



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

Welcome! The latest guidance issued by Bishop Mark asks us all to utilise the hand sanitizer provided in the porch, and to wear a mask/face covering at all times in church.

Octave of Christmas – Year C, Psalter 1	
Friday 24 December 6pm Mass – Vigil Mass of the Nativity of the Lord 8pm Mass – Mass of the Nativity of the Lord (Night)	The Parish Julie Clarke and family
Saturday 25 December – The Nativity of the Lord 8.30am – said Mass (Dawn) 10.00am – Mass (Day)	Gail Candy RIP Noreen Henn RIP
Sunday 26 December – Feast of the Holy Family 8.30am said Mass 10.00am Mass	Victoria and Henry Hobbs Raymond Pursey RIP
Monday 27 December – St John, Apostle and Evangelist No Mass	
Tuesday 28 December – The Holy Innocents No Mass	
Wednesday 29 December – St Thomas Becket - 5pm Mass	Gail Candy RIP
Thursday 30 December – 9.30am Mass	James McCulloch RIP
Friday 31 December – 9.30am Mass	Rafal Ozga RIP
Saturday 1 January – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God 10am said Mass 6pm sung Mass	The Parish Gail Candy RIP
Sunday 2 January – Second Sunday after the Nativity 8.30am – said Mass 10.00am – Family Mass	Thomas Timmons Kazik Anders RIP

Sacrament of reconciliation: Saturday before Mass 5 – 5.45pm.

This week's Sunday Gospel: The Child Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)

This little incident, the only one told of Jesus' youth, has two attractive lessons for us. Firstly, it is a joy to see Jesus behaving just like any other twelve-year-old. He was a real child, and a child of that age goes off exploring, adventuring, unhesitatingly sure that the all-powerful, all-knowing parents will know where he or she has gone; parents, meanwhile, worry themselves sick at the unexplained disappearance of their child. Mary, the young mother, knows her son and the ways of the twelve-year-old. She does not scold or expostulate, but just accepts what he says with love and relief.

Secondly, Jesus' reply gives us a glimpse of his relationship to the Father. The phrase 'with my Father's affairs' may equally well be translated 'in my Father's house', but either translation indicates Jesus' total absorption with his Father. What does it mean to be "busy with my Father's affairs"?

What changes would this make in your life?

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

Parish Priest: Fr Ralph Candy

Fr Ralph writes...

Wishing you all a joyous Christmastide and every blessing on the Solemnity of our Lord's birthday. Hopefully, many of us will be able to catch up with our families and loved ones over the festive season, but please keep in your prayers those keyworkers who are still having to work throughout the festivities, and those whose who are having to self-isolate due to Covid. Thank you especially to those who have worked tirelessly throughout the year: our musicians, readers, altar servers, EMHCs, catechists, florists, parish treasurers, cleaners, and our sacristan of course, you are all true stalwarts. Please note that the church will be closed on both Bank Holidays this year; this will give our sacristan and altar servers a much-needed break, hopefully a chance for some recuperation, before the usual round of duties begins once more on Wednesday 29th December. If you require a priest *in an emergency only*, please enquire at either Abbey Road or St Marychurch in Torquay.



Thank you to all those who participated during Advent in the parish synodal journey, especially our facilitators who guided you throughout. I shall be liaising with our facilitators to organise a 'morning of reflection' sometime in January to draw a conclusion to the four-week process, and to digest some of the outcomes. It's still not too late to join in and make your contribution known!

Putting all Children First – Especially at Christmas Time

Please take time to visit our nativity over the Christmas period. The collection will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) as it works across the Diocese spreading God's love and giving families hope in times of crisis. Thank you for your generosity.

Parish Collections: 28th November, £756.55 and 5th December, £478.91. The collection boxes remain at the back of church and thank you for your generosity.

*Please note the **Christmas Collection** is an offering to Father for his subsistence throughout the year. Do please use the envelopes provided (if possible) and gift aid wherever possible (the Church can claim an extra 25% on these monies, which goes towards church funds, alas not to Father!).

Something for the New Year...

Saturday, January 1st, 10am and 6pm Masses – This year there is Mass at 10am, and the Bishop has asked us to celebrate the **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** on Saturday evening too (and not the Vigil for the Second after the Nativity).

'The Bible in a Year' – Ascension Press, Fr Mike Schmitz.

Why not log onto <https://media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes> and listen to extracts of the Bible read to you every day over the course of the year, with a commentary by Fr Mike and Jeff Cavins.

Sacrament of Confirmation: The next session for Confirmation Candidates will take place on Saturday 8th January at Assumption of Our Lady Church, Abbey Road, beginning with Mass at 9.30am.