**Sunday July 17 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

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

Plymouth Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 213227

**Please keep in your prayers: Chris Brown; Leander; Sandra, Teresa and Tom’s niece, who has a brain tumour; 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**

**SIXTEENTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C2**

**Saturday July 16**

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Opt Mem)**

 **9.30am Traditional Latin HOLY MASS**

**5.30pm VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday July 17 9.00am HOLY MASS 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Monday July 18 NO MASS**

**Tuesday July 19**

 **6.10pm Evening Prayers 6.30pm HOLY MASS**

**Wednesday July 20**

**9.10am Morning Prayers 9.30am HOLY MASS**

 **St Apollinaris (Opt Mem)**

**Thursday July 21**

**NO MASS St Lawrence of Brindisi, Doctor of the Church (Opt Mem)**

**Friday July 22**

**9.10am Morning Prayers 9.30am HOLY MASS St Mary Magdalen (FEAST)**

**followed by Benediction**

 **Saturday July 23**

**St Bridget, Patron of Europe (FEAST)**

**Sts Philip Evans and John Lloyd (Opt Mem)**

 **9.30am Traditional Latin HOLY MASS**

**5.30pm VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday July 24 9.00am HOLY MASS 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**There will be NO Mass on Monday and Thursday mornings this week**

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND – MAY 2023** – Fr. John Rice and Fr. Guy de Gaynesford will be leading a ten day pilgrimage to the Holy Land from **16th - 25th May next year.** The cost is £1,389 per person, and this includes: return flight from London Heathrow to Tel Aviv with El Al • 6 nights in Bethlehem Star Hotel, 3\* or similar standard • 3 nights in Astoria Tiberias 3\* or of similar standard • half board (dinner and breakfast) • entrance fees as per itinerary • transfers between airport and hotel • executive coach for touring • professional local guide • boat ride on the Sea of Galilee • taxis to the summit of Mt Tabor to the Church of Transfiguration • personalised luggage label and badge • hymn booklet and prayer booklet • headsets for touring • check-in luggage 23kg +hand carry • ATOL protection contribution includes half board. For further details and itinerary Tel. 01793 881166 / 07515 819700.

**GIFT AID** - “The parish is immensely grateful to all donors who have supported the parish during the year and helped keep our doors open to achieve our Mission. If you don’t already do so, please consider whether you could increase the value of your donation by signing up for Gift Aid (more details and form available from your parish gift aid organiser).“

**GIFT AID DONORS** - You should soon receive an individual statement of how much you gave in the year so that you can check you have paid enough tax to cover the gift aid that the parish will claim. This statement will go to the address that is currently held by the gift aid organiser. If you are expecting a letter but do not receive one please contact, Ruth Hiscock, Parish Treasurer & Gift Aid Organiser, ruthhiscock@cbeeches.co.uk, or 01258 452283

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** - £359.12. **PETER’S PENCE -** £358.25 **STANDING ORDERS** - Amounts for June - Gift Aided £2042.50, Non Gift Aided £150.00. **STELLA MARIS** - £271.90 *Ruth*

With blessings on every one of our parish family

**Father Francis**

**St Macrina (327?-79)** With charm and grace, St Macrina ruled the roost in a family of saints. St Basil the Elder and St Emmelia, her parents, had ten children including the younger St Basil, St Gregory of Nyssa, ad St Peter of Sebaste. As the eldest child, Macrina exercised a formative influence on her more famous brothers and even on her mother.

 A beautiful young woman, Macrina had been betrothed at age twelve. But when her fiance died, she chose to remain sngle to devote herself to Christian service. Emmelia had given her daughter a Christian version of a classic education, training her in Scripture instead of Greek literature. In turn, Macrina conducted the early education of her younger brothers and sisters and formed them in piety.

 Gregory of Nyssa, her biographer, reported that when Basil returned from Athens University all puffed up with sel-importance, Macrina put him in his place - as only an older sister can. Apparently she persuaded her extremely talented brother to become a monk and subordinate his gifts to God's purposes.

 When Naucratius, the handsome and athletic family favourite, died suddenly. Macrina supported Emmelia through her grief. Later she persuaded her mother to join her in renouncing their high standard of living and embracing the simpler life of their servants. Together they formed a small monastic community of nuns under the younger Basil's direction on the family estate at Annesi in Pontus in present-day Turkey.

 In 379, shortly after Basil died, Macrina fell ill. Gregory came to visit her and found her in a very weakened condition, lying on two planks. Even though Macrina could barely talk, she spoke eloquently with her brother about death and the future life. Just before she died she prayed as follows:

 "O Lord, you have freed us from the fear of death. You have made the end of life here the beginning of a true life for us. For a time, you give rest to our bodies in sleep and you awaken us again with the trumpet. The dust from which you fashioned us with your hands you give back to the earth for safe-keeping. And you will recall it, transforming with immortality and grace our mortal and graceless remains.

"O God everlasting, towards whom I have directed myself from my mother's womb: Send a shining angel to lead me to the place of refreshment where restful waters flow near the bosom of the holy fathers. You who compassionately gave paradise back to the man crucified withyou, remember me also in your kingdom. For I, too, have been crucified with you, having nailed down my flesh through fear of your judgments. Don't let the terrible abyss separate me from your chosen ones. Don't let the slanderer stand in my way. If I have committed sins in word, deed or thought because of the weakness of our nature, don't let your eyes discover them. You who have power on earth to forgive sins, forgive me so that I may be refreshed. May I be found before you once I have put off my body, having no fault in the form of my soul. May my soul be received into your hands, blameless and spotless, as an offering before you."

 St Gregory of Nyssa expanded his sistr's deahbed reflections on the future life in his book "On the Soul and the Resurrection".

 St Emmelia and St Basil the Elder have given us a superior model for Christian family life. They handed on the faith to their children ia loving household, and the children led by Macrina encouraged one another in the faith. *(The Times Book of Saints)*

 St Macrina's feast day is 19th July.

![C:\Users\Avis\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\Q1VF88RM\652px-Thumbtack[1].png]()***ANY OTHER BUSINESS***![C:\Users\Avis\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\Q1VF88RM\652px-Thumbtack[1].png]()

 **KNIT & NATTER** next meeting this **Tuesday July 19** in the hall. All welcome! *Christina*

**![C:\Users\Avis\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\Q1VF88RM\652px-Thumbtack[1].png]()BLANDFORD FOOD BANK** has asked if we could help their families have a little extra over the holidays.They would love to have some of the following

Corned Beef,Hot Dogs,Pasta Sauce,Tinned fruit or veg, Jelly, Angel Delight, Rice pudding,

Squash, Sweet treats. Thank you *Jan*

**PARISH BARBECUE** – **Sunday, 14th August, 12.30 for 1 pm**. Tickets will be on sale from this weekend. Please donate bottles (all sorts) for the tombola stall and leave them in the box at the back of church.

**BONIFACE THE CAT** has collected £322.81 this month. Thank you so much for supporting Jackline. We had a lovely written letter from her – it is on the notice board in the hall for you to read. There are previous ones she has written, together with pictures and other information about the scheme we are supporting (EVC, Uganda: Empowering Vulnerable Children). It was suggested by a parishioner that we could in turn write to her. There were some sheets of paper to give out and a few people took some on. It would be nice if we could do a few more letters. Please think about writing to her to tell her a little about yourself and what you may do in our lovely parish church – sheets of paper at the back of the church. We hope to send them off to her with some photos in about 2 weeks time. Thank you and God bless. *Frances*

**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..…**

“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.”

- C. S. Lewis

(contributed by Avis)

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 Before the Roman came to Rye or out to Severn strode,

The rolling English drunkard made the rolling English road.

A reeling road, a rolling road, that rambles round the shire,

And after him the parson ran, the sexton and the squire;

A merry road, a mazy road, and such as we did tread

The night we went to Birmingham by way of Beachy Head.

I knew no harm of Bonaparte and plenty of the Squire,

And for to fight the Frenchman I did not much desire;

But I did bash their baggonets because they came arrayed

To straighten out the crooked road an English drunkard made,

Where you and I went down the lane with ale-mugs in our hands,

The night we went to Glastonbury by way of Goodwin Sands.

His sins they were forgiven him; or why do flowers run

Behind him; and the hedges all strengthening in the sun?

The wild thing went from left to right and knew not which was which,

But the wild rose was above him when they found him in the ditch.

God pardon us, nor harden us; we did not see so clear

The night we went to Bannockburn by way of Brighton Pier.

*My friends, we will not go again or ape an ancient rage,*

*Or stretch the folly of our youth to be the shame of age,*

*But walk with clearer eyes and ears this path that wandereth,*

*And see undrugged in evening light the decent inn of death;*

*For there is good news yet to hear and fine things to be seen,*

*Before we go to Paradise by way of Kensal Green.*

- G K Chesterton, *The Rolling English Road*

(contributed by Avis)

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Eve believed the devil – and the world perished! Mary put her faith in the Angel of God – and the world was saved! -

St Lawrence of Brindisi