



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.

Third Week of Advent – Year A, Psalter 3	
Saturday 10 th December 6pm – Vigil Mass of Third Sunday of Advent	Rosemary White int.
Sunday 11 th December – Gaudete Sunday 8.30am – said Mass 10.00am – family Mass	Pope Francis Sabina Hennigan RIP
Tuesday 13 th December – 10am Mass, <i>St Lucy, Memorial</i> 1pm Funeral Service for Jan Sobota RIP	Mr and Mrs Tony Russell
Wednesday 14 th December – 9.30am Mass, <i>St John of the Cross</i> <i>2pm School Nativity Play</i>	May Oxford
Thursday 15 th December – 9.30am Mass <i>6pm School Concert</i>	Violet and Francis Reen RIP
Friday 16 th December – 9.30am Mass	Hugh McAreavey RIP
Saturday 17 th December 6pm – Vigil Mass of Fourth Sunday of Advent	Martin McHugh
Sunday 18 th December – Fourth Sunday of Advent 8.30am – said Mass 10.00am – family Mass 3pm Holy Hour and Vespers	The Parish Pauline Smith 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: Miracles of the Messiah (Matthew 11:20-11)

John the Baptist was expecting a Messiah of judgment, who would cut down the rotten tree and burn the useless chaff. When, in prison, he hears that Jesus is not doing this, he is puzzled and sends messengers to ask if Jesus is really the Messiah. Jesus sends back the message that he is fulfilling the prophet Isaiah – the passage which we hear about in today's first reading. Jesus' understanding was that healing, not punishment, was the task of the Messiah. He goes and seeks out those who need healing, both physically and spiritually. He does not wait for sinners to repent before gathering them into the kingdom; he makes the first advance. Then he turns to praising the Baptist. It is a fascinating point of speculation as to whether Jesus was himself once a disciple of John the Baptist. After all, John says he did not recognise Jesus until he saw the Spirit coming down on him. But he also says that Jesus, who came after him, has passed before him. This is a typical position of a rabbi, leading his disciples, and suggests that John had been Jesus' rabbi, then became his disciple. Jesus was fully man, and even he needed to learn as all human beings do. John the Baptist did all he could to lead others to God. How, through our actions and attitudes, can we point others to God? How do our lives show that we are preparing for Christ's second coming?

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

Parish Priest: Fr Ralph Candy

FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH There will be a **second collection today** 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.

ECLIPSE ADVENT CONCERT – a big thank you to Roni and her choir who made our seasonal gathering such a success. The collection in aid of the church roof raised more than £500, and a further £70 was raised for Ukraine. Thanks also to the CWL for serving tea!

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.

CHRISTMAS PRAISE WITH 2B1 - Tuesday 20th December 7.30pm

At 2b1, we worship in a relaxed atmosphere with friends from different churches. Come and celebrate Christmas with an informal evening of carols, Bible readings and some new Christmas songs. Seasonal refreshments too! Held at Goodrington Methodist Church. Goodrington Road, Paignton TQ4 7JT. Why not come along after the Penitential Service @ Sacred Heart and rejoice with us?

ADVENT HOLY HOUR AND VESPERS

To prepare for the coming of Christ, there will be an opportunity for quiet reflection on Sunday 18th December 3-4pm, at the Sacred Heart Church Paignton.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Brixham – December 15th at 7pm
Sacred Heart, Paignton, December 20th 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 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, 24th December – 6pm Carols
6.30pm (sung Mass)
Christmas Day, 25th December – 8.30am (said Mass) and 10am Mass (sung Mass)

FLAME 2023 – TICKETS £35. SATURDAY 4TH MARCH. WEMBLEY STADIUM AGE: 14 – 21

Join Youth Events at Wembley Stadium on Saturday March 4th. Tickets are £35 which include entry and travel to Wembley. Coaches will pick up from locations in Dorset and Devon. It's a great chance to hear from speakers like Robert Bilott, singer/ songwriter Adenike and award winner Guvna B. 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

CHURCH COLLECTION: 3/4th December, £746.40. Thank you for your generosity.