Sunday20 February 2022 Divine Office Week 3

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND SAINT 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

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**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 Covid has reappeared; and all familes of those suffering at this time.**

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

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

**Saturday February 19**

**9.30am HOLY MASS (EF)**

**5.30pm HOLY MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday February 20**

**9am HOLY MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Monday February 21 9.30am HOLY MASS St Peter Damian, Doctor of the Church**

**Tuesday February 22 6.30pm HOLY MASS The Chair of St Peter Apostle (FEAST)**

**Wednesday February 23 9.30am HOLY MASS St Polycarp (Mem)**

**Thursday February 24 9.30am HOLY MASS The Seven Founders of the Order of Servants**

**of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Friday February 25 9.30am HOLY MASS**

**followed by Benediction**

**Saturday February 26**

**9.30am HOLY MASS (EF)**

**5.30pm HOLY MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday February 27**

**9am HOLY MASS OF SUNDAY**

**WE SHALL KEEP ENHANCED CLEANING, HYGEINE AND CROSS-INFECTION PRECAUTIONS IN PLACE. FOR THE SAKE OF THE PEACE OF MIND OF OTHERS, WHO MIGHT BE IMMUNOSUPPRESSED, FRAIL OR ELDERLY, PLEASE OF YOUR CHARITY CONTINUE TO WEAR MASKS IN CHURCH.**

**SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN**

Next week-end at Masses  on **Saturday, February 26th. and on Sunday, February 27th.**, we shall have the White Flower appeal for the work of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.

Please do your best to support this society.  It is very needed.  Mr. David Daly will be coming again to make the appeal at Mass.

**WALKING TOGETHER**  The ‘Diocesan Synodal’ gatherings will take place on the **26th February** in Poole and the **12th March.**

The event will run from **10.45-15.30** (although people can also attend Mass at St Mary's if they wish at 10.00). The event is in St Mary's parish hall, right next to the church.

Bishop Mark will be present and we shall reflect on the journey so far. We shall have some table discussions.

Food and drink will be provided at the event, so if you are able to come, please send us an email (or reply to this one) and fill out the dietary form linked below. (<https://forms.office.com/r/UgYaT7tHyg>)

The postcode for St. Mary’s, Poole, is BJ15 2EG.

**LOCAL DIOCESAN RETREATS**  Residential - Ignatian Individually Guided Retreats organised by the Plymouth Diocesan Ignatian Spirituality Group

Members of the Ignatian Spirituality Group are experienced guides, who have received training in relation to Ignatian spirituality and include priests, deacons and lay people.

LENTEN- RESIDENTIAL SILENT RETREATS - Honiton

4th - 6th March (Fri – Sun) Weekend Retreat (£150)

7th - 11th March (Mon – Fri) Midweek Retreat (£240)

4th - 11th March (Fri to Fri ) 6 day Retreat (£450) ​

For further information, or to book those who are interested can contact the Diocesan Ignatian Spirituality Group by email [diocesan-ignatian-retreats@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:diocesan-ignatian-retreats@prcdtr.org.uk) or telephone: 01752 769164 or 07823447637.

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** £165.00. Thanks to all who contributed. **STANDING ORDERS** - Amounts for January - Gift Aided £1,122.50, Non Gift Aided £275.00. Thank you *Ruth*

With blessings on every one of our parish family

**Father Francis**

**St Peter Damian** (1007-1072) Already an austere ascetic, in 1035 St Peter Damian left his secular professorship at Ravenna in Italy to embrace the eremetical life with the reformed Benedictines at Fonte Alina. He became head of that communiy, governing with a strictness gloved in kindness that prepared him for his wider service in the church. (Sg 4:11 NJB)

A series of popes recruited Peter Damian to help them reform the church that at the turn of the second millenium was suffering from immorality and corruption. He reproved bishops, spoke at synods against simony and clerical marriage, and rebuffed monasteries for laxity. As bishop of Ostia and a cardinal after 1057, he vigorously opposed antipopes and went on diplomatic missions throughout Europe supporting the cause of church renewal. He was firmly convinced that a reformed papacy was essential for the future of the church. Thus he helped prepare the way for the work of St Gregory VII.

Peter Damian was also concerned with revitalizing the faith of ordinary believers. One of his prescriptions for a revitalized Christian life was frequent reception of the Eucharist, as he once wrote to a friend: `Receive the body and blood of Christ very frequently that you may deserve to hear his words: "Your lips, my promised bride, distil wild honey; honey and milk are under your tongue" (Sg 4:11 NJB). For the sight of a Christian's lips red with the blood of Christ terrifies the Enemy. He immediately reognizes the sign of his own ruin. He cannot stand the instrument of divine victory by which he was taken captive and cast down. Let Christ, therefore, through his mysteries be present on your tongue and let him always abide in your heart by the fire of his love.'

And he often preached on the real presence of Christ in the believer's heart, as in this sermon:

`The Blessed Virgin alone conceived Christ in her womb, yet all the elect carry him in the devotion of their hearts. Happy and most blessed the woman who bore him for nine months in her womb. Happy also we, if we diligently strive to bear him in our thoughts. It was indeed wondrous that Christ was conceived in a womb, but it is no less striking that he be borne in the prison of the heart.

Consider dearly beloved, what a dignity is ours, and what a likeness there is between us and Mary. Mary conceived Christ in her womb, and we bear him about in our heart. Mary fed Christ when she gave milk from her breasts to his tender lips, and we feed him with the varied delights of our good works."

In 1069 at the pope's request the saint persuaded the emperor Henry IV not to divorce his wife, Bertha, though Henry hated her all the more thereafter. Then Peter Damian, always the monk, retired to Fonte Avellina where he pursued God through spiritual disciplines which he did not relax in the least in his old age He died on February 22, 1072, on his way home from one last embassy to reconcile factions in the diocese of Ravenna. (*The Times Book of Saints*)

**WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 2022** Please join us for our pilgrimage to Walsingham, the National Shrine of Our Lady. Booking forms are at the back of church: please either post or give them to Madeleine, or put them in the box marked ‘Walsingham’.

“ In Walsingham today the mystery of the Incarnation again becomes a reality as the Angelus bell rings out.......here Nazareth is recalled......here in silent prayer and public praise pilgrims can experience love and acceptance, healing and holiness. Above all they are summoned to rejoice with Mary and echo her ‘yes’ in their own lives.” (Sr. Elizabeth Obbard, ODC )

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

We have an opportunity to participate in the **BLANDFORD EXPO** on 26 March and will have a stall in the Corn Exchange. On previous occasions we have presented ourselves and given leaflets and sold things.

Could we have some volunteers to take this on by organising and manning the stall, helping with the content and a poster to advertise the Catholic presence? It is a chance to make ourselves a bit more known, and we have been a regular feature during the past couple of years. Some suggestions will be given to start the flow of ideas. Please do see if you can help. *Fr Francis*

**2022 DIOCESAN YEAR BOOK** - There are copies at the back of the church. £4 per copy. Please put the money in the wall box.  *Ruth*

If you would like to watch a zoom talk on **GLOBAL WARMING** and our responsibilities at 3 to 4.40pm on **Sunday, February 27th**., than you can obtain tickets here:

[*https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/our-responsibilities-as-christians-at-this-time-online-tickets-268091507917*](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/our-responsibilities-as-christians-at-this-time-online-tickets-268091507917) *Fr Francis*

**BLANDFORD COMMUNITY KITCHEN** does valuable work for vulnerable people in our local community and have a tombola stall at the Market in the Corn Exchange (Blandford) on **24 February**. Also, their next coffee morning will be on **09 March**. *Anthony*

**LENTEN LUNCHES** Now that we are able to gather socially, we are going to reintroduce parish Lenten lunches to raise funds for the essential work that CAFOD does all around the world. It’s a wonderful opportunity for us to get together and to remember those less fortunate than ourselves by sharing in a simple meal of soup and bread. We hold them **every Saturday in Lent from 12pm-2pm** and everyone is welcome!

At the back of church, you will find a sign-up sheet in case you wish to host a Lenten lunch at your home. We are aiming to host two lunches in the parish hall which are indicated on the form. If you are able to help at either of these parish hall lunches or would like to make some soup, please justadd your name to the sheet next to either of these dates. If you can’t host a lunch, please do try to come along on one of the Saturdays in Lent.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of CAFOD’s foundation by the Bishops of England and Wales. CAFOD now operates in 35 countries whilst also supporting Caritas which represents the Catholic church in 165 countries. CAFOD is a member of the Disasters and Emergency Committee too, responding to natural disasters and to the situation that refugees find themselves in as the result of conflict. As one example of CAFOD’s work, over the past 10 years of the Syrian crisis, over £7.3m have been allocated to partners for interventions that target vulnerable Syrian refugees, internally displaced Syrians and host communities in Lebanon and Jordan. CAFOD estimates that this vital support has reached more than 350,000 people.

Let’s continue to show the love of Christ to others through our support of CAFOD.

Thanks, *Ali* and *Anna*

**LENT EXTRA** - *Your Journey Towards Easter. 47 Daily Reflections and prayers.* Copies of this are available at the back of the church. This is a Redemptorist Publications and costs £2. Please place the money in any of the wall boxes. Thanks, *Ruth*

**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.....**

“As long as you live, you will be subject to change, whether you will it or not - now glad, now sorrowful; now pleased, now displeased; now devout, now undevout; now vigorous, now slothful; now gloomy, now merry. But a wise man who is well taught in spiritual labor stands unshaken in all such things, and heeds little what he feels, or from what side the wind of instability blows.”

- Thomas à Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*

(contributed by Avis)

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Frost-locked all the winter,

Seeds, and roots, and stones of fruits,

What shall make their sap ascend

That they may put forth shoots?

Tips of tender green,

Leaf, or blade, or sheath;

Telling of the hidden life

That breaks forth underneath,

Life nursed in its grave by Death.

- Christina Rossetti, from *Spring*

(contributed by Avis)

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