



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 B1, Psalter 3	
Saturday 16 th December 6pm – Vigil Mass of Third Sunday of Advent	David Copeland RIP
Sunday 17 th December – Third Sunday of Advent (<i>Gaudete Sunday</i>) 8.30am – said Mass 10.00am – family Mass	Tommy Lamont RIP Rudolfo Rossi RIP
Tuesday 19 th December – 10am Mass	Holy Souls
Wednesday 20 th December – 10am Mass	David Copeland RIP
Thursday 21 st December – 10am Mass	Holy Souls
Friday 22 nd December – 10am Mass	Annakutty Chacko RIP
Saturday 23 rd December 6pm – Vigil Mass of Fourth Sunday of Advent	Richard/Celia Parker-Pearson
Sunday 24 th December – Fourth Sunday of Advent 8.30am – said Mass 10.00am – family Mass	Timmons family John Doran

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 notify Fr Ralph or the Ecumenical Team Chaplaincy at Torbay Hospital should you require a visit by a Catholic Priest during your hospital stay, or Father will gladly anoint you before going into hospital.*

This Week's Sunday Gospel: Baptism for Conversion (John1: 6-8.19-28)

So, John the Baptist came as a witness to the light. In today's gospel reading he seems rather to refuse witness. He is quite negative, answering with a stalwart and repeated 'No!'. He witnesses only that 'There is one standing among you whom you do not know'. It is not always easy to find Jesus. All the way through the Gospel of John there are misunderstandings about Jesus; people fail to recognise him for what he is: there's the Samaritan at the well, Nicodemus in the night, Mary Magdalene beside the empty tomb, even Peter and the disciples as they fish on the Lake. We can easily become so wrapped up in our own troubles and worries that we fail to recognise the one figure who can provide the solution to them, although he is standing among us, the one who 'has the words of eternal life'. He may come to us in a way we do not like, as a corrective - blocking or diverting the way we have chosen. He may come as suffering, disappointment, failure or bereavement. All of these may be acts of God's love, to show us the way, though we cannot see it at the time. It is just like John the Baptist, saying steadily 'No!', until eventually we turn around and see Christ as our true light. How can I find Jesus in the crowded events of my busy life? He often comes in unexpected ways. Is he in the quiet voice of a friend? Is he in the anger of someone I have annoyed? Is he in the rebuke of someone who knows me better than I know myself? Is he in my failures and frustrations?

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

Parish Priest: Fr Ralph Candy

Fr Ralph writes...

Since I saw you last week, I am delighted to say that we have a new Bishop, Bishop-elect Christopher Whitehead, and thus the long wait has come to an end! As Cardinal Vincent Nichols has already commented, he brings a wide pastoral experience from his years in Clifton Diocese, together with a dedication to the work of evangelisation and education. Do please pray for our new Bishop, and I will keep you posted once the date of the ordination and installation is announced.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: Christmas Eve, Carols at 6pm, with Mass starting at 6.30pm; Christmas Day 8.30am and 10am.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR CHURCH FLOWERS: this weekend there will be a second collection for the Christmas Flowers to decorate our church at this special time of year.

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL 2024 – The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children writes, *'I am writing to thank you for the warm welcome that Andrew, Frances, and I received at Sacred Heart and St Therese of the Child Jesus this weekend. We were struck by the kindness of the parishioners and their genuine concern for the unborn. Many people took the membership cards and 2024 White Flower Appeal cards home with them, and some completed them at the church. I shall be sure to forward these cards on to Head office. The total of the collection at the evening mass was £78.70 and the total of the collections from the two morning masses was £192.95. This brings the grand total for the White Flower Appeal at your church to £271.65, an outstanding result.'*

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION: this year the joint Torbay service will be held at St Marychurch on Monday 18th December at 11am.

2B1 ON TUESDAY 19th December 7.30pm: Come and celebrate Christmas with an informal evening of carols, readings, and some new Christmas songs. Seasonal refreshments too! At 2b1, we worship in a relaxed atmosphere with friends from different churches. Held @ Goodrington Methodist Church. Goodrington Road, Paignton TQ4 7JT.

HOMELESSNESS – WHAT CAN WE DO? – 17 January 2024 6-7pm Online

According to the charity Crisis, on a given night around 1 in 100 households in England are experiencing the worst forms of homelessness. Forecasts show homelessness rising significantly in the immediate future, with inflation squeezing real incomes and increasing poverty and destitution, alongside rising private rents and evictions. Many people in our Diocese will be affected by this housing crisis but it can be difficult to know how to help. Why not join Caritas Diocese of Plymouth on Zoom on Wednesday 17th January from 6.00pm-7.00pm to pray and reflect on this important issue and to hear from charities across our Diocese about what they are doing and how we can respond. Please register to receive the Zoom details <https://forms.office.com/e/VVp5t5qU7F>

CHURCH COLLECTION: 9/10 December £731-71. Thank you sincerely for your generosity as ever. Cheques can be made payable to Paignton RC Parish.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: the collection at Christmas is traditionally offered to support the parish priest throughout the year. If you are going away this year and would like to make a Christmas offering, please use one of the envelopes. Thank you.