

**PARISH OF ST JAMES & ST BONIFACE
with St John's RC Primary School**

The Catholic Community in the Heart of Mid Devon

NEWSLETTER

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Sunday 13 December 2020

Gaudete Sunday and Sea Sunday



**YEAR OF THE WORD
2020
THE GOD WHO
SPEAKS**

Parish Clergy:

Canon Kristian Paver - Parish Priest
Rev Michael Tosh – Deacon
Rev Peter Found - Deacon

Parish Office:

Parish Secretary: Rosie Croker
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Parish Office Hours

Mon-Thurs 10am-1pm
Fri 10am-2pm

www.stjameschurchtiverton.org.uk

Twitter: @StJamesRCTiv

Facebook: Parish of St James and
St Boniface, Mid-Devon

St James' Church

Old Road, Tiverton EX16 4HJ

St Boniface's Church

Crow Green
Cullompton EX15 1EW
Old Road, Tiverton

St John's RC School

Melbourne Street
Tiverton EX16 5LA
www.stjohnstiverton.co.uk
Tel: (01884) 253630

**Parish Safeguarding
Representatives**

Siobhan Gilroy (07809 341603)
Marian Coombs
Iwona Pacosz

Coming to Mass

We are still limited in terms of numbers for each Mass due to social distancing regulations. Therefore, please contact Rosie at the Parish Office, either by telephone (the office hours on the front of the Newsletter) or by email if you would like to come to a particular Mass, so that she can ensure that there is a space for you, especially at the weekend Masses.

Both St James and St Boniface have their own QR code for use with the NHS App and these are posted at the entrance and exit of each church. We have been asked to continue to take people's details manually as well. Thank you for your co-operation and to our stewards for their great commitment.

Sea Sunday

Today is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Without them, we would not have most of the items that we buy in the shops. Today's second collection is for Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea), the Catholic Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work. It is dependent on voluntary donations, so please give generously.

For an appeal from Bishop Paul Mason and a video showing some of what Stella Maris does, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday. Some Gift Aid envelopes are available for cash donations, alternatively you can give using our contactless facility, [online](#) or text "SEA" to 70460 to donate £5.

Another way to support our seafarers is to knit woolly hats. These are distributed when ships are in our local ports by our port chaplains and are always greatly appreciated. Have a word with Sheelagh Bourdon or Paula Mardo if you need further information about this initiative.

Christmas Masses – "Sorry, no room at the inn!"

You will recall that, due to the restrictions on places at Mass due to Covid social-distancing, our Bishops are emphasising the fact that, for Catholics, Christmas Day lasts for eight days liturgically, from 25 December-1 January, a period we call the Christmas Octave. The Bishops are encouraging those who come to Mass regularly to choose a Mass on one of the Octave Days other than 24/25 December as their Christmas Mass, so as to leave space for those who only come to Mass infrequently and who will be unaware of the need to book places.

Although this was clearly stated in the Christmas Card from the Parish Clergy, all the places for Christmas Eve Mass at St James and the Christmas Day Mass at St Boniface are already full, which means that there is now no space left for those who might arrive unexpectedly.

If this act of Christian generosity is not offered in these exceptional times by those who attend Mass regularly, then we will be left with no option but to turn away those who might turn up without booking a space, which would be an awful message to give to people on the day when we remember that Our Lord Himself was turned away because there was no room at the inn. The chances are that these brothers and sisters of ours, who might only come to us at Christmas, instead of being encouraged to feel that they still belong, may understandably decide not to darken our doors again next year, which would be a tragedy for all concerned. So please consider if you could offer your place.

Tiverton Virtual Advent Calendar

Some of the local churches have got together to produce a [Tiverton Online Advent Calendar](#) that anyone and everyone can access. It features short 2-3 minute videos about different aspects of Christmas. Each day a different numbered door will be posted online so that anyone of any age can enjoy and anticipate the festive season. For a bit of puzzle fun, each day's door has been photographed from around Tiverton, but can you guess where they are?

Sacramental Preparation 2021

Parents who would like their children (aged 7 and over) to make their **First Holy Communion** in 2021 are asked to fill out the [Application Form](#) and to return it to the Parish Office as soon as possible. If you are 12 or older – or have a young person of this age – and would like to be **confirmed** by the Bishop in July 2021, please complete the [Application Form](#) and return it to the Parish Office as soon as possible.

200 Club

The draws for November and December will be drawn by Canon Kristian after 6.00pm Mass on 12 December. Anyone wishing to join the Club should contact Simon Coombs or Sheelagh Bourdon at St James or Teresa Cummings at St Boniface.

Supporting CAFOD

What do you give to the person who more than enough "things"? Maybe you want to give a present which will have a life-changing impact a person living in dire poverty in another part of our world? Look no further than CAFOD World Gifts. The [2020-21 Catalogue](#) contains an amazing variety of possibilities from something as small as a Queen Bee to a Water Supply for a whole community! Paper copies of the Catalogue are available at church for those who would like one. The December CAFOD Campaign Update is attached to the Newsletter.

Supporting CHAT

Christine Pickford has kindly offered to make **bespoke face coverings** in "Christmassy" fabrics, £2.50 each. Samples of the materials can be found at the entrance to St James, together with an envelope for your order. Proceeds to CHAT. You can also donate to the [CHAT Christmas Foodbank appeal](#) and take part in their **Reverse Advent Calendar**.

The December CHAT [Newsletter](#) giving an update on how services are being provided to those most in need and giving information on how everyone can help is now available. There is an increased demand for the services at this time and CHAT is becoming aware of people who may need help who have not approached them before.

Parish Fund-raising

Easyfundraising is an easy way of raising funds for the parish when buying from some of the most frequently used online sales websites. All you need to do is to [sign up](#). Why not take a look and join other parishioners who donate while they shop?

Some [Christmas Novelties](#) are on sale at St James. Orders for these can also be emailed to the Parish Office and Margaret Found will put them together for you ready to pick up at church. Payment can be made by cash, cheque or card via our contactless facility. There are also some **Christmas Wreathes** made by Babs Jones and some **Christmas Candle Melts** made by Andrea Teiermayer.

Holy Mass this week

Saturday 12 December – Advent Weekday

- Holy Mass at 6pm (Vigil Mass) *Pro Populo*

Sunday 13 December – Third Sunday of Advent (B)

- Holy Mass at 10.00am, *Lucy Gorlo's Intentions (Birthday)*
- Holy Mass at 11.30am (St Boniface) *Charlotte Thomas RIP (Anniv)*

Tuesday 15 December – Advent Weekday

- Holy Mass at 10.00am

Wednesday 16 December – Advent Weekday

- Service of the Word at 12noon (St Boniface)

Thursday 17 December – Advent Weekday (O Sapientia)

- Holy Mass at 6.30pm

Friday 18 December – Advent Weekday (O Adonai)

- Holy Mass at 12noon

Saturday 19 December – Advent Weekday (O Radix Iesse)

- Holy Mass at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass)