Sunday 3 April 2022 Divine Office Week 1

**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 April 2 9.30am HOLY MASS (EF)**

**5.30pm HOLY MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday April 3**

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

**Monday April 4**

**9.10am Morning Prayers**

**9.30 am HOLY MASS St Isadore, Doctor of the Church**

**Tuesday April 5**

**6.10pm Evening Prayers**

**6.30 pm HOLY MASS St Vincent Ferrer**

**Wednesday April 6**

**9.10am Morning Prayers**

**9.30 am HOLY MASS**

**Thursday April 7**

**9.10am Morning Prayers**

**9.30 am HOLY MASS St John Baptist de la Salle (Mem)**

**Friday April 8**

**9.10am Morning Prayers**

**9.30 am HOLY MASS followed by STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**Saturday April 9 9.30 am HOLY MASS (EF)**

**5.30pm HOLY MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday April 10**

**9am PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

**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.**

You may have noticed a plaque next to the side door that Lou has kindly put up in the church. On the front are simply the words of Our Lord, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6), and if you look more closely you will find just the mention of David Hyde, Frances Hyde’s husband, who died recently.

David was a devout Catholic who did an enormous amount for the parish, and, indeed, for several parishes and convents around us. Always willing to use his skills for the Christian community, he was always a tremendous help, a fine example, and a cheerful companion. Please say a prayer sometimes as you enter or leave church. May he rest in peace.

At 9.10 each morning before Mass, and at 6.10 before the Tuesday evening Mass, we have resumed the recitation of morning or evening prayer. It is what is called the Prayer of the Church, that is, a way for a Christian daily to praise God, a way of praying that is used all over the world by priests, monks and nuns, and lay people everywhere. By joining the daily prayer of the Church we can sanctify the day by consciously placing ourselves in God’s presence and reminding ourselves, too, of his love and care for us.

By this week-end all the images of devotion, the crucifixes and the statues in our church will be veiled. Just as Our Lord’s body in his passion was veiled with ignominy, scars, blood, and bruises, and his body in the tomb was hidden in linen cloths, so we screen the images of our church from our eyes. Christ’s glory was veiled in suffering, and so our Lenten penance takes on another kind of abstinence to call this to mind and to make the light of Easter all the more splendid.

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** £258.20. **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** - The amount collected was £270.00 and has been posted to CAFOD 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**

**St Vincent Ferrer** (1350-1419) Brilliant and devout, Spanish-born Vincent Ferrer joined the Dominicans in 1367. As a young priest he taught philosophy at the universities of Lérida and Barcelona. In 1379 he served as prior of the Dominican house at Valencia, the only office he ever held. But for most of his life, St Vincent Ferrer worked as an indomitable activist. He was renowned as a preacher, miracle worker, adviser to popes and kings, and champion of Christian unity. However, he founded his tireless work on a deeply personal spirituality:

"You must open the interior eyes of your soul on this light, on this heaven within you, a vast horizon stretching far beyond the realm of human activity, an unexplored country to the majority of men. The ordinary observer sees in the ocean only the realm of storms, and never guesses that a few feet below the surface its waters are always limpid, and in a scintillating clarity is found vegetation and living creatures of wondrous diversity, marvellous in beauty and structure, mysterious depths where the pearl is formed.

"Such is the depths of the soul where God dwells and shows himself to us. And when the soul has seen God, what more can it want? If it possesses him, why and for whom can it ever be moved to abandon him?

"So, at any price, preserve yourself in that calm through which the soul sees the eternal Sun. This vision of God will also show you yourself. The heights of greatness will show you the depths of misery. But fear nothing ... ... When you have realised your true worth you will be able to judge your faults sanely, your own crimes will come home to you in full light, and the faults of your neighbour will remain in shadow."

This sense of peace with God steadied Vincent for his service in the stormy fourteenth century, when plague, famine, and war devastated Europe, and heresy and division racked the Church. His life spanned the Great Western Schism, when popes rivalled each other at Rome and at Avignon, France. Vincent was loyal to the Avignon popes, but he pressured them to co-operate with efforts to restore unity.

The schism reached its nadir after 1409, with three men claiming to be pope. At the Council of

Constance in 1414, the bishops resolved to depose one claimant and ask the other two to resign, so that a new pope could be elected. The pope at Rome was willing to abdicate, but Benedict XIII, Vincent's friend, adamantly refused. Vincent then declared publicly that because Benedict was blocking the unity vital to the Church, the faithful could justly withdraw their allegiance. Thus, the saint's vast popularity significantly contributed to ending the schism. Benedict was ultimately deposed, the Roman pope stepped down, and a new pope was chosen.

Vincent Ferrer's main work, however, was revitalising faith at the grass roots. In 1398 the saint was deathly ill and prayed for recovery so that he might continue preaching. Vincent said that Christ appeared and healed him. "You will preach repentance throughout the world," Jesus said, which the saint took as a commission.

For twenty years after 1399, Vincent criss-crossed Europe four times on foot. Everywhere large crowds gathered to hear his message about the folly of sin, the need for repentance and the imminence of the end of the world. Like St Paul and many other saints, Vincent expected Jesus to come soon to wrap up history. In response to his ministry thousands revolutionised their lives. Thousands also were miraculously healed during his missionary visits. Thus, Vincent Ferrer brought new life to people who had been battered by disease and war in the world and by confusion and division in the Church. (*The Times Book of Saints*) Feast day 5th April.

...Although Vincent spoke only Limousin, the language of Valencia, he was understood by listeners of many different nationalities. Contemporary biographers reported that Vincent possessed the gift of tongues, a view that was also supported by Nicholas Clemangis of the University of Paris, who was a witness to the phenomenon. ...

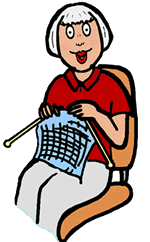
While journeying through Europe, St Vincent always carried a tall wooden cross which he used as a staff and which he either planted in the ground or stood in the pulpit beside him when he preached. After being told by St Colette that he would die within two years - information she had learned during an ecstasy - he perhaps felt he had little need for his mission cross and gave it to her. This 'le baton de Maître Vincent' has a corpus that is tied to the cross with string. It is kept as a priceless relic at Besancon, above the main altar. It was this cross that the Saint touched to the dead whom he commanded to rise in the name of Christ Crucified, and it was this cross which he held high before those to whom he preached in great cathedrals or on the open plains.

One night while looking upon the crucifix, St Vincent was considering the sorrows of Jesus when he exclaimed, "O my Saviour, how great were Thy sufferings on the Cross!" His biographer, Fr. Teoli, relates that the crucifix turned its head toward the Saint on its right side and replied, "Yes, Vincent, I suffered all you say, and more, much more." The head of the corpus has retained the same position.

The two predictions of St Colette were realised when St Vincent Ferrer died two years later, not in his native Spain, but in France. (from *Miraculous Images of Our Lord* by Joan Carroll Cruz)

***ANY OTHER BUSINESS***

**BLANDFORD FOOD BANK** please support our town foodbank in these difficult times. All donations to go in the large green box at the back of the church. Pasta, cereal and tins of meat and veg especially needed. Thank you.  *Jan*



**KNIT AND NATTER** meets in the church hall on **Tuesday 5th April** 2-4pm. All welcome! *Christina*

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

The Blandford Welcome Group (BWG) is showing a film 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.

**LENT LUNCHES**  Thanks to Marie for hosting the lunch at her home on Saturday. (Mary's Meals).

Our final lunch is on **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)

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY BLUEBELL WALK - CAFOD UKRAINE APPEAL Saturday 30 April 2022**. I am arranging a walk to the Bluebell Wood in Abbot Street near Pamphill Green. There are sheets at the back of church with the meeting times and information. If you require further directions to the car parks please contact me or for any other queries. Tea will be served in the church hall from 1.30pm, as we will be returning from different starting and finishing times. If you can’t come on the walk please join us during the afternoon. To assist with the number of cakes required please put name and the number of people in your party. As I shall be on the walk, I am asking for a couple of volunteers to be at the hall to receive parishioners and serve tea before I arrive. Please pray for good weather on the day! [ruthhiscock@cbeeches.co.uk](file:///F:/2022%20NEWSLETTERS/APRIL/ruthhiscock@cbeeches.co.uk) 01258 452283. *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.....**

"Cats are intended to teach us that not everything in Nature has a function."

- Garrison Keillor (contributed by Avis)

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".....it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind."

- C S Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (contributed by Avis)

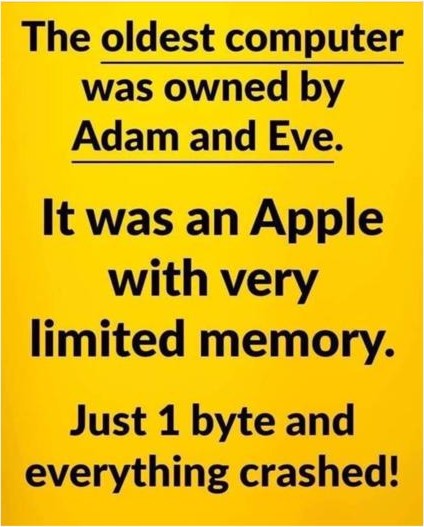
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"The Blessed Virgin Mary comforts and refreshes those who are in their last agony. Then she also receives their souls at death."

- St Vincent Ferrer

"The Blessed Virgin Mary never departed - not even slightly - from the precepts and examples of her Divine Son. This was true both in the ecstatic joy she experienced and in the trials and cruel sufferings she endured, which have made her the Queen of Martyrs."

- Pope Pius XII (contributed by Hilary)



(contributed by Tom Hogan)