**SUNDAY 9 March 2025 YEAR C1 PSALTER I**

**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; Kelly Harte; 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 8 March St John of God (Comm)**

**9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

**9.30am Confessions**

**10.00am HOLY MASS (The Family of Mary) *followed by Meeting of The Family of Mary***

**5.30pm VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday 9 March 9am HOLY MASS - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Monday 10 March 9.10am Morning Prayers 9.30am HOLY MASS**

***followed by* STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**Tuesday 11 March 6.30pm HOLY MASS - house Mass, see below for details**

**Wednesday 12 March 9.10am Morning Prayers ­9.30am HOLYMASS**

**Thursday 13 March 9.10am Morning Prayers 9.30 am HOLY MASS 2.30pm Our Lady's Prayer Group**

**Friday 14 March CAFOD LENT FAST DAY**

**9.10am Morning Prayers 9.30am HOLY MASS - *followed by* Stations of the Cross**

**Saturday 15 March 9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

**9.30am Confessions**

**5.30pm VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday 16 March 9am HOLY MASS - 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT**

**There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before Mass every day during Lent.**

Thank you very much to the organizers of the parish lunch and to all who made it such a success.

On Tuesday, 11th March there will be a house Mass at the Fishers' home - see below for details.

On Saturday Anna and Ali will organize our first lenten lunch and will promote CAFOD - more details below.

I encourage all parish members to take part in at least one of the Stations of the Cross within this season of Lent.

I also encourage you to go for sacramental confessions.

Confirmation classes and preparation for First Holy Communion have resumed.

I wish you all a grace-filled 40 days of the Lenten season.

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** £244.30. Thanks to all who contributed. *Ruth*

With blessings on every one of our Parish family,

**Father Donald**

**LENTEN HOUSE MASS** 6.30pm, Tuesday 11th March at the home of Marie Fisher, Durweston. If you will be attending, advance notice would be appreciated. Mobile: 07712 018916

Email: marie@adrianfisherdesign.com (There are 2 slots left if you would like to add your name.)

**A SPECIAL MASS AND SOCIAL GATHERING** for all those involved in voluntary service including CWL, CARITAS, CAFOD, SVP, Family of Mary, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Sacristans, and all other volunteers will be held on **Saturday, 15 March at 3.00pm** in the **Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Dorchester**. We will celebrate the dedication and generosity of our parish volunteers throughout the Deanery. Please attend if you possibly can and represent our parish. Offers of lift shares will be welcome. *Marie*

**PILGRIMAGE TO ROME -** please take an envelope from the back of the church if you placed your name on the list.  *Ruth*

**TRANSFORMATIVE LENTEN RETREAT**: “Pilgrims of Hope” - **April 9th–11th** (Wed–Fri evening) at **Holy Trinity Dorchester**. The Retreat will be led by Fr. Jon Bielawski, centred on the theme “Pilgrims of Hope” and offers a time of spiritual renewal, reflection, and preparation as we journey through Lent. [Schedule: 6:30pm – Arrival, Silent Prayer, and Reflection, 7:00pm – Talk by Fr. Jon Bielawski, 8:00pm – Holy Mass] Let this Retreat be a time of grace and deepening faith as we prepare our hearts for Easter. All are welcome!

**REVELATION** – in this Jubilee year where Pope Francis has asked us to be active “Pilgrims of Hope”, renowned scripture scholar and author, Fr. Nicholas King SH, will lead us to understand the Book of Revelation and how the Word of God is our power for Mission. This event will be held at **Buckfast Abbey** Conference Centre on **Saturday 15th March 10am-4pm**. (Dart View Room 4). There is an opportunity to go to the Abbey Mass at noon. Booking is essential and needs to be done through plymouth-crownhill@prcdtr.org.uk Enquiries: 01752 701660. We look forward to seeing you at this inspiring day. *Fr Jonathan Bielawski*

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** For information on becoming a local volunteer for the Catholic Children's Society please see poster in porch and contact: Vicki Dunstone, Fundraiser & Communications Officer, Catholic Children’s Society (Plymouth). Working hours – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. PLEASE NOTE: my email address has changed and is now vicki.dunstone@ccsplymouth.org.uk. Website: St Boniface House, Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7JL; 01364 645420 www.ccsplymouth.org.uk

**ONLINE MORNING & EVENING PRAYER GROUP** An online group has been sharing Morning Prayer and Night Prayer, Monday to Fridays, for the last two years. We simply pray the Divine Office together (about 12 mins) - 'for the sake of the Church and the world'. People dip in, as they can (no apologies needed when we can't). There is no obligation to read, just join us in prayer. For more information contact <deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk>SPUC

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE LENT VIGIL 2025: Wednesday 5th of March - Sunday 13th of April 2025.** If you would like to take part in the 40DFL, you can contact Livia Tossici-Bolt or Sebastian Senial via email: 40daysforlifebournemouth@gmail.com40 Days for Life Lent Vigil 2025: Wednesday 5th of March - Sunday 13th of April 2025. **See poster in porch**. *Amabel*

**PLACES OF PILGRIMAGE** While Rome is the focus, the Holy Father asked each Diocese to establish a number of locations to be Places of Pilgrimage to provide a more local and accessible experience of walking pilgrimage. **There are four such locations for Plymouth Diocese: The Cathedral; St. Cuthbert Mayne, Launceston; St. Boniface, Crediton; and Holy Trinity, Dorchester.** Details for how to book a group, or times for more casual pilgrimages, will be published on the Diocesan website and will be sent more directly when they have been finalised. An indulgence has been established by the Holy See relating to these Places of Pilgrimage, but I will share detailed information when some matters have been clarified soon. *Harriet*

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| **READERS: 8 Mar: 1 Barbara Emery, 2 Ruth Hiscock 9 Mar: 1 Geoff Smith, 2 Charlie Welch** |
| **15 Mar: 1 Zara Osborn, 2 Brendan Hewson. 16 Mar: 1 Anthony Reed, 2 Howard Rochford** |
| **22 Mar: 1 Madeleine Hemsley, 2 Orla Gilligan 23 Mar: 1 Mark Hudson, 2 Marie Fisher** |
| **SACRISTANS: 10 - 16 March, Group B: Richard, Christianne, Mel and Joseph** |

**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\*\***

**LENT LUNCHES** The 1st lent lunch is on **Saturday 8th March in the church hall**, hosted by Anna and Ali, **between 12-2pm**. Please join us for a simple lunch of bread and soup. Donations to CAFOD will be gratefully received. The 2nd lunch will be on **Saturday 15th March**, **again in the church hall**, hosted by Fiona MacKay, **again 12-2pm**.  *Ali*

**KNIT & NATTER** Next meeting on **Tuesday March 18, 2-4pm** in the church hall. *Julie*

**PARISH BARBECUE** will take place on **Sunday 20 July.** Please keep the date free in your diary! More details will follow nearer the time. *Anthony*

**SWEEPSTAKE 2024/25** Many thanks to all you took part in the Sweepstake. This was drawn at the Parish Lunch. The Prizes going to Barbara Emery and Teresa Hogan, and the other half of the money going to the church. *Mike*

**CAFOD** Andrew Traynor is running the Rome Marathon on **16th March** to raise funds for CAFOD. If you would like to donate and help Andrew keep going for 26.2 miles, then please click on the link: https://www.justgiving.com/page/andrew-traynor26 Good luck Andrew!

**NOURISH LENT CHALLENGE - 40 days of Giving**.A helpful guide to what Nourish need and how we can support them during Lent (leaflet in the porch). The first week's giving is for:- washing-up liquid, tinned custard, sponge pudding, instant coffee. Other donations always welcome. Please put the donations in the green box at the back of church. I will put a different list in the newsletter each week during Lent. *Rod*

**CONCLAVE** *-* This film is being shown at Charlton Marshall Village Hall on Wednesday 12 March. *Ruth*

**NORTHERN PARISHES PILGRIMAGE** Madeleine and Ruth are making a Lent pilgrimage through the northern parishes - details to follow.