



Parish of the Sacred Heart & St Thérèse of the Child Jesus

24 Cecil Road, Paignton, TQ3 2SH Tel:01803 557518 Email: paignton@predtr.org.uk

Website: www.sacredheartpaignton.co.uk

(Part of the Plymouth Diocesan Trust – Reg. Charity No: 213227)

Parish Priest: Fr Ralph Candy

Second Week of Advent – Year B, Psalter 2

Saturday 5 December Vigil Mass of the Second Sunday in Advent	Joseph F. Owen RIP
Sunday 6 December - Mass of the Second Sunday in Advent 8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Rob White Jo O’Gorman RIP
Monday 7 December – <i>St Ambrose Mem</i>	
Tuesday 8 December - 9.30am Mass - <i>The Immaculate Conception of the BVM - Solemnity</i>	Evelyn McBrearty RIP
Wednesday 9 December – 9.30am Mass	People in abusive relationships
Thursday 10 December – 9.30am Mass	Sick and elderly parishioners
Friday 11 December – 9.30am Mass	Beatrice Dance RIP
Saturday 12 December 6pm Vigil Mass of the Third Sunday in Advent	Ashley
Sunday 13 December – Gaudete Sunday 8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	The Parish Circle of friends – deceased members

Sacrament of reconciliation: Saturday before Mass 5.15 – 5.45pm

Pastoral visits for the anointing of the sick are permitted at home, in our care homes (some) and in hospital, so do please contact the parish office as necessary to arrange a visit by the parish priest.

This week’s Gospel... Baptism for Conversion (Mark 1:1-8)

Each Advent has two ‘John the Baptist’ Sundays: the first when we see John preparing a community for the Messiah, the second when he points out Jesus as the Lamb of God. Today is the first of these. John chose a point where the busy road from Jerusalem to the East crossed the Jordan River. There he attracted the attention of all the busy financiers, merchants and other travellers and tourists, warning them to change their ways - and to change them now, before it was too late. ‘I am too busy,’ no doubt they said. ‘I have other things to worry about; I have a wife and family to feed.’ John was forming a community of repentance; but not so much a community which wept ‘crocodile tears’ about their sins, as a community of people determined to set their scale of values right. He meant them to stop going in one direction, to turn round and go in a different direction – towards God. Do we give ourselves a moment to pause and ask whether we have our priorities right? Where on that list of priorities does the entry of Christ into our lives come? John expected Jesus to baptise with fire. Does that mean burning something away? Or warming something up? Or become a shining light? What does your baptism mean to you?

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Then thank God for any insight you may have received. Conclude by asking God to bless you with one of the following spiritual gifts to help you act on any resolution you have made: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self-control, patience, or joy. Please remember to pray for the Church and particularly our school families. Then conclude by requesting the prayers of Our Lady & St Joseph.

Fr Ralph writes...

Many of you will start returning to public Mass this weekend, and welcome indeed. Do please wrap up warm as we still have to ventilate the church in light of the current pandemic! Advent is traditionally a time of preparation, of waiting and expectation for the coming of the Lord, both at the end of time, and in our commemoration of his nativity all those years ago. This year Advent will be difficult for many of us: the uncertainties of the pandemic are still very much with us, yet alone the fear of the pending economic fallout set to befall our nation next year. Nonetheless, in this dark time of the year we can grow spiritually with an inner awareness that, whatever happens, we are held safe. God, 'Emmanuel', will not abandon us. Despite the fear and uncertainty we all feel, there are also glimpses of hope and eternity. Through the darkness of Advent, we too move towards the light.

Some of you might know that **Deacon Joe** hasn't been too well as of late. I am pleased to say that after four weeks in hospital Deacon Joe is now resident at Mount Olivet nursing and residential home. We pray for Deacon Joe's wellbeing during his time of convalescence, and that he may be reunited with John, his son, early next year.

ADVENT on ZOOM! - WAITING IN JOYFUL HOPE - Thursday 10th December at 7pm.

Do join with me and other parishioners in following a four-session course, 'The Joy of Hope' filmed on location on the beautiful Greek Holy Island of Patmos, where Scripture tells us the Book of Revelation was written. This course provides an uplifting and practical insight into how we can live joyfully in the hope of eternal life. Each session includes a mix of teaching, scripture meditation, and prayerful response, with an opportunity to share our reflections.

Email: zoomsacredheart@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link.

(If you are unsure about using Zoom, Keith Taylor will be happy to talk you through the process - just indicate this in your email.)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – do please pray for our children who will be making their first holy communion this coming Saturday. Mrs Taylor and I have much enjoyed teaching the children a condensed course that has covered: the four-part biblical schema of 'creation, fall, redemption and restoration'; the links between the 'old and new Passover'; the institution of the Eucharist; and of course the various parts of the Mass. The children have been enthused and engaged throughout the course, and are a real credit to our parish.

A Precious Place of God's Grace is the title of a document prepared by our Bishop concerning the pastoral provision for the parishes of our diocese. Most people will be aware that there will have to be some reorganization because of the shortage of priests and over the years we have recognized that there will eventually have to be changes in our area as with the rest of the diocese. The Bishop, however, wishes to ensure that the future plans will be directed first and foremost to the effective proclamation of the Faith in whatever new structures are envisaged. You can read the Bishop's document on the Plymouth Diocesan website – follow the link on the homepage.

And finally Mass times for Christmas!

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord, Thursday 24th at 6pm

Nativity of the Lord, in the night, Thursday 24th at 8pm (NO Midnight Mass this year)

Nativity of the Lord, dawn, Friday 25th at 8.30am

Nativity of the Lord, day, Friday 25th at 10.00am

We will have to oblige social distancing and thus limit numbers in church to around 50 people at each Mass. PLEASE do not all come at once to the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve, otherwise folk might have to go home disappointed. I would imagine that the dawn Mass on Christmas Day will be quieter, so if you're vulnerable and having to mind yourself, why not come along to that one instead? To give me an idea of numbers, do please put your names down on the sheets provided at the back of church – ONE NAME PER LINE please. God bless you all.