**SUNDAY 30 March 2025 YEAR C1 PSALTER 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

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 29 March 9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

**9.30am Confessions**

**5.30pm VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

***BST - CLOCKS GO FORWARD 1 HOUR***

**Sunday 30 March 9am HOLY MASS - LAETARE SUNDAY**

**Monday 31 March 9.10am Morning Prayers 9.30am HOLY MASS**

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

**Tuesday 1 April 6.30pm : HOUSE MASS, details below**

**Wednesday 2 April St Francis of Paola, Hermit (Comm)**

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

**Thursday 3 April 9.10am Morning Prayers 9.30am HOLY MASS 2.30pm Our Lady's Prayer Group**

**Friday 4 April St Isidore, Doctor of the Church (Comm)**

**NO MASS­ 9.10am Morning Prayers *followed by* STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**Saturday 5 April St Vincent Ferrer (Comm)**

**9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

**9.30am Confessions**

**10.00 HOLY MASS [Family of Mary] followed by Meeting**

**5.30pm VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday 6 April 9am CHILDREN'S MASS**

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

GOING BACK TO THE ROOT

As a way of helping us understand our Catholic teaching and beliefs, we shall go back to the root by adopting a question and answer every Sunday from the "penny" catechism book for Catholics. Let's begin:

Q1 **Who made you?**

**God made me.**

For our Sunday homilies and sermons, I have chosen to use a simpler method for every Sunday, henceforth, which I call "POINTS TO PONDER":

1. Do you know that "Egypt" is a place of slavery and therefore a symbol of sin?

Sin is the act of breaking away or cutting off from the Father, just as the prodigal son did.

2. Do you know that if you are in Christ, you are a New Creation?

When Adam and Eve ran away from God after The Fall in the Garden of Eden (SIN), they became the Old Creation. Christ's coming brought about a New Creation.

3. Do you know that we are ambassadors of Christ?

Even though the prodigal son left his state of glory and began to live a life of debauchery, as soon as he returned, his father reinstated him and clothed him in glory. Sin is the only thing that wipes away the image of God in us. As soon as we return to God, we become his representatives and ambassadors.

4. Do you know that grumbling is a sin?

The Israelites grumbled against God and Moses and suffered greatly. The Pharisees and Scribes always grumbled, which is a sign of 'holier-than-thou' or self-righteousness, and pride which is the greatest vice.

5. Do you know that the servant who narrated the incident to the other brother is a gossip?

Gossip does not promote a healthy Christian community, rather it divides it.

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** £305.75. **STANDING ORDERS** - Amounts for February - Gift Aided £1,187.50, Non Gift Aided £145.00. **PARISH LUNCH** The amount raised for Parish Funds was £473.20. **CAFOD FAMILY FAST**  The amount raised was £90.00. Thanks to all who contributed. *Ruth*

With blessings on every one of our Parish family,

**Father Donald**

**LENTEN HOUSE MASS** 6.30pm, **Tuesday April 1**  at Felicity's home in Stourpaine. For address and/or a lift, please contact Ali or Anna.

**FAMILY OF MARY** 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. And for those happy to have DBS clearance please confirm if you are available for the Wimborne date. *Marie*

**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*

**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS for APRIL**

**For the use of the new technologies**

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

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| **READERS: 29 Mar Barbara Emery/Ruth Hiscock 30 Mar Mel Sarich/Howard Rochford** |
| **SACRISTANS: 31 Mar-6 Apr: Group B: Richard, Christianne, Mel, Joseph**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL FOR APRIL: Mark Hudson** |

**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 next lunch on **Saturday 29th March** will be at Charlie Welch's home in Shillingstone. For the address or directions, please contact Charlie on charlietipps@gmail.com or 07879496182. 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. Next week, on **5th April**, the lunch will be at Audrey's home in Milton Abbas. For the address or directions, please contact Audrey on audreyburch01@googlemail.com or 01258 880828. If you need a lift to get there, please contact Ali or Anna on alisoncain@gmail.com or hayballanna@gmail.com and they will see what they can do to help.

**COUNTERS -** I am preparing a new rota and I appealing to any parishioners who attend Sunday Mass to join the counting rota. You would always be paired with an experienced person until you are familiar with procedures. If you are able to help please speak to any

member of the counting team, to myself or Fr Donald. There is a list in the hall on the noticeboard with the current Rota. *Ruth*

**NOURISH LENT CHALLENGE - 40 days of Giving**. 4th week: Pasta sauce, Jam,Tuna, Deodorant. **Nourish requests that any Easter treats come in by April 4th.** *Jan*

**LENT WALK FOR CAFOD** 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 : 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 set up: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/ruth-and-madeleines-northern-parishes-walk>

*Madeleine and Ruth*

**KNIT & NATTER** - Next meeting will be **1 April** in the hall.

**GREAT BIG DIOCESAN QUIZ** Don’t forget our next Quiz, being held this year on **Friday, 9 May 2025** *Vicki Dunstone, CSSP*

*O Mother of Love, I am not surprised that the excess of your love for your poor children is so admirable. Indeed such love forever sends into ecstacy the inhabitants of heaven.*  - St John Eudes