**Sunday May15 Divine Office Week 5 of Easter**

**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: Lynette Phillips; Val Dowding; 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 May 14 NO EF MASS**

**5.30pm VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday May 15 9.00am HOLY MASS - MIGRANTS’ DAY**

**Monday May 16 NO MASS**

**Tuesday May 17 NO MASS**

**Wednesday May 18 NO MASS**  **St John I, Pope, Martyr**

**Thursday May 19 NO MASS**  **St Dunstan**

**Friday May 20 NO MASS St Bernardine of Siena**

**Saturday May 21 St Christopher Magallanes and companions, Martyrs**

**NO EF MASS**

**5.30pm VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday May 22 9.00am HOLY MASS**

**There will be no daily Mass until Thursday, May 26th. On Saturdays and Sundays Fr. Tony Pennicott will come to celebrate the obligation Masses.**

**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**

**A Diocesan Mass of Thanksgiving for the leadership and ministry of Bishop Mark as Bishop of Plymouth will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St Mary and St Boniface, Plymouth, on Monday, 30 May, at 12noon.**

**VOCATIONS TO PRIESTHOOD - DAY OF RECOLLECTION** Our next Day of Recollection for men discerning their vocation will be held on **Saturday 21st May, 2022** from 10:00 to 16:00 at Sclerder Abbey, near Looe, Cornwall. The day will include Mass; a time of Adoration; a short conference; an opportunity for Confession and ‘One to One talks’ with serving Priests from our Diocese; and sharing food together (this will be provided – please let us know of special dietary requirements). Under 18s are welcome to attend with parents’ permission.

For further information and to register for the event, please contact Fr Jacek Kostuch on [Jacek.Kostuch@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:Jacek.Kostuch@prcdtr.org.uk) by 16th May 2022 at the latest. Arrangements can be made to collect you from Liskeard Station before 9:15, and returned after, if required.

**THE PRIEST**

Every year the shrine in Ars, France, of St. John Vianney is visited by 450,000 pilgrims who come to honour and to seek help from this holy and extraordinary priest, whom Pope Puis XI in 1929 declared “the heavenly patron of all parish priests throughout the world”. Not all of us priests live up to his standard, but we are all encouraged by him and taught to look only to Jesus as our pattern and the source of our ability to do what we are able.

This is a prayer he composed:

"God, please give to your Church today many more priests after your own heart.

May they be worthy representatives of Christ the Good Shepherd.

May they wholeheartedly devote themselves to prayer and penance; be examples of humility and poverty; shining models of holiness;

tireless and powerful preachers of the Word of God; zealous dispensers of your grace in the sacraments.

May their loving devotion to your Son Jesus in the Eucharist and to Mary his Mother be the twin fountains of fruitfulness for their ministry. Amen."

Please do not compare this prayer with us priests you see in your parishes all the time, though you might pray for us to be able to live up to the ideals of the priesthood. Our Bishop asked us to pray for vocations and I gave out a prayer we could use to pray a novena, 9 consecutive days. Mass was obviously offered for that intention, but I was saddened by the fact that very few people came to pray at the Holy Hour we had to pray for vocations. Do you want priests? Perhaps not, but if you do not pray for vocations there will be none because God’s people, who you are, have no desire to foster them.

St. John Vianney, the Curé d’Ars, said, "Man is a beggar who needs to ask God for everything.” If we do not ask we do not receive. Do you not need priests?

"The priest is not a priest for himself; he does not give himself absolution; he does not administer the Sacraments to himself. He is not for himself, he is for you. After God, the priest is everything. If there were no priest, you would say, "What can we do in this church? there is no Mass; Our Lord is no longer there: we may as well pray at home. " When people wish to destroy religion, they begin by attacking the priest, because where there is no longer any priest there is no sacrifice, and where there is no longer any sacrifice there is no religion."

**RESTORED LIVES AT HOME**: The course takes place across 8 consecutive Monday evenings starting on the **9th May 2022**. When booking ask for the Bournemouth course led by Roger and Jackie Carr-Jones. https://www.restoredlives.org/online\_course\_relationship\_breakdown

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** £226.60. **STANDING ORDERS** - Amounts for April - Gift Aided £1,147.50, Non Gift Aided £275.00. **CAFOD UKRAINE APPEAL BLUEBELL WALK** - Thank you to all walkers and the ladies who made cakes and had tea ready for us when we returned. £160.95 was raised. *Ruth, Parish Treasurer*

With blessings on every one of our parish family

**Father Francis**

Dear All

I was one of the fortunate few who managed to attend the special service for vocations which Bishop Mark asked of us. The Holy Hour with the Readings and Prayers was very moving. It was a shame that not more of us could be there. I hope that our plea to God was heard and will be answered. *Marjorie*

***ANY OTHER BUSINESS***

**KNIT AND NATTER** will meet in the church hall next **Tuesday, 17th May,** from 2-4pm. All welcome!

**CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S SOCIETY ANNUAL APPEAL** – **Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 August**  The theme of our CCSP Annual Appeal this year is ‘Extend a Hand: Give Hope’. Packs will be sent to all parishes soon. *Father Francis*

**GREAT BIG DIOCESAN QUIZ** – We’re looking for parishes to join us on **Friday,1 July 2022 at 7.30pm.** If you would like to register an interest to take part or would like to discuss the quiz in more detail, please email [vicki.dunstone@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:vicki.dunstone@prcdtr.org.uk) - all materials will be supplied by CCSP –  *forwarded by Father Francis*

 **COUNTING & BANKING** - Since Lockdown the counting and the banking of the Giving and other collections has been undertaken by a team on a Thursday and then banked immediately. With the lifting of restrictions I consider that now is the time to resume the Counting after Mass on a Sunday morning with the banking of the money on Monday by a different team. If there is only the weekend Giving to be counted it should take no more than 20 minutes. If you are new to the Counting team instruction will be given. I wish to start using the Business Quick Deposit System when the money is taken to the bank to avoid queueing and waiting for the money to be counted. I have put a list at the back of the church for volunteers. **This is to start on 12 June**. Thank you. *Ruth, Parish Treasurer*

**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.....**

"We should regard with scepticism those who announce that they've been talking to God and have a message for us. God has never been much of a conversationalist. True mystics are few and far between and not to be envied by those who aspire to an easy life."

- Alice Thomas Ellis, *God has not Changed*

(contributed by Avis)

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**OUR LADY OF UKRAINE (1914 AND 1987)**

The first incident actually occurred two weeks before World War I, on 12 May 1914 in the village of Hrushiv, Ukraine. Twenty-two people, who were mowing fields near the local church of the Holy Trinity, all witnessed an apparition of the Virgin Mary. She said to them:

"There will be a war. Russia will become a godless country. Ukraine, as a nation, will suffer terribly for eighty years - and will have to live through the world wars, but it will be free afterwards."

People gathered from the entire area to see the apparition- which lasted into the next day.

The people of Hrushiv had planted a weeping willow tree at the site many years ago, commemorating an appearance of the Blessed Mother some 350 years earlier. Later, a spring suddenly appeared beneath the tree.

During the severe cholera epidemic of 1855, a local person dreamt that the Virgin had instructed the residents to cleared and reclaimed the ancient spring and hold Mass. Not one cholera death was reported afterwards.

Then on 26 April 1987, 73 years later after 1914 and exactly one year after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, a bright light covered this church of the Holy Trinity and the surrounding area. A television programme even recorded part of this light phenomenon. From within this "impressive silver dazzle" over the church, the Virgin Mary appeared and floated above the cupola of the church.

She first appeared to Marina Kizyn, aged 12, who immediately called her mother and a few neighbours - who then came, and all saw her there, too. Soon hundreds and then thousands came from all over Russia to see the apparitions which continued every day until 15th August 1987. It is estimated that a total of 500,000 people had seen her by the time these apparitions ended. On most days the crowd might reach as many as 45,000 to 70,000 people at one time. Neither the Soviet militia nor the KGB could begin to manage the crowds. The Virgin Mary was often seen by the KGB agents! Many priests (from underground Catholic churches) came and provided as many as ten Holy Masses per day in front of the church. Many messages were documented:

"I have come on purpose to thank the Ukrainian people because you have suffered most for the church of Christ in the last 70 years. I have come to comfort you and to tell you that your sufferings will soon come to an end. Ukraine will become an independent state."

"Do not forget those who have died in the Chernobyl disaster. Chernobyl is a reminder and a sign for the whole world."

"Forgive your enemies. Through you and the blood of martyrs will come the conversion of Russia. Repent and love one another. The times are coming which have been foretold as being those in the end times. See the desolation that surrounds the world ... the sin, the sloth, the genocide. Pray for Russia. Opposition and wars continue to occupy the minds and hearts of many people. Russia, despite everything, continues to deny my Son. Russia rejects real life and continues to live in darkness. If there is not a return to Christianity in Russia, there will be a third world war; the whole world will face ruin."

"Teach the children to pray. Teach them to live in truth and live yourselves in truth. Say the Rosary. It is a weapon against Satan. He fears the Rosary. Recite the Rosary at any gathering of people."

"I have come to comfort you and to tell you that your sufferings will end soon. I shall protect you for the glory and the future of God's Kingdom on earth, which will last for a thousand years. The Kingdom of Heaven and Earth is close at hand. It will come only through penance and the repentance of sins."

"This wicked world is feasting on depravity and impurity. Many lies are proclaimed against the Truth. The innocent are condemned. Many come as false messiahs and false prophets. Be diligent. Be on your guard."

"Happy are those whose lives are blameless and who walk in fear of the Lord."

"My children, all of you are dear to me and please my heart. I make no distinction of race or religion. You here in Ukraine have received knowledge of the One, True, Apostolic Church. You have been shown the door to Heaven. You must follow this path, even though it may be painful."

"The eternal God is calling you. This is why I have been sent to you. You in Ukraine were the first nation to be entrusted to me. (The ruler Yaroslav the Wise dedicated Ukraine to the Most Holy Mother of God in the year 1037.) Throughout your long persecution you have not lost faith, hope, or love. I always pray for you, my dear children, wherever you are."

Although Our Lady predicted that Ukraine would "suffer terribly for 80 years" before gaining independence, she was extremely close in her prediction! Ukraine had its declaration of independence ratified on 24 August 1991 some 77 years after the Blessed Mary's prediction in 1914.

- John Carpenter, 10 September 2016 - *Divine Mysteries and Miracles* (contributed by Hilary)