



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/Second Week in Christmastide – Year B1, Psalter 1	
Saturday 30 th December 6pm – Vigil Mass of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	David Neal RIP
Sunday 31 st December – Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 8.30am – said Mass 10.00am – family Mass	Gail Candy RIP Sheila Thorndyke
Monday 1st January – Solemnity of Mary Mother of God 10am Mass	Kazik Anders RIP
Tuesday 2 nd January – 10am Mass - <i>St Basil the Great</i>	Violet and Francis Reen RIP
Wednesday 3 rd January – 10am Mass – <i>Holy Name of Jesus</i>	Peter Penney RIP
Thursday 4 th January – 10am Mass	Shirley Hipwell thanksgiving
Friday 5 th January – 10am Mass	The Penney family
Saturday 6 th January 6pm – Vigil Mass of the Epiphany	Annakutty Chacko RIP
Sunday 7 th January – The Epiphany of the Lord 8.30am – said Mass 10.00am – family Mass	David Copeland RIP Angus Forbes 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 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: The Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:22-40)

The story of the Presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple is dominated by Simeon's welcome, 'a light to enlighten the gentiles and the glory of your people Israel', and by his warning to Mary, 'a sword will pierce your heart'. Simeon reiterates the angel's promise that the child would fulfil the destiny of Israel and Israel's task to the nations. Much like any family life, the promised future included the delights of the growing, developing child, and the background fear that the great destiny of each child may include sorrow and even heart-break. How much did Mary and Joseph know about the precious child they were nurturing? As he grew to independence did he become more loving and supportive? How did his contemporaries find him? Was he a leader? Did he stand out from the pack? Each of us has a private picture of Jesus - the child, the boy, the adolescent, the young man. All we know for sure is that 'the child grew to maturity', and that Mary 'pondered all these things in her heart', while keeping in mind Simeon's welcome and warning. What would Mary have felt and thought as she went home from the Temple?

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

Parish Priest: Fr Ralph Candy

Fr Ralph writes...

After the festivities of the Octave of Christmas, it is the time of the Christian year when we wonder at the revelation of God to the world in Jesus Christ. The feast of the Epiphany on January the 6/7th symbolises the fact that 'the man born to be king' will not rule by force but by love, reigning not from a throne but from a cross. Gold for king, frankincense for a priest and myrrh for the one who was to die: these gifts of the wisemen foretell that he will be the true king, perfect high priest, and supreme saviour.

As many of you will know by now, **Fr John Smethurst** was sadly diagnosed with a brain tumour over Christmas. It is hoped he will be receiving treatment over the coming weeks, and to ensure his future welfare and wellbeing I have been liaising with his sister, the Diocese, and former parishioners in Chelston.

Rosemary Walters RIP – I received the sad news that Rosemary died recently, at peace and at home, and that her family wanted to inform parishioner friends of hers that the Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 4th January 2023 at 2pm at Our Lady of the Star of the Sea, Brixham. Refreshments afterwards at 'The Spinning Wheel', Paignton.

THANK YOU! for your most generous Christmas offering and many cards of warm greetings and plentiful gifts of the sweet variety! I must add that the whole parish is grateful for the efforts of all those who have prepared our church and our liturgy to welcome fittingly our infant Saviour: the Advent wreath and tree, the crib, cleaners, sacristan, flower arrangers, musicians, and altar servers. God bless you all!

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.

SAVE THE DATE: Bishop-Elect Christopher will be ordained and installed as the tenth Bishop of Plymouth on Thursday 22nd February at 12 noon in the Cathedral. More details to follow. He tells us that he holds us, 'very much in my prayer this Christmas, hoping that you will hold me in yours' as he begins 'to embark upon a new journey in my ministry as a servant of the Church.' He invites us to gather around the crib and, 'gaze upon that child who reveals to us God's tremendous love, God's yes to humanity.'

CHURCH COLLECTION: 23/24 December £559.30. Thank you sincerely for your generosity as ever. Cheques can be made payable to Paignton RC Parish.