



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.

Octave of Christmas – Year A, Psalter 1	
Saturday 24 th December 6.00pm Carols 6.30pm – Vigil Mass of The Nativity of the Lord	The Parish
Sunday 25 th December – The Nativity of the Lord 8.30am – Dawn Mass 10.00am – Day Mass	Deceased Connors/McDermott families Rodolfo Rossi RIP
Monday 26 th December – 9.30am Mass, <i>St Stephen, Protomartyr</i>	Altar Servers
*Tuesday 27 th December – 9.30am Mass, <i>St John, Evangelist</i>	David Copeland
*Wednesday 28 th December – 9.30am Mass, <i>The Holy Innocents</i> 11.45am – Funeral Service for Alan Gorrill	David Snowden RIP
*Thursday 29 th December – 9.30am Mass, <i>St Thomas Becket</i>	Mrs Talbot
*Friday 30 th December – 9.30am Mass, <i>The Holy Family</i>	Trevor Snowden
Saturday 31 st December 6.00pm – Vigil Mass of Mary, Mother of God	Robert Osmond
Sunday 1 st January – Mary, Mother of God 8.30am – said Mass 10.00am – family Mass	Jim and Maggie Lennon Kazik Anders 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.

**** Please note: Weekday Masses will be held in the Church Hall this week (except Monday)***

This week's Sunday Gospel: The Birth of Jesus

The Gospel reminds us that the real point of Christmas is the birth of Jesus, God's gift to the world. Luke's account of the birth of Jesus stresses especially the poverty of the family: Christ comes to the poor and is greeted by the poor. Mary and Joseph are displaced persons and can find no decent place for the baby to be born. There is no space in the living-quarters, and he must be put in a feeding-trough among the animals. He is greeted not by the rich presents of the magnificent wise men from the East, but by impoverished hired shepherds, guarding flocks in the winter night. He is born to be the patron of the homeless and of displaced persons. But Jesus is also the fulfilment of the hopes of the Old Testament. The families both of John the Baptist and of Jesus are eminently faithful to the prescriptions of the Law, waiting for the salvation promised to Israel. In the Temple Jesus will be greeted by Simeon and Anna, the representatives of fidelity to the Old Law. The birth of Jesus at Bethlehem shows that he is born as the heir to the promises to David, that God would build David a house of everlasting sovereignty, whose king would be the Son of God and would call God his Father. What does the Christmas story tell us about Jesus?

Sacred Heart Church, 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

Fr Ralph writes...

Wishing you all a joyous Christmastide and every blessing on this 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. Again, thank you especially to those who have worked tirelessly throughout the year keeping us going: our retired priest, Fr John Smethurst, musicians, readers, altar servers, and extraordinary ministers of holy communion, our catechist, florists, parish treasurer, cleaners, and our sacristan of course. You are all true stalwarts.

CHRISTMAS CRIB

Christmas is a particular time for Christians to help those who are less fortunate than themselves, those for whom Christmas can be extremely difficult. It is also a time to reflect on how we can make a difference, however small this may appear.

During this past year the **Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)** has been supporting vulnerable families in ever increasing numbers, all made possible by donations and support from parishioners across our Diocese. When you visit the crib in your church, please consider adding to the collection which will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) as it works across our Diocese, spreading God's love and giving families in need hope in times of crisis.

MASSES OVER CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR MASS TIMES

Fr Dylan James will be presiding at Mass over the Bank Holiday. Do come along to Mass, as we can't keep Fr Dylan forever as he must return to his teaching post at seminary in the USA shortly. (I shall be at home on the family farm caring for my elderly father, while giving my twin brother some much needed respite from his duties.)

Fr John Smethurst will preside at Mass next Tuesday and Wednesday, while I'm away in Ireland for a couple of days catching up with Fr David and 'the girls', Molly, and her daughter Zoe (two gorgeous German Shepherds if you must ask!).

Please note that **Mass on Thursday and Friday mornings** will be reverting to the old time of **10am** in the New Year, the week after the Epiphany to be exact. Wednesday morning mass will remain at 9.30am as this is usually attended by our school children.

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: 17/18th December, £602-30. Thank you for your generosity. Cheques can be made payable to PRCDTR Paignton RC Parish.

The collection taken over Christmas is a personal offering to Fr. Ralph, going towards his monthly allowance throughout the year. You're welcome to use the Christmas offering envelopes if you prefer, and please gift aid wherever possible (the Church can claim an extra 25% on these monies, which goes towards church maintenance funds).