where we hope to have a showing of films such as Love Actually, Notting Hill and Four Weddings & A Funeral, followed by a Question & Answer session with the Producer, Duncan Kenworthy, who lives in Durweston. We are working hard to try and make that happen, so watch this space! The school have also offered to stage some fund-raising events by the wonderful students there.

       We’re also applying to charities and foundations for any grants that may be available.

       We have a Quiz Evening, via Zoom, a week on **Saturday, 5 February at 19.30**. Anyone who wishes to take part, entry is £10 per link (per team), via the BWG website. You go onto the donate menu of the site, donate £10 and that will generate a receipt to your e-mail, which can then be forwarded to me, to guarantee your entry. It’s a fun quiz, in aid of a good cause, so no-one needs to be an Einstein to take part!

       Thank you to everyone who has helped at any of our fund-raising events (such as the barbecue or the Blandford civic Yuletide Festival) or has helped simply by attending the event or who has donated prizes or bottles.

       Talking of the the website, thank you to Steve Richmond for all his time and effort in building the website for us. Also, thank you to Adrian Fisher for producing a lovely leaflet, which encapsulates what the project is about.

       Finally, should anyone wish to make a regular donation or a single donation to the fund, this can be done very easily via the website.

       Finally, finally, should anyone wish to become more involved with the project, please let Marie Fisher, Anthony Reed, or Fr. Francis know either after Mass or at anytime.

To clear up one doubt, this is not a project officially of the Catholic parish in Blandford, and as far as Fr. Francis knows not one destined to help one religion exclusively. He would have nothing to do with a refugee resettlement scheme that was exclusively for any group that expressly excluded any other group. As far as he knows the British government intends its scheme to benefit any in need and is not favouring any people over others, regardless of religion. It is a humanitarian initiative to help anyone who needs help in this way. People in need are people in need, not any type of people.