Sunday 27 February 2022 Divine Office Week 4

**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

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

**Website**: [blandfordcatholics.org](http://blandfordcatholics.org/)

**Please keep in your prayers: Julie Mulloy, Josie Seath, Keith Wareham, Leander, Father Tom and all at the Care Home where he is chaplain and Covid has recently reappeared; and all families of those suffering at this time.**

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

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

**Saturday February 26**

**9.30am HOLY MASS (EF)**

**5.30pm HOLY MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday February 27**

**9am HOLY MASS OF SUNDAY**

**(DAY FOR THE UNEMPLOYED)**

**Mon February 28 9.30am HOLY MASS**

**Tuesday March 6.30pm HOLY MASS St David, Patron of Wales (FEAST)**

**LENT BEGINS**

**Wednesday March 2 9.30am AND 6.30pm HOLY MASS ASH WEDNESDAY,**

**including the imposition of ashes**

**Thursday March 3 9.30am HOLY MASS St Katharine Drexel**

**Friday March 4 9.30am HOLY MASS St Casimir**

**followed by Benediction**

**Saturday March 5**

**9.30am HOLY MASS (EF)**

**5.30pm HOLY MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday March 6**

**9am CHILDREN'S MASS FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Divine Office Week 1**

On Sunday, March 6th., we shall start our Children’s Masses again. The children will read a simplified passage from the book of Deuteronomy and the Bidding Prayers. They will also bring up the gifts at the Offertory.

**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** This 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.

"The **CAFOD 2022 ONLINE LENT CALENDAR** of daily prayer and reflection offers an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Easter. Join us as we journey through the season of Lent with our global family."

If you would like to receive the very good Lenten reflexions from CAFOD, just sign up on-line:

[https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Lent-calendar?j=249384&sfmc\_sub=28662450&l=52\_HTML&u=4361283&mid=500009474&jb=338&utm\_source=the%20catholic%20agency%20for%20overseas%20development%20(cafod)&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=R125162+THE+Lent+2022+invitation+email+20220220&utm\_term=Main+button%3a+Lent+calendar+sign-up&utm\_id=249384&sfmc\_id=28662450](https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Lent-calendar?j=249384&sfmc_sub=28662450&l=52_HTML&u=4361283&mid=500009474&jb=338&utm_source=the catholic agency for overseas development (cafod)&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=R125162+THE+Lent+2022+invitation+email+20220220&utm_term=Main+button:+Lent+calendar+sign-up&utm_id=249384&sfmc_id=28662450)

**ASH WEDNESDAY**, a day of fasting and abstinence, falls this coming Wednesday, March 2nd.  The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has asked all Catholics to off this Ash Wednesday’s fasting, penance, and prayer for peace in the Ukraine.

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

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our local listening journey and either joined in discussions in parish or other groups or contributed individually. Every contribution will contribute to our Diocesan synthesis. The synthesis will be finalised after our Pre-Synodal events on 26 February and 12 March.

In order to finish collating and organising the feedback we have received we have closed the online survey options on 18 February 2022. If anyone wishes to contribute feedback after that date, they are welcome to do so but should please email it directly to [synodfeedback@prcdtr.org.uk.](mailto:synodfeedback@prcdtr.org.uk)

*Deborah Fisher,*

Synod Feedback, Diocese of Plymouth,St Boniface House, Ashburton,TQ13 7JL  01364 645421)

**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.

**PARISH LUNCH** I thanked people at Mass, but think it would be good to put this in our Newsletter too. Our parish lunch for the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was a lovely occasion. Some visitors who came wrote to express their thanks and say how much they enjoyed their time with us, “a wonderful example of Christian fellowship”.

These things always require more work than meets the eye, and so please say a prayer for everyone who worked hard to organise it such a good family occasion.

God blessed us all with that occasion, and will continue to bless us. May Our Lady and St. Cecilia pray for us too, and bring us closer to Jesus.

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** £164.50. 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**

**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 )

**The Pope's Intentions for MARCH**

**For a Christian response to bioethical challenges:**

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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**KNIT & NATTER** returns on Tuesday March 1 from 2-4pm in the church hall. All welcome! *Christina*

 **BLANDFORD EXPO** on **26 March** and we will have a stall in the **Corn Exchange.** As agreed last Sunday, we’re having a short meeting after Mass this Sunday with those volunteering to help on the day. I hope to bring a draft flier that we can give out – and perhaps we might be able to give rosaries to anyone interested. *Marie*

**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**., then you can obtain tickets here: <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. Also, their next coffee morning will be on **09 March**. *Anthony*

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**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.

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

Thanks, *Ali* *and* *Anna*

**LENT LUNCHES AGAIN** **We must thank God for the good people who have signed up to do some of the Lenten Lunches this year. There are 3 Saturdays, however, when we have no one to serve a lunch. This is a very good way to help us fulfil Christian duty and act in the spirit of Jesus Himself.**  **Is there please anyone else who could do this on one of the Saturdays? Either on your own or with someone else who volunteers? You could write your name, and say "if somebody can help you." It can be done either at home or in the parish hall, and if the weather is good enough, using the garden.**

**If you like the proceeds to go to CAFOD, very good. If you would like to help another charity – Mary’s Meals, for example - you are free to choose one. *Father Francis***

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY - LENT APPEAL** Lent Fast Day is **Friday 11 March**. We are challenged to support communities in need. Your small act of love this Lent will make a big difference to many communities effected by extreme hunger.

60 years ago several Catholic women's groups initiated the first Fast Day to raise funds to support starving children on the Island of Dominica.

**Please take a CAFOD Fast Day** envelope and return it or donate through the CAFOD website.

**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*

 **BLANDFORD DISABILITY ACTION GROUP** is situated at **6-7 Nightingale Court, off East Street,** and is an entirely volunteer-run office and shop. They sell and rent out refurbished mobility scooters to people on low incomes who have mobility problems. They also have a floating stock of other disability equipment, such as walking sticks, rollators, zimmer frames, crutches, wheelchairs; all for sale or rent, and all equipment is maintained and serviced by in-house mechanics. Before you spend a fortune you can't afford on new aids, check them out: **01258 268309; open 11-2 Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri.**  *Avis*



**ENJOY A FUN EVENING, AND CONTRIBUTE TO A GOOD CAUSE**

The Blandford Welcome Group (BWG) is a group of local residents who are working together to help a refugee family to settle in Blandford and rebuild their lives. The family will come from a UN Refugee Camp near a conflict zone, and will not be illegal immigrants.

As part of our fundraising, on **March 9th, in Blandford School,** we are showing the famous romantic comedy, Notting Hill - which has just been rated by BBC Radio 2's listeners as the Ultimate RomCom of all time. Uniquely, the evening includes Q&A afterwards with the film’s producer, Duncan Kenworthy, OBE. Tickets cost **£10** and can be obtained via the charity's website https://blandfordwelcome.group or by cash purchase from Mel Sarich. **Doors open 6.15, film at 7.00 pm** *Mark Hudson*

**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.....**

“Experience is merely the name men gave to their mistakes.”

― Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

(contributed by Avis)

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"Devotion to the Blessed Virgin in no way detracts from the glory of God. Rather it leads directlyback to that Author of all good Who has willed her to be so great and so pure."

– Pope Pius XII

(contributed by Hlary)

**St Katharine Drexel** (1858-1955) Contemplation and generosity vied for first place in St Katharine Drexel's life. The heiress from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, wanted most to withdraw to a cloister, but her circumstances and gifts pulled her to Christian service.

Francis A. Drexel, a world-renowned banker and a man of faith, provided his family a life of ease. And Emma Bouvier, her step-mother, trained Katharine and her two sisters to generous giving. Mrs Drexel believed God gave wealth to the family to aid others, and regularly involved her daughters in distributing food, medicine, clothing, and rent money to the poor. The experience shaped Katharine's future.

Both parents died by 1885, leaving Katharine and her sisters to share the annual income from a fourteen-million-dollar estate. Right away Katharine began to donate thousands of dollars to the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions for the construction and staffing of schools for native American children, which became her life's passion.

At this time, however, Katharine's spirit was in turmoil. Bishop James O'Connor, her spiritual director, thought she should remain a single woman serving in the world. But she wished to become a contemplative nun. "My heart is very sorrowful," she wrote him in 1886, "because like the little girl who wept when she found that her doll was stuffed with sawdust and her drum was hollow, I, too, have made a horrifying discovery and my discovery like hers is true. I have ripped the doll and the drum open and the fact lies plainly and in all its glaring reality before me: all, all, all (there is no exception) is passing away and will pass away.

"European travel brings vividly before the mind how cities have risen and fallen; and the same of empires and kingdoms and nations. And the billions and billions who lived their common everyday life in these nations and kingdoms and empires and cities, where are they? The ashes of the kings and mighty of this earth are mingled with the dust of the meanest slave.

"Day succeeds day and, as Byron so beautifully expresses it, when the heavens grow red in the western sky, 'The day joins the past eternity.' How long will the sun and moon, the stars continue to give forth light? Who can tell? Of one thing alone we are sure. In God's own time - then shall come the Son of Man in great power and majesty to render to each according to his works.

"The question alone important, the solution of which depends upon how I have spent my life, is the state of my soul at the moment of death. Infinite misery, or infinite happiness! There is no half and half, either one or the other. And the question for me is to be decided at most in seventy years, seventy short years compared with eternity."

In 1891, Katharine resolved the tension by founding a new religious community, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Coloured People, that combined prayer and prayer and social action. By 1904, 104 sisters had joined her. Katharine established 145 Catholic missions and twelve schools for native Americans and fifty schools for blacks. During her lifetime she gave away about twenty million dollars, mostly for these causes.

In 1935, Katharine suffered a severe heart attack. Two years later she retired and got her heart's desire - eighteen years of quiet contemplation before she died in 1955 at age ninety-seven.

Katharine's vast inheritance was distributed among her father's twenty-nine favourite charities. Not a penny went to her own community. She wanted her sisters to live by faith, trusting God - not money - for everything. Canonized in 2000 (*The Times Book of Saints*)