



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

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

Parish Priest: Fr Ralph Candy

Octave of Christmas – Year B, Psalter 1	
* Saturday 26 December – 6pm Mass – St Stephen * Feast <i>(The readings will be of the feast of St Stephen)</i>	Raymond Pursey RIP
Sunday 27 December - Feast of the Holy Family 8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	David Snowden RIP Eileen Dillon
Tuesday 29 December – 9.30am Mass – <i>St Thomas Beckett</i>	Thanksgiving to Jesus (Divine Mercy)
Wednesday 30 December – 9.30am Mass	John and Marie McDermott
Thursday 31 December – 9.30am Mass	Canon Mark O’Keeffe
* Friday 1 January – Mary, Mother of God * 10.00am Mass	Deacon Joe Owen
Saturday 2 January – Second Sunday after the Nativity 6.00pm – Vigil Mass	The Parish
Sunday 3 January – Second Sunday after the Nativity 8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Joan and Leslie Ashton RIP Canon Mark O’Keeffe

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... The Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:22-40)

The story of the Presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple is dominated by Simeon’s welcome, ‘a light to enlighten the gentiles and the glory of your people Israel’, and by his warning to Mary, ‘a sword will pierce your heart’. Simeon reiterates the angel’s promise that the child would fulfil the destiny of Israel and Israel’s task to the nations. Much like any family life, the promised future included the delights of the growing, developing child, and the background fear that the great destiny of each child may include sorrow and even heart-break. How much did Mary and Joseph know about the precious child they were nurturing? As he grew to independence did he become more loving and supportive? How did his contemporaries find him? Was he a leader? Did he stand out from the pack? Each of us has a personal picture of Jesus - the child, the boy, the adolescent, the young man. All we know for sure is that ‘the child grew to maturity’, and that Mary ‘pondered all these things in her heart’, while keeping in mind Simeon’s welcome and warning. I wonder what would Mary have felt and thought as she went home from the Temple.

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...

Thank you all indeed for your beautiful Christmas cards, good wishes and gifts (including a lovely rich fruit cake which will sustain me for months), and for the generous Christmas offering. It is also a time to thank all our parishioners who have kept the parish going throughout a very difficult year for us all. There are all those who maintain the finances, who assist at worship in church, and keep it beautifully decorated with colourful flower arrangements. This year it has been especially important that we have had those who maintain the safety of our church, and also those with the necessary skills to maintain online communication in clever ways. Thank you all sincerely. We should pray that we may be given new strength in the coming year to rebuild and renew our parish life, especially for our families and their children.

Deacon Joe and John thank everyone for their Christmas cards, gifts and wishes and send their Christmas blessings to all. Do please keep Deacon Joe in your prayers as he is currently in hospital again, but hoping to return to the regular nursing care he is receiving at Mount Olivet.

Our parish now has a **Facebook page**. You can click on this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/SacredHeartChurchPaignton> facebook.com/SacredHeartChurchPaignton or search for @SacredHeartChurchPaignton on Facebook. We hope that being on Facebook will make it easier for people to find out about our parish and for parishioners unable to come to Mass to keep in touch. If you use Facebook, we'd really appreciate it if you can like our page and share it with your friends. This will help the page be seen by more people. At the moment, we are posting the parish newsletters and news about parish events on the Facebook page, but hope it will be a place where parishioners can stay in touch and share useful resources.

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.

Caritas Plymouth: CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER - We are all called to 'Welcome the Stranger' but many people are unsure how they can help others during this time of continued lockdown. Caritas has produced a Christmas Newsletter which offers some practical suggestions for action and links to prayer resources. <https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Caritas-at-Christmas-Newsletter-2020.pdf>

Parish Collections: week of 16-23 December: £471.01 – thank you for your generosity, and especially to those who saved up their weekly offering during the lockdown and presented them to the parish on their return to Mass.