Sunday 27 March 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; 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 TIME OF PUBLISHING BUT MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE**

**Saturday March 26 NO EF MASS**

**12 midday WEDDING OF ROSIE AND JOHN**

**5.30pm HOLY MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday March 27**

**9am HOLY MASS FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - LAETARE SUNDAY**

**Mon March 28 9.30 am HOLY MASS**

**Tuesday March 29 6.30 pm HOLY MASS**

**Wednesday March 30 9.30 am HOLY MASS**

**Thursday March 31 9.30 am HOLY MASS**

**Friday 1 April 9.30 am HOLY MASS followed by STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**Saturday April 2 9.30 am HOLY MASS EF MASS St Francis of Paola**

**5.30pm HOLY MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday April 3**

**9am HOLY MASS FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**(CLOCKS GO FORWARD ONE HOUR THIS SATURDAY, 26th)**

**PLEASE WELCOME FATHER TONY PENNICOTT, WHO WILL BE CELEBRATING VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY ON SATURDAY MARCH 26**

**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.**

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** £202.50. **GIFT AID ENVELOPES** - The end of the Tax Year is 5 April 2022. Will all parishioners who give via the Envelope Scheme, please collect their new set of envelopes for the new tax year from the back of the church.

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST** - You can still give by sending the Gift Aid envelope direct to CAFOD, Freepost and I suggest that you send a cheque rather than cash.

Thanks to all who contributed.  *Ruth, Parish Treasurer*

With blessings on every one of our parish family

**Father Francis**

**THE POPE'S INTENTONS FOR APRIL**

**For health care workers**

We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

**St Francis of Paola** (1416-1507) Feast day 2nd April. St Francis of Paola was an authentic wonder-worker. More than any other saint, he seems to have exerted direct authority over nature just like Christ. With a command "in the name of charity", he moved boulders, opened springs from rocks, healed the lame, blind, and deaf and raised the dead. Focusing on Francis' miracles, however, gives a false impression of the saint. He was mainly a gifted pastor, evangelist, and Christian statesman. The miracles were secondary to his mission of bringing renewal to a war-torn and spiritually hungry Italy at the turn of the sixteenth century.

In 1435, Francis founded a community of brothers called the Minim, or the "least", modelled on the Friars Minor of St Francis of Assisi. The Minim adopted a severe life pattern, including a perpetual fast and abstinence from meat. Hundreds of men joined young Francis, and his communities spread throughout Sicily, Italy, and France. Everywhere they went, the Minim spawned Catholic revival.

Francis performed one of his most extraordinary miracles when a young father brought him a horribly disfigured infant. The saint prayed and touched the faceless baby until his eyes appeared and his face became normal. Years later when the pope was investigating Francis' lifestyle and miracles, handsome young Francis Rocco testified to his wondrous healing.

Francis the statesman counselled and confronted five kings and seven popes. With prophecy and letters he badgered Ferdinand of Naples to stop his civil wars and drive the Turks from south Italy. In 1481 the pope ordered Francis to go to the court of King Louis XI, who was slowly dying in the aftermath of a stroke. Before his departure, Francis adressed the following farewell to his beloved Minim:

"Sons of mine, whom I so love in the charity of Jesus Christ, I am separating myself from you to go to France. Hear the recommendations that I as your father in Jesus Christ leave with you. Love above all else our merciful Father in heaven, and serve him with all your strength and purity of heart.

"Maintain and mortify your members with a salutary and discreet penance, which will not permit you to fall victim to the insidious lures of the devil. He cannot triumph except over those who are slothful and negligent. In the trials and temptations we face reguarly in our daily lives, help one another.

"Obey with humility your superiors, for obedience is the backbone of faith. Be sympathetic to the weakness and failings of others. Persevere in your holy vocation, to which the Lord has so obviously called you. Keep in mind that the crown of salvation is won only by those who persevere. It is vain to begin a good action unless you bring it to full completion. Maintain yourselves with holy emulation on the path of virtue which I have so ardently pursued, particularly the practice of charity, humility and patience.

"Goodbye, my priests and brothers. We shall never again see each other on earth! May the Lord unite us in heaven!"

Francis received a revelation that Louis XI would not survive his illness and so was not able to heal him. But he became the monarch's friend and helped him die peacefully. The saint remained in the French court for twenty-five years as the trusted adviser to kings and as the pope's representative. St Francis of Paola died in 1507. *(The Times Book of Saints)*

***ANY OTHER BUSINESS***

**LENTEN LUNCHES** 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! *Ali* *and* *Anna*

**LENT LUNCHES**

. Thanks to Anna for hosting the fourth lunch in the hall on Saturday. (CAFOD) and thanks to Marlene for contributing soup.

Our next lunch is:

**Sat 2nd April** - hosted by Marie Fisher at her home, 01258 458845, 12-2pm, (Mary's Meals)

**Sat 9th April** - hosted by Charlie Welch at her home, 12-2pm Mobile: 00 +44 7879 496182; email [charlietipps@googlemail.com](mailto:charlietipps@googlemail.com) (CAFOD Ukraine Appeal)

**CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S SOCIETY [PLYMOUTH]**

**VACANCIES: TRUSTEE DIRECTORS**

The Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth Diocese) is looking for enthusiastic, new Trustee Directors to fill vacancies that have arisen as a result of retirement.

We are particularly keen to achieve a more diverse board of trustees and we welcome applications from all sections of the community.

The Board meets at least four times a year and whilst the position is voluntary and unpaid, reasonable travelling expenses are paid as per our policy.

To find out more, please contact us by phone 01364 645420 or email ccs@prcdtr.org.uk We can send further information about becoming a Trustee for a charity and can arrange for an informal chat with either of our Co-Chair’s, Andrea Rodgers or John Larter.

**JUBILEE TREES** Several people have asked Peter for the names of the trees recently planted for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – they are: *Cercidiphyllum Japonicum "*Toffee Apple Fragrance” (15m); and Mimosa: 3m, evergreen leaves, yellow blooms Jan-April.

**APRIL 8, COMEDY FILM TO RAISE FUNDS FOR REFUGEES**

The Blandford Welcome Group (BWG) is showing two more films to raise funds for a refugee family. The next one is on **April 8th**, when we will screen **Pleasure at Her Majesty's**, a brilliantly funny series of famous comic sketches from Monty Python, the Goodies. Beyond the Fringe and others - filmed live at a ground-breaking theatre performance in 1976. This will be shown at **Blandford School**, DT11 7SQ (doors open from 6.15, film starts at 7.15 and ends at 8.30).

***A welcome drink and Syrian snacks will be served from 6.15pm.***

See [https://blandfordwelcome.group](https://blandfordwelcome.group/) (where you can also donate) and you can also buy tickets online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/blandford-welcome-group](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/blandford-welcome-group) or direct for cash from Mel Sarich.

**STAY AWAKE!** with a '**NEW VENUE'** is taking place on **Saturday 23rd April**- just 1 month’s time!

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had to change venues from The Thomas Hardye School, Dorchester, to a school in **WEYMOUTH**. The new venue address is:-

**All Saints Church of England Academy, Sunnyside Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 9BJ**

We do hope that you are able to come to Stay Awake! this year and are so excited to see what the Lord does. There are a few campsites near All Saints Church of England

Academy, with beautiful seaside views if you are keen to make a weekend of it, in Weymouth!  In the meantime, look out for advertising flyers, tell your friends and listen out for verbal announcements at your parish!

*Pippa Worth* (Fieldworker for Evangelisation - East Dorset - on behalf of Stay Awake!)

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - BLUEBELL WALK** - I am arranging a walk to the Bluebell Wood in Abbot Street, near Pamphill Green on **Saturday 30 April**. Further details will be announced next week but please put the date in your diary. There will be tea and cakes in the church hall afterwards. So if you can’t come on the walk please join us during the afternoon. Donations will be for the **CAFOD Ukraine Appeal**. *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.....**

"Power gradually exterpates from the mind every humane and gentle virtue."

- Edmund Burke (1729-97)

(contributed by avis)

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"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold, when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade."

- Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*

(contributed by avis)

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"Mary adorns her clients with her merits, assists them with her power, enlightens them with her light, and kindles them with her love. She imparts her virtues to them and becomes their security, their intercessor, and their all with Jesus."

- St Louis Grignion de Montfort

(contributed by Hilary)

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