

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 in Ordinary Time (B)
Sunday 24 January 2021



Parish Clergy:

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

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St James' Church

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St Boniface's Church

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St John's RC School

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Coming to Church during the National Lockdown

At this critical time in this wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, in order to halt the spread of the virus, the central message is **STAY AT HOME** and only go outside for essential journeys. This applies above all to those who are especially vulnerable to infection – the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions. Therefore, although most churches remain open for the time being, please think very carefully before venturing out to come to Mass, especially if you are included amongst those who are particularly vulnerable. Consider staying out home and take part in Mass online or on the telephone, or simply join us in spirit in silent prayer or by reading the Mass texts.

If you do decide to come to church, great care must be taken to observe the social distancing rules, to wear a face covering (unless you are exempt) and to sanitise your hands frequently. Moreover, you should refrain from engaging others in extended conversation and maintain an appropriate distance from others at all times, both inside the church and outside in the carpark.

If you would like to come to **Mass at the weekends**, please contact the Parish Office to book a place, either by telephone on weekdays between 10.30-11.30am, or by email. There is no need to book a place at a weekday Mass but, on arrival at church, please give your details to one of the stewards.

Sunday of the Word of God

Back on 30 September 2019 by his Apostolic Letter *Aperuit Illis*, Pope Francis instituted 'The Sunday of the Word of God' to be held every year on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time. The Holy Father intended this to be a day dedicated to the celebration, reflection and dissemination of the Word. Clearly, since then, the impact of Covid has meant that parishes have been very restricted in the way they can mark this day. However, attached to the Newsletter are two ways to mark this day at home - a **Rite of Receiving the Word of God at Home** and an **extended Lectio Divina** on the passage of scripture from which the theme for this year: "*Holding fast to the word of life*" (Phil 2:16).

Caritas Plymouth Quarterly Update

The latest Caritas [Newsletter](#) sets out some of the great activities happening across our Diocese as well as upcoming events. *Caritas Plymouth* is looking forward to its celebration of St Bakhita's Feast Day on Monday 8 February, 5.00-6.30pm – a time of prayer, reflection and discussion on the issues facing refugees, migrants and those affected by modern slavery in the South West - and hopes many parishioners will join Bishop Mark and Bishop Declan of Clifton in celebrating this event online. Full details of how to register are in the Caritas Newsletter or you can email caritas@prcdtr.org.uk.

Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation

Unfortunately, due to the on-going impact of Covid restrictions, it will no longer be possible to go ahead with the First Communion Masses at St James planned for the end of the month. Hopefully, these will now take place in May/June when restrictions have been eased. This does mean that those children who were due to make their First Holy Communion this year will now start their preparation in the autumn.

The catechists and clergy will be discussing how best to approach the situation with regards to preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, as the Bishop is due to visit the parish in July.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place each year on Wednesday 27 January. It is an opportunity to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust (now referred to as the "Shoah") alongside the millions of other people killed both at the hands of the Nazis and in genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. It also allows us to reflect on the horrors of prejudice today.

The theme of this year's memorial is '*Light the Darkness.*' As a symbol recognising the human suffering caused by the Holocaust and genocide, we are encouraged to place a lighted candle in a window at 8pm on that day.

Stay Awake 2021 – Adore + Abide + Arise

This is the third year for this home-grown diocesan all age event and takes place on Saturday 27 February online via Zoom and is free. *Stay Awake* allows us to go deeper with Jesus and build Christian discipleship. It runs from 11.00am to 3.00pm with inspiring and encouraging talks, praise, worship and fellowship, in the comfort of your own home! There is a special session for children and young people from 1.00-1.30pm (Reception – Year 9). Booking is open via the [webpage](#).

Check out the new [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) Pages, and be sure to like/follow to keep updated with all things *Stay Awake* and to see some fun content! The contact email is stayawakejc19@gmail.com.

Parish Diaries 2021

The 2021 Parish Diaries have arrived and, though a little later than in previous years (and with a deliberate mistake on the cover!), we are very grateful to the Company for their efforts to produce these for us during very challenging circumstances due to Covid. The diaries can be found at the entrance to church. They are free of charge but, if you would like to give a donation, this would be gratefully received.

Mass "by phone"

For those who are unable to access the internet, it is possible to listen to Mass each Sunday via telephone by ringing 01642 130120. This is a service provided by the Diocese of Middlesbrough.

Stress in your marriage? A difficult year for many couples

There is so much uncertainty around health, income, employment, vulnerable family members, children, housing...Different ways of seeing things, coping with change, managing fears can be a source of conflict and stress. It can be difficult to talk, to listen, to support and to comfort when there is so much uncertainty. Being together all the time brings even more challenges. You just can't cope; maybe it would be better apart, you wonder.

Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage....and you don't need to leave home, it comes to you! For confidential information about *Retrouvaille*, or to register for the next programme - a virtual weekend on 25-28 February 2021 - call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com, or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk.

Holy Mass, Services and Events this week

Saturday 23 January – Weekday

- Holy Mass at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass)

Sunday 24 January – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Holy Mass at 10.00am *Pro Populo*
- Holy Mass at 11.30am (St Boniface)

Tuesday 26 January – St Titus and St Timothy, Bishops

- Holy Mass at 10.00am
- Funeral Service for Abraham Leatham RIP at 1.00pm
- Reception of George Fitz-Costa RIP into Church at 4.00pm

Wednesday 27 January – Weekday

- Requiem Mass for George Fitz-Costa RIP at 10.00am

Thursday 28 January – Anniversary of the Ordination of Bishop Mark

- Coffee Morning at 11.00am on Zoom
- Holy Mass at 6.00pm

Friday 29 January – Weekday

- Holy Mass at 12noon

Saturday 30 January – Weekday

- Holy Mass at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass)

****Birthday blessings to Jane Bailey who is 90 this Sunday!****