

PARISH OF ST JAMES & ST BONIFACE
with St John's RC Primary School
The Catholic Community in the Heart of Mid Devon

NEWSLETTER

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)
Sunday 20 December 2020



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 Secretary: Rosie Croker

The Presbytery
40 Old Road, Tiverton EX16 4HJ
Telephone: (01884) 252292
Email: tiverton@prcdtr.org.uk

**The Parish Office will be
closed for day-to-day
parish administration from
24 December 2020 until 4
January 2021.**

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 the Parish Office, either by telephone on weekdays between 10.00am-1.00pm, or by email, if you would like to come to a particular Mass, so that we 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.

Christmas Masses

Due to Covid social-distancing, our Bishops are emphasising that, for Catholics, Christmas Day lasts for eight days liturgically, from 25 December-1 January, a period we call the Christmas Octave. Therefore, they are encouraging those who come to Mass regularly to choose to go to Mass on one of the Octave Days rather than 24 or 25 December, so as to leave space for those who only come to Mass infrequently and who will be unaware of the need to book places.

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 do bear this in mind when deciding which Mass to attend over Christmas.

Silent Nights in Bethlehem

The popular Christmas carol "Silent Night" might conjure up romanticised images of the sleeping Babe in a crib in a peaceful stable in Bethlehem, but the harsh reality for our Christian brothers and sisters in Bethlehem this year could not be more different. Things are silent this year because of the total absence of visitors and pilgrims visiting the Church of the Nativity and Manger Square due to the pandemic. This is having a dramatic impact on the lives of local families, who are turning in desperation to charities like the Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) to help to survive.

FHL are making an [appeal](#) to people around the world to help them to provide emergency aid so that Bethlehem, of all places, should be able to enjoy Christmas. Please help if you can.

Year of St Joseph 2020-2021

On 8 December Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter, *Patris corde* ("With a father's heart"), to mark the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate that anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St Joseph", which began on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception this year and extends to 8 December 2021. The Letter is well worth a read!

The Holy Father wrote his Letter against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic which, he says, helped us to see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble St Joseph, "*the man who goes unnoticed, a daily discreet and hidden presence*", who nonetheless played "*an incomparable role in the history of salvation*".

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.

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 Winners

Congratulations to Alan Newsome who won the £30 prize and to George Fitz Costa who won the £20 prize in the November draw. Congratulations also to Beryl Webb who won the £30 prize and to Alan Parr who won the £20 prize in the December draw.

Lectio Divina

Attached to the newsletter are two leaflets generously offered by Monika Manser as helpful guides to the prayerful reading of the Gospel Readings for this Sunday and for the Night Mass of Christmas.

Face Coverings for Spring!

Our very own 'sewing bee', Christine Pickford has been busy making us bespoke face coverings in "Christmassy" fabrics. Sales have raised a very impressive **£250**, which will be donated to **CHAT**. Christine would like to thank everyone who has supported her by purchasing the face coverings.

She will be continuing to make face coverings, but now with a new selection of fabrics which will have the arrival of Spring in mind!

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** and some **Christmas Candle Melts** made by parishioners.

Holy Mass and Events this week

Saturday 19 December – Advent Weekday (O Radix Iesse)

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

Sunday 20 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent (O Clavis David)

- Holy Mass at 10.00am, *Andrew Curtis RIP (Anniv)*
- Holy Mass at 11.30am (St Boniface) *Marion and Peter Somley (Ints)*

Tuesday 22 December – Advent Weekday (O Rex Gentium)

- Holy Mass at 10.00am *Pamela Lydon RIP (Anniv)*

Wednesday 23 December – Advent Weekday (O Emmanuel)

- 11.00 am Coffee Morning with Mince Pies on Zoom
- Holy Mass at 12noon (St Boniface)

Thursday 24 December – Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

- Holy Mass at 6.00pm

Friday 25 December – The Nativity of the Lord

- Holy Mass at 10.00am
- Holy Mass at 11.30am (St Boniface)

Saturday 26 December – St Stephen – Protomartyr

- Holy Mass in Polish at 2.00pm
- Holy Mass at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass)

Blessings for a Happy and Holy Christmastide