



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

Welcome to Mass! Do please join in the singing of congregational hymns and enjoy our fellowship.

Second Week of Advent – Year A, Psalter 2	
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 6pm – Vigil Mass of Second Sunday of Advent	John White RIP
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> December – Second Sunday of Advent 8.30am – said Mass 10.00am – family Mass 3pm – Holy Hour and Vespers	Shirley Hipwell The Parish
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December – 10am Mass, <i>St Nicholas, Memorial</i>	James & Stasior families RIP
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December – 9.30am Mass, <i>St Ambrose, Memorial</i>	Archbishop Mark O'Toole
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December – 10am Mass</b> <i>The Immaculate Conception of the BVM, Solemnity</i>	Evelyn McBrearty RIP
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December – 9.30am Mass	Martin McHugh
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> December 6pm – Vigil Mass of Gaudete Sunday	Rosemary White int.
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> December – Gaudete Sunday 8.30am – said Mass 10.00am – family Mass	Pope Francis Sabina Hennigan RIP

**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 and in hospital, so do please contact the parish office as necessary to arrange a visit by the parish priest or EMHC.

### *This week's Sunday Gospel: John the Baptist's Call to Repentance (Matthew 3:1-12)*

'Repentance' seems an unattractive word. It conjures up images of morose brooding over past sins and failures, a negative idea. This is not what John the Baptist proclaimed. His message was wholly positive. In Hebrew and Greek, the concept of 'repentance' is about a change of behaviour, a change of direction. John is calling on his listeners to change their ways, to change their scale of values, their whole direction of life. To reinforce his message, he wears the clothes worn by Elijah, the prophet whom Jewish tradition taught was to return to announce the final coming of the Lord. John proclaims his message in the desert, that apocalyptic landscape of the arid and bare Jordan Valley, below sea-level, where merchants would be crossing the Jordan on the road to the East. So John makes a deliberate claim to be this final prophet and to be preparing a way for the Lord. We see Jesus as the Messiah, the loving Saviour, but John was not at this point proclaiming this Jesus. He was proclaiming the threatening and imminent arrival of the sovereignty of God when rotten trees would be cut down and evil swept away to be burnt in unquenchable fire. If we are to be open to the arrival of the Kingship of God, we may need to look to our own scale of values. Is my scale of values compatible with those of the Kingship of God? How far do they coincide?

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

Parish Priest: Fr Ralph Candy

**THANK YOU!** Our local CWL Group in Paignton has been working hard over the past year, raising funds for local charities, including our very own 'roof appeal'. Thank you sincerely to our CWL members for raising £200 towards the cost of repairing our church roof – a sterling effort and much appreciated!

**ECLIPSE ADVENT CONCERT** – a big thank you to Roni and her choir who made our seasonal gathering such a success. It's important for us to gather as a community outside of Mass, and it was a useful excuse to have a retiring collection in aid of the church roof appeal!

**CHRISTMAS HAMPER** – do please support the CWL through buying tickets for their Christmas Hamper full of seasonal goodies, and all of which has been generously donated through their membership. Proceeds from ticket sales will go to local charities.

**FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH** There will be a second collection next weekend for church flowers for Christmastime. Behind the scenes all through the liturgical year a dedicated team of parishioners display and care for the floral arrangements that beautify our sanctuary and church. Their service for us all is greatly appreciated.

The four December '**DIPPING INTO THE CATECHISM**' pages kindly produced and illustrated by a catechist are available at the back of the church.

#### **ADVENT HOLY HOUR AND VESPERS**

To prepare for the coming of Christ, there will be opportunities for quiet reflection on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December 3-4pm, at the Sacred Heart Church Paignton.

#### **ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES**

St Marychurch, Torquay, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Brixham – December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

Sacred Heart, Paignton, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

#### **CAFOD World Gifts: Give a gift of hope this Christmas**

This Advent let's share the promise of hope that has been made to us with our sisters and brothers around the world. You can buy CAFOD's World Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at [cafod.org.uk/worldgifts](http://cafod.org.uk/worldgifts) or pick up a catalogue in church. World Gifts such as "super soup kitchens", "trees for life", or "water for a family" will help transform lives in a world filled with challenges.

#### **CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:**

Christmas Eve, 24<sup>th</sup> December – 6pm Carols

6.30pm (sung Mass)

Christmas Day, 25<sup>th</sup> December – 8.30am (said Mass) and 10am Mass (sung Mass)

**KEEP THE DATE IN THE DIARY - FLAME 2023** – TICKETS £35. SATURDAY 4TH MARCH, WEMBLEY STADIUM TIMES TBC. AGE: 14 – 21. This is the largest catholic gathering in England and Wales. To book: <https://forms.office.com/r/i7rv7WzbG4>  
Or contact Saskia or Michelle at: [youth:prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:youth:prcdtr.org.uk)

**CHURCH COLLECTION:** 26/27<sup>th</sup> November, £628.04. Thank you for your generosity.