**SUNDAY 16 March 2025 YEAR C1 PSALTER II**

**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; Barbara Emery; 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 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**

**Monday 17 March St Patrick, Missionary, Patron of Ireland (FEAST)**

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

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

**Tuesday 18 March St Cyril of Jerusalem**

 **CHILD EXPLOITATION AWARENESS DAY**

 **6.30pm HOLY MASS: HOUSE MASS, details below**

**Wednesday 19 March ST JOSEPH SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN (SOL)**

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

**Thursday 20 March 9.10am Morning Prayers 9.30am HOLY MASS 2.30pm Our Lady's Prayer Group**

 **Friday 21 March 9.10am Morning Prayers ­9.30am HOLY MASS  *followed by* STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

 **Saturday 22 March 9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

 **9.30am Confessions**

 **5.30pm VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

 **Sunday 23 March 9am HOLY MASS - 23rd SUNDAY OF LENT**

**There will be a retiring collection for CAFOD this weekend.**

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

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

 Confirmation classes and preparation for First Holy Communion have resumed.

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** To be published when available. Thanks to all who contributed. *Ruth*

 With blessings on every one of our Parish family,

 **Father Donald**

**LENTEN HOUSE MASS** 6.30pm, T**uesday 18 March**, at the Plummers' house in Charlton Marshall. Please ask Father Donald for contact details.

**FAMILY OF MARY** Notes about last week's meeting can be found on the porch noticeboard and in the hall at church. Concerning '20 Ways to Engage Catholics in the Jubilee of Hope', this is *not* just for Lent but will go on through the year so please ignore my 'Lent' reference.

Since our meeting, I have been told there will be a **Safeguarding Training and DBS session at St Catherine’s Church in Wimborne on Saturday 26 April.** We are invited to join them. This is a good opportunity so we can pursue our goal to give pastoral support in our community sooner rather than later. There are lifts for those without a car. It is now even more urgent to have two more parish co-safeguarding volunteers. Please let me know if you are willing to do it. And for those happy to have DBS clearance please confirm if you are available for the Wimborne date.

The Family of Mary WhatsApp Group will be circulated with this info.  *Marie*

**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 3pm** 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**  If you have not already paid your deposit and returned your Booking Form please ensure this is completed this week please.  *Ruth*

**TRANSFORMATIVE LENTEN RETREAT**: “Pilgrims of Hope” - **9-11 April** (Wed–Fri eve) at **Holy Trinity Dorchester**. The Retreat will be led by Fr. Jon Bielawski, themed “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, 7pm – 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!

**AN ONLINE MORNING & EVENING PRAYER 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 5 March - Sunday 13 April.** 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*

**FEAST OF OSCAR ROMERO** 24 March A patron saint of Caritas Internationalis and patron saint of Caritas Social Action Network, Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, was assassinated while saying Mass on this day in 1980. A prophetic voice for justice and human dignity in El Salvador during the years of the military dictatorship, he embodies the preferential option for the poor. For more information: http://www.romerotrust.org.uk *Deborah Fisher, Caritas Manager*

**YOU ARE INVITED** to watch a new six-part series from WORD ON FIRE, in which Bishop Barron teaches on the Mass, with an online group, Wednesday evenings at 7pm during Lent and Easter. Each one hour session will consist of a half hour film followed by prayer and reflection. For a link or more information contact *deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk*

**COME AND SEE WEEKENDS 2025 at Holy Cross Abbey** In this Jubilee Year, we will be hosting two Come and See Weekends, to continue this ‘Pilgrims of Hope’: (1) 30 May - 2 June; and (2) 8 - 11 August. May God bless you, your families, Parishes, Communities and Schools, from all the Sisters at Holy Cross Abbey [see poster in porch for details]

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| **READERS*:* 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: 17 - 23 March, Group C: David, Audrey, Pravin, Marie, Ann** |

**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 2nd lunch will be on **Saturday 15th March**, **again in the church hall**, hosted by Fiona MacKay, **again 12-2pm**. Donations to CAFOD will be gratefully received.The 3rd lunch on **22nd March** (12-2pm) will be at Marie Fisher's house in Durweston. For address/directions, please contact Marie on 07712 018916, or marie@adrianfisherdesign.com. If you need a lift, please contact Ali or Anna and they will see what they can do to help: alisoncain@gnail.com or hayballanna@gmail.com

**CAFOD** It's not too late to sponsor Andrew Traynor who is running the Rome Marathon on Sunday 16th March to raise funds for CAFOD. If you would like to donate then please click on the link below: https://www.justgiving.com/page/andrew-traynor26

**CAFOD** – Family Fast Day collection **this weekend** (envelopes in pews or at back of church) Please donate to our collection and be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You’ll be supporting communities suffering the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. Add your envelope to the Collection, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope, or call us on 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate. *Ali*

**NOURISH LENT CHALLENGE - 40 days of Giving**.A helpful guide to what Nourish needs and how we can support them during Lent - see poster in the porch. Donations always welcome. Please put in the green box at the back of church. *Rod**and Jan*

**LENT WALK FOR CAFOD** Ruth and Madeleine are planning another Big Walk to raise money for Cafod this Lent. We aim to walk the Northern Catholic parishes; starting from Sherborne we will walk to Marnhull, then Shaftesbury and then back to our church here in Blandford: 35-40 miles. We would be very grateful for sponsorship, either by your donation at the Offertory at Mass in an envelope marked 'Cafod Northern Walk', or online in a link shortly to be set up. Thank you very much! Madeleine

**JUBILEE YEAR MASS FOR MARRIAGE 2025** Midday, **Sat May 31** The Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Boniface Plymouth PL1 5HW. Marriage enriches us all, all are welcome. Let us know your anniversaries or intentions, or when your wedding will take place. For more information please contact deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk

**YOUTH EVENTS** has 2 residentials coming up this summer. Heatree 2025; May 23rd – 25th. See poster in porch or for further information please contact, Saskia: youth@prcdtr.org.uk