**SUNDAY 29 December 2024 YEAR C PROPER**

**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

Newsletter: newsletterblandfordcatholics@yahoo.co.uk

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; Theresa 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 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**

**Monday 30 December 9.10am Morning Prayers *followed by* 9.30am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion,Holy Rosary, *and then* Divine Mercy Prayer Group**

**Tuesday 31 December St Sylvester 1**

***3pm* *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament***

**6.10pm Evening Prayers**

**6.30pm HOLY MASS**

**Wednesday 1 January SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

**9.10am Morning Prayers**

**9.30am HOLY MASS**

**Thursday 2 January St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen, Doctors of the Church (Mem)**

**9.10am Morning Prayers**

**9.30am HOLY MASS**

**2.30pm Our Lady's Prayer Group and Bible Study**

**Friday 3 January The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

**9.10am Morning Prayers**

**9.30 HOLY MASS f*ollowed by* Benediction**

**Saturday 4 January 9.30am Confessions**

**5.30pm VIGIL OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (OBL SOL)**

**Sunday 5 January THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (OBL SOL)**

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

**9.00am CHILDREN'S MASS**

Please welcome Father Francis 'back home': he will be staying here during my absence.

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

**THE FAMILY OF MARY** 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** - £694.40. Thanks to all who contributed. **FLOWER COLLECTION BOX** - The wall box near the side door is for donations for flowers. The contents were counted this week £50.80 has been donated. Thank you. **CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY** - The basket at the crib is for donations to the Catholic Children’s Society. *Rutth*

**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**

**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. *Vicki Dunstone*, Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)

**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY**

**For the right to an education**

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

**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\*\***

**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.

**KNIT & NATTER** The group returns on **Tuesday 7th January 2025 2-4pm** in the church hall. All welcome. *Julie*

**SAVE THE DATE:**Day of Reflection – **Saturday 1 February** at University of Exeter Catholic Chaplaincy. Have you ever asked the question 'Is God calling me to Priesthood or to the Religious life?'. This **'Day of Reflection' for men** will be held on Saturday 1 February from 10:00 to 16:00 at Exeter University Chaplaincy, Boniface House, Glenthorne Road, Exeter EX4 4QU.

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 more information and to register your interest please contact Fr Jacek Kostuch on [jacek.kostuch@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:jacek.kostuch@prcdtr.org.uk) or [vocation@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:vocation@prcdtr.org.uk). *Julie Taylor*, Vicariate for Clergy Administrator

**FORMATION! FR JON BIELAWSKI**  (Department of Evangelisation and Catechesis, Plymouth Diocese) is coming to our Deanery to give a talk entitled 'Simple Proclamation' - how to, in conversation, give shape and meaning to God in Jesus, so that others may know and believe. DATE: **Saturday 1st February, 10.30 am to 12.30 pm at St Catherine's, Lewens Lane, Wimborne**, BH21 1LE. Fr Jon will have lunch with us, then depart at 1 pm (so please feel free to bring a packed lunch). This will be of interest to all those who have a heart for mission and especially for those who have taken part in the Mission Made Possible course. As Fr Jon will be coming all the way from Plymouth, let's give him a warm welcome! Please save the date - 1st Feb, 2025!

**GATHER 2025 JUBILATE** A weekend of faith, formation and friendship, **Friday 28th - Sunday 30th March, Livermead Cliff Hotel, Torquay**. Booking forms available from the Sidmouth parish office, see facebook page or email [plymouthgather@yahoo.com](mailto:plymouthgather@yahoo.com) for more information. *Rebecca*, Parish Secretary, Sidmouth

**STAY AWAKE 2025!**  Please save the date: **Saturday 5th April, 2025.** You will hear more as time goes by but, as this is such a popular event (taking place in Weymouth) giving nourishment through the Mass, keynote speakers, praise & worship and children's streams, it is for every age group and is such a joy! So, you are being given plenty of notice! *Pippa Worth*



*The Old Testament recounts the period of salvation history that slowly prepared for the coming of Christ into the world. It brings into gradually sharper focus the figure of the Woman, Mother of the Redeemer, already foreshadowed in the promise of victory over the serpent.*

- Vatican II: The Church, 55