**SUNDAY 22 December 2024 YEAR C PSALTER ADVENT WEEK IV**

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND SAINT CECILIA**

**Priest in charge: Father Donald Nwaka**

**Landline: 01258 452051 Mobile: 07931939907**

**Hospital RC Chaplains: Dorchester:** 01305 255198;

**Poole:** Deacon Declan McConville 01202 442167

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Website: blandfordcatholics.org

Plymouth Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 213227

**Please keep in your prayers: Father Robert; Christina and John Morley; Janet Hudson; Josie Seath; Father Chacko; Teresa and Tom Hogan and Sandra and Sharon; Kelly Harte; Joan Pitman; and all those suffering at this time.**

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

**Saturday 21 December St Peter Canisius, Doctor of the Church
 9.30am Confessions**

 **5.30pm Vigil Mass of Sunday**

 **Sunday 22 December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

 **(EXPECTANT MOTHERS)**

 ***8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament***

 **9.00am HOLY MASS**

**Monday 23 December St John of Kanty**

 **9.10am Morning Prayers *followed by* 9.30am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion,Holy Rosary, *and then* Divine Mercy Prayer Group**

**Tuesday 24 December FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS**

 **6pm CHILDREN'S MASS**

 **11.30pm CAROLS**

 **12.00 MIDNIGHT MASS**

**THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE**



**Wednesday 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

 **10am HOLY MASS**

**Thursday 26 December St Stephen's Day, Protomartyr (FEAST)**

 **9.10am Morning Prayers**

 **9.30am HOLY MASS**

**Friday 27 December St John, Apostle and Evangelist (FEAST)**

 **No Friday abstinence**

 **9.10am Morning Prayers**

 **9.30 HOLY MASS f*ollowed by***  **I**

**Saturday 28 December The Holy Innocents (FEAST)**

 **9.30am Confessions**

 **5.30pm Vigil Mass of Sunday**

 **Sunday 29 December THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (FEAST)**

 ***8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament***

 **9.00am HOLY MASS**

**MAY I SINCERELY THANK** all the members of the Finance Committee. God bless you all for your work. If there is anyone good with accounting, please find time to see me.

 I also thank all those who have worked tirelessly for us in the Parish. May God preserve you.

 I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

 Yesterday (Friday 20th) there was been the private cremation of **Mrs June Callus** at Poole. May she rest in peace. Amen.

 Please, for those who filled in the Parish Register, pick up your Christmas cards from the Parish to you. Cheers.

**THE FAMILY OF MARY** We thank all those who came for the CWL and CML Mass. Our interest is to promote priestly and family vocations. Please see poster in the porch for full details and summary of the Inaugural Meeting. Both men and women are invited to join and if, you would like to, please add your name to the list at the back of church.

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** for last week £251.31. **STANDING ORDERS** - Amounts for October - Gift Aided £1,202.50, Non Gift Aided £660.00. Thank you.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS LENT 2024** - At the Finance Meeting this week it was decided to send the money collected during the Friday Stations of the Cross to the Blandford Food Bank, now known as Nourish. If anyone objects to this decision will you please speak to Fr Donald or myself. *Ruth Hiscock* Parish Treasurer

  With blessings on every one of our Parish family,

 **Father Donald**

**THE 1ST MASS OF CHRISTMAS IS AT 6PM ON CHRISTMAS EVE** and will be a Children's Mass. Could the children arrive by **5.30pm** at the latest?

If you have visiting children with you this Christmas, - grandchildren, nieces or nephews etc - they are more than welcome to join in. We definitely need a few more shepherds!

Or if they would like to read a bidding prayer, please let me know - alisoncain@gmail.com. *Ali*

**PUTTING ALL CHILDREN FIRST - ESPECIALLY AT CHRISTMAS TIME** Please take time to visit our nativity over the Christmas period. The collection will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) as it works across our Diocese spreading God's love and giving families' hope in times of crisis. We continue to ask you for a combination of concern, prayer and action. May God bless all our supporters and donors. *Vicki Dunstone*, Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)

**Catholic Children's Society, Plymouth** Instead of sending Christmas cards this year I have made a donation to the CCSP and take this opportunity of wishing you and your families the blessings of Christmas. *Catherine G.*

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**\*\* WILL PARISHIONERS WISHING TO INSERT NOTICES PLEASE EMAIL THEM IN NO LATER THAN THURSDAY EVENINGS OR THEY MAY NOT BE RECEIVED IN TIME FOR PRINTING ON FRIDAY**

 **MORNINGS\*\***

Dear Parishioners, Many thanks to those of you who have already completed the **PARISH REGISTRATION FORM.**  Because of the new UK data protection laws, we now need your permission to hold your contact details.   Blank forms are with envelopes and still available at the back of the Church. *Harriet*

**WE CAN STILL DEFEAT ASSISTED SUICIDE!**  There is a clear path toward the assisted suicide Bill being defeated at Third Reading. Early analysis shows that at least 36 MPs supported the Bill but have concerns that mean they may vote NO at later stages. Just 28 MPs switching their stance to NO would ensure it is defeated at Third Reading. We need MPs to know that their constituents want them to vote NO at Third Reading.

 Please take action now and visit [righttolife.org.uk](http://righttolife.org.uk/) to find out how your MP voted and ask them to vote against the Bill at Third Reading. *Catherine Robinson*

**BLANDFORD CARES** is urgently in need of coats and jackets for those less fortunate in our community and to send to Ukraine. If you have any you can donate, please deliver them to Blandford Cares at the United Reform Church in Whitecliff Mill Street on Tuesdays from 9am to 1.00pm (or leave them with the Food Bank there), or bring them to church for members of the Blandford Welcome Group to give them to Blandford Cares. They are also collecting candle stubs which a local man makes into new candles to send to Ukraine where electricity outages are constant. Please don’t throw these away but collect them for this good cause. *Blandford Cares*

**JACKLIN** As you know the Parish supports Jacklin in Uganda. Instead of Christmas cards I will make a donation towards her needs. The peace and joy of Christmas to you all. *Frances H.*

**JUBILEE BANNER**  'Oh wow’ was heard a second time on Tuesday afternoon when Father Donald came to see the panel that the Knit and Natter group had created for the Caritas, Dorset Deanery Jubilee Banner project. The theme the group chose was Rest and Worship, chosen from six themes for the Jubilee Year starting next week. The panel was the culmination of two months work, reflecting on what rest and worship meant for the group and drawing their ideas out. These ideas were then transformed into a panel which will be used to guide the reflection of others in the Jubilee year. (Poster in porch)

Thanks must go to Julie Molloy who steered the group of Daphne, Ruth, Frances, Sue, Pauline and Joan for creating this amazing and thoughtful panel. The group now have more creative plans for the New Year. **Do join them** in whatever craft activity you enjoy- they don’t just knit! (This afternoon they learned how to make pom-poms using a fork)!

The group returns on **Tuesday 7th January 2025 2-4pm** in the church hall. *Teresa Maguire*, Caritas Development Worker, Dorset Deanery

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