CATHEDRAL PARISH OF ST MARY & ST BONIFACE

Part of the Plymouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust - Registered Charity No.213227



St. Joseph's
Raglan Road
Devonport
PL1 4NQ



Cathedral
45 Cecil Street
Stonehouse
PL1 5HW



Christ the King
Armada Way
PL1 2EN

Cathedral House Clergy:

Canon Mark O'Keeffe (Cathedral Dean)
Fr. Daniel Herrero Peña (Assistant Cathedral Priest)
Fr. Thierry Butor (Assistant Cathedral Priest)
Fr. Martin Budge (Retired Cathedral Priest)

Cathedral: 01752 662537 **Email:** plymouth-cathedral@prcdtr.org.uk **Website:** plymouthcathedral.org.uk
Pastoral Assistant: Lyn Mcloughlin Email: plymouth-cathedral@prcdtr.co.uk
Director of Music: Email: aplmusician@gmail.com

Safeguarding Representatives:

Cathedral: Lyn Mcloughlin & Anne Duell **Devonport**: Bernadette Gibbons **Christ the King: Ben Graat**

Cathedral School: cathedral-school.eschools.co.uk **Holy Cross School:** holycross.plymouth.sch.uk
St. Joseph's School: st-josephs.plymouth.sch.uk

First Sunday of Advent - B - Psalter 2– 29th November 2026

DAILY WORSHIP

Mass will be streamed daily from the Cathedral at 10:00 am –in accordance with GDPR - see noticeboard for further information

Date	Mass	Intentions
Sunday 29th November **1st Sunday of Advent**	**10:00am** **6:00pm**	Jenna (Int'n) All departed souls of Almeida family
Monday 30th November **St Andrew**	**10:00am**	Good health of Evelyn Almeida (Int'n) & Andras Bakos
Tuesday 1st December	**10:00am**	Holy Souls
Wednesday 2nd December	**10:00am**	T O Varghese (RIP)
Thursday 3rd December	**10:00am**	Elsie B, John Crossan (RIP) & Crossan & Jory families
Friday 4th December **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**	**9:30am** **10:00am**	Lawrence Turner (Mike) (RIP)
Saturday 5th December	**10:00am**	Good health of all family members of Christalino & Josefina
Sunday 6th December **2nd Sunday of Advent**	**10:00am** **6:00pm**	Michael Cole (RIP) Holy Souls

Intentions

St. Joseph's
Saturday 5:00pm

Loftus Family

Christ the King -
Sunday 12:30

People of the Parish

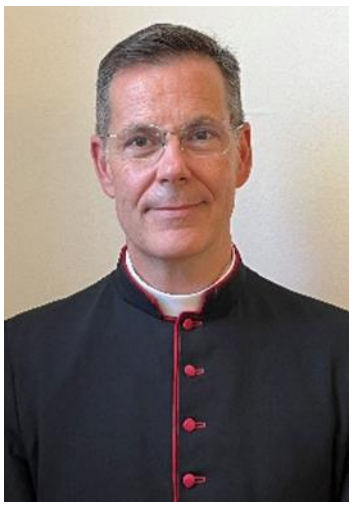
SICK & HOUSEBOUND

Please pray for the sick or housebound in our parish and those who are particularly poorly at this time.

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have recently died especially Teresa Rhymes and Maureen Hynd may their souls rest in peace.
Amen

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First Sunday of Advent
29th November 2026



Canon Mark O’Keeffe



Fr. Daniel Herrero Peña



Fr Thierry Butor

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The First Sunday of Advent (also called Advent Sunday) marks the start of the Christian liturgical year and begins the four-week season of Advent leading up to Christmas. The word "advent" comes from the Latin adventus, meaning "coming" or "arrival".

New liturgical year: It is the first day of the church year in Western Christianity, falling on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day (November 29 in 2026).

Hope and expectation: The first candle on an Advent wreath—often called the Prophet's Candle—is lit to symbolize hope and recall Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messiah.

Watchfulness and preparation: Our readings and prayers will emphasize staying awake, reflecting, and preparing hearts for both Christ's birth at Christmas and his promised Second Coming

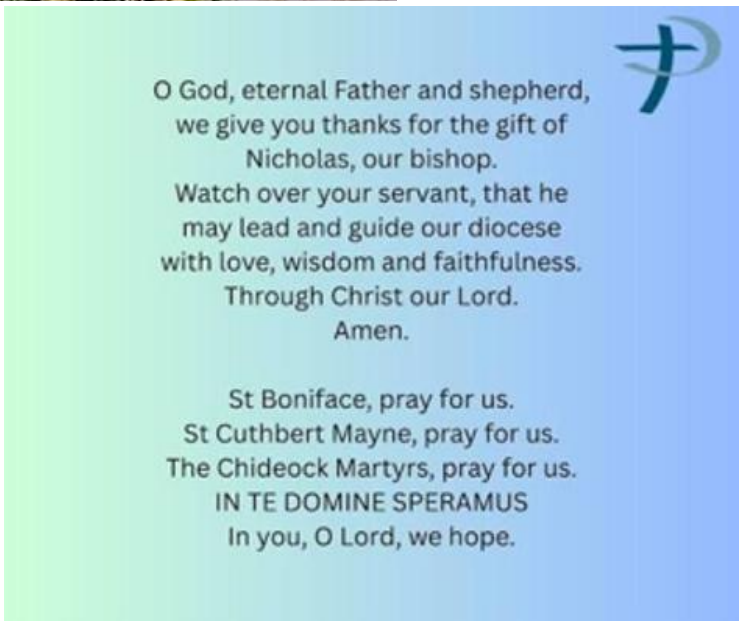
A Prayer for the First Sunday of Advent- Heavenly Father, as Advent begins fill our hearts with hope and quiet our anxious minds. Help us to slow down, look to you for light in the darkness, and prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus Christ. Renew our anticipation for his coming and guide us to share your hope with others. Amen.

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1st Anniversary of Bishop Nicholas as Bishop of Plymouth-









We congratulate Bishop Nicholas, who today celebrates his first anniversary as the Bishop of Plymouth. At the 10.00am Mass, we will be joined by the Sisters of the Morning Star, a comtemplative Order of Sisters, who will be singing at the Mass. The sisters will also bring some CD’s of their beautifull singing, which are available after the Mass.

Weekday Masses (Christ the King)

From December, Mass will be celebrated twice a week at Christ the King Church, on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Tuesdays: 12 noon.

Thursdays during Advent (3rd, 10th and 17th December): 5.30 pm. The three Thursday evening Masses during Advent will be followed by a time of Eucharistic Adoration and prayer, helping us to prepare our hearts and enter more deeply into the joy of Christmas.

From January onwards, weekday Mass will be celebrated every Tuesday and Thursday at 12 noon.

A new group for students

We are also hoping to set up a group for students, offering an opportunity to meet regularly, share and reflect together on questions of faith and on the issues and challenges that are part of their daily lives.

If you are interested in joining this group, or would simply like to find out more, please feel free to contact Father Thierry Butor by email thierry.butor@prcdtr.org.uk

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Dates for the diary-

Advent Mass- Wednesday 16th December- 6pm Mass- Bishop Nicholas

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Sacrament of Confirmation for Year 7 and above.

Confirmation Classes for Plymouth Cathedral Parishes 2027

Time 6.30-7.30pm, Location – (Cathedral Centre)

Tuesday 15 December – Registration and introductory session for young people and parent/guardian (please bring a photocopy of your child's baptismal certificate) Please contact the parish office if you would like to secure a place for your child- email: plymouth-cathedral@prcdtr.org.uk

First Holy Communion



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Please see the Notice Board and online for the Advent Services in the Cathedral Parish

Christmas Service Times for the Cathedral Parish

Christmas Eve

Cathedral Children's Liturgy and Christingle Service 4.30pm

Vigil of Christmas- St Joseph's 6.30pm

Vigil Mass at the Cathedral 8.30pm- Bishop Nicholas

Christmas Day

8:00am Christmas Day- Cathedral

10.00am Christmas Day Mass- Cathedral- Bishop Nicholas

11.30am Christmas Day Mass -Christ the King++

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Teenagers' (13 - 17 year olds) Residential, 22nd - 24th January 2027
This residential will be held at East Shallowford Farm for those aged 13 - 17 years old.
Further details on our website or poster at the back of the church.

ADVENT RETREAT DAY ON SATURDAY, 5th DECEMBER 2026 AT ST RITA'S CENTRE
"EXPLORING PRAYER AND CONVERSION" led by Fr. Gerald Wilson OAR
The day will begin with coffee/tea on arrival at 9.30am. The first talk will start at 10am. The second talk will be at 11am. Adoration in silence (with an opportunity for Confession) will be at 12.00pm. Lunch will be served at 1pm. Holy Mass at 2.45pm. Depart at 3.30pm. The charge for the day, including lunch, is just £27.00. To register, please complete the application form and let us know of any dietary requirements. You can contact St Rita's Centre by phone at 01404 42635, by email at admin@stritascentre.org, or register online via our website: ADVENT RETREAT DAY- "EXPLORING PRAYER AND CONVERSION" . Payment can be made in advance or on the day.

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DISCUSSION GROUP

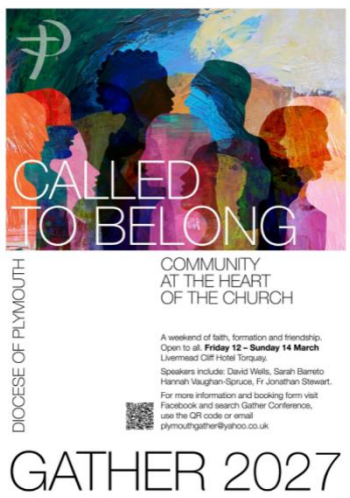
Since September'24 a Discussion Group for those who have been through the R.C.I.A. Programme was formed. Meetings are monthly on a Saturday Afternoon at 5pm until 6.30pm in the Parish Centre. We have now decided to open the group for anyone interested from the parish who wish to attend.

An evening could follow in the New year if people cannot make the Saturday time. Our meetings are informal, often led from someone within the group, and gives the opportunity to

- Deepen our faith,
- Sharing/ listening to each other.
- Fellowship and forming new friends.

Please contact Margaret on 07720823130





GATHER 2027

GATHER - a weekend of faith, formation and friendship, open to all. 12th-14th March 2027, Livermead Cliff Hotel, Torquay.
This year's theme is 'Called to Belong - Community at the heart of the Church' and our speakers include David Wells, Hannah-Vaughn-Spruce, Sarah Barreto and Fr Jonathan Stewart. Bishop Nicholas will be joining us and celebrating Mass on Sunday morning, and Pauline Books will be bringing a selection of their excellent books. We will share in Lectio Divina and Conversations in the Spirit, listen to personal testimonies and participate in prayer and liturgy. We look forward to seeing you there! Booking forms from the parish office or email plymouthgather@yahoo.com.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes.



Sacrament of Confirmation

If you are in year 7 or over and would like to start your preparation programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation,

Classes commence

Tuesday 15 December – Registration and introductory session for young people and parent/guardian (please bring a photocopy of your child's baptismal certificate)

Or

First Holy Communion

If you have a child in Year 3 or over and they would like to start preparations for their First Holy Communion

please contact the office –

plymouth-catherdral@prcdtr.org**.uk**



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RCIA

A Journey In Faith

RCIA, or the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, is a process for adults to explore the Catholic faith and become fully initiated members of the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. It's a spiritual journey of individual faith development and community conversion, involving regular meetings, prayer, reflection, and special liturgical rites, culminating in the Easter Vigil. The program is for adults, including the unbaptized, those baptized in other Christian denominations, or Catholics who haven't received Confirmation or Holy Communion.

We have our RCIA course on a Friday evening here at the cathedral centre. If you are interested in knowing more, please contact the office by email: plymouth-cathedral.org.uk ,

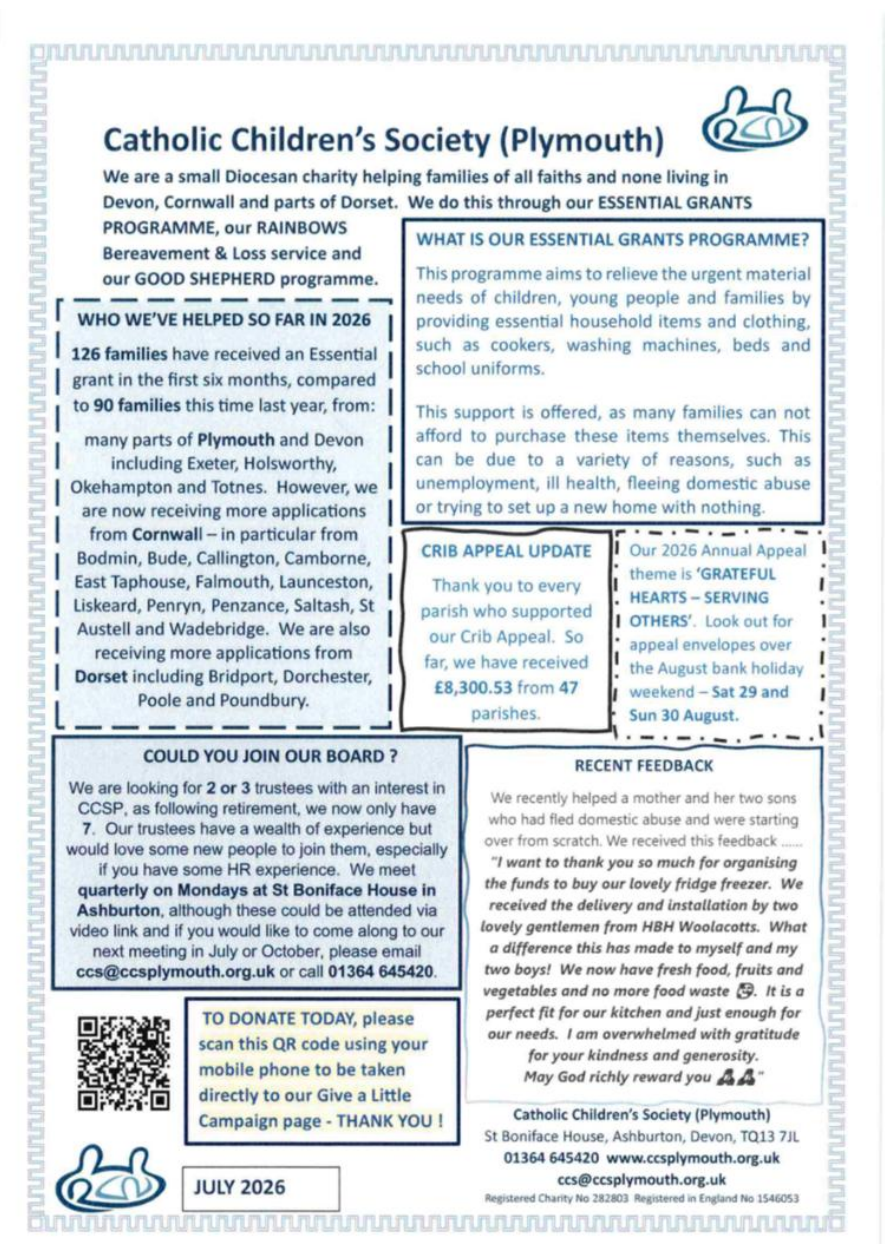
What's On

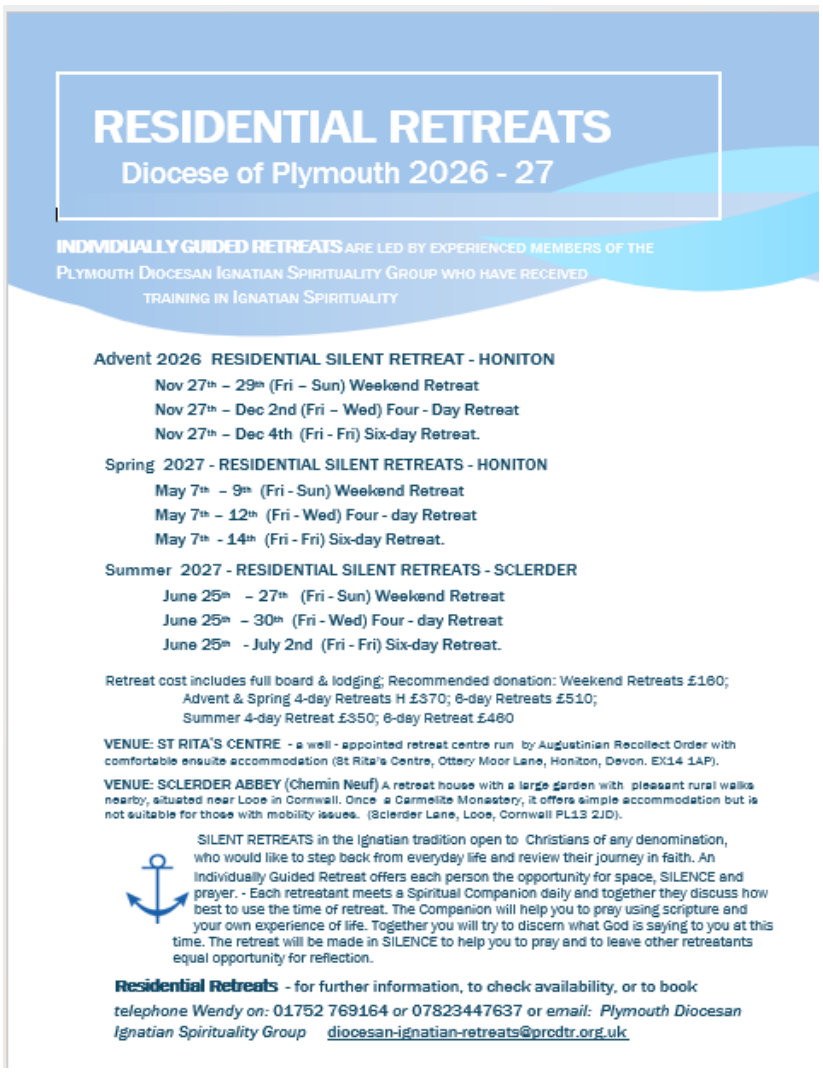
Volunteering for youth ministry, in the Diocese of Plymouth

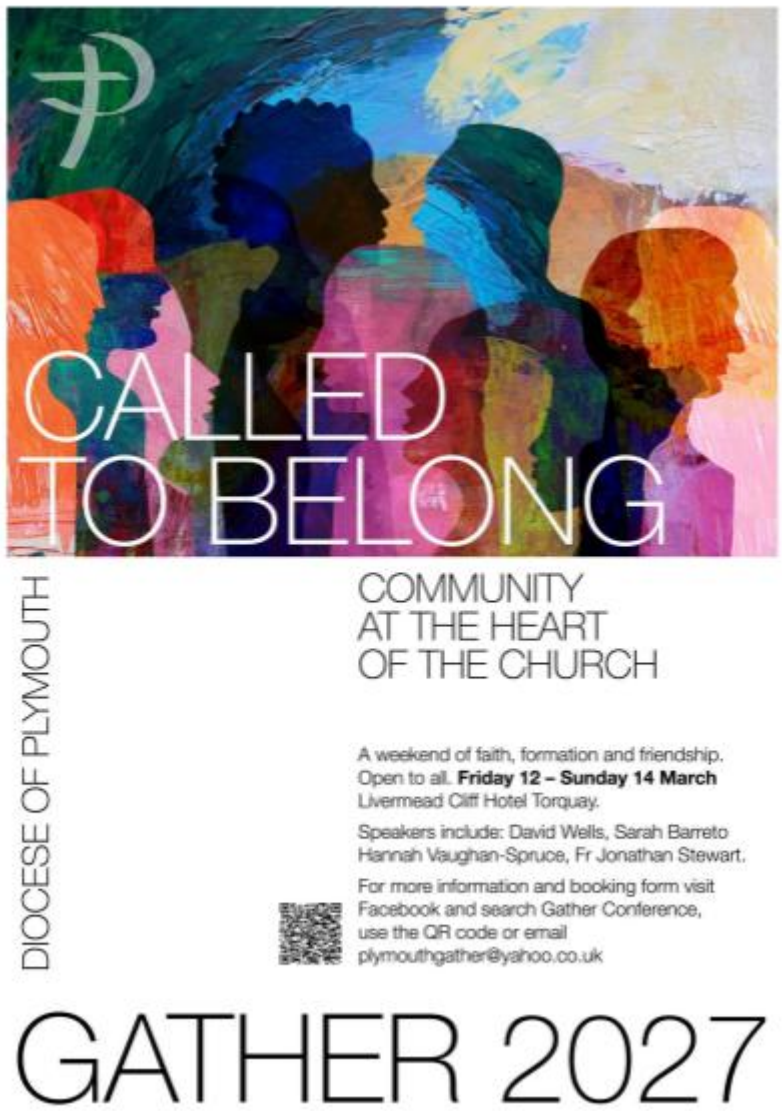
Do you or have you thought about volunteering to work with the youth either in your parish or further afield? Youth Events are setting up a database of volunteers to keep in contact with them, offer training and support for the work they do, and keep them informed of events that are happening across the Diocese. In completing the form it does not mean you are committed to any voluntary work, it is simply an expression of interest. People on the database will be contacted and asked if they would like to support an event. Please follow the link: Volunteer Data Form – Youth Diocese Events – Fill in form For further information please contact Ruby or Saskia: youth@prcdtr.org.uk

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Advent & Christmas Events & Services

29th November: - First Sunday in Advent
Mass Cathedral – 10:am
Mass Christ the King – 12:30

6th December - Second Sunday in Advent
Mass Cathedral – 10:am
Mass Christ the King – 12:30

9th December
Cathedral School Carol Service – Cathedral 6:00pm

10th December
St Joseph's School Carol Service – St Joseph's Church 6:00pm

12th December
Christmas messy church – Cathedral centre 4:00pm

13th December Third Sunday in Advent
Mass Cathedral – 10:am
Bambinelli Blessings – Cathedral after 10:00 Mass
Mass Christ the King – 12:30
African End of Year Mass & Party – Cathedral 12:30pm

Tuesday 15th December
KS1 Nativity 2:00pm – St Josephs School

Wednesday 16th December-
Advent Mass-Cathedral 6pm – Celebrant - Bishop Nicholas

19th December
Simbang Gabi 6:30pm – Cathedral

Mass Cathedral – 10:am
Mass Christ the King – 12:30

24th December - Christmas Eve
Children's Nativity – Cathedral 4:30pm
Celebration of Readings and Mass - 8:30pm

25th December Christmas Day
Celebration of Mass – 10:00am - Cathedral

Prayer for Pope Leo XIV



“O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful,
look favourably on your servant Leo,
whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd;

Grant, we pray, that by word and example
he may be of service to those over whom he presides
so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care,
he may come to everlasting life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

First Sunday of Advent
First reading
A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

You, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name. O Lord, why do you make us wander from your ways and harden our heart, so that we fear you not?
Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. O that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence.
You came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm
(R) Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse up your might and come to save us. **(R)**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the stock your right hand has planted,
the son you have claimed for yourself. **(R)**

May your hand be on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R)**

Second reading
A reading from the First letter of Paul to the Corinthians
Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia,

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark
At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning — lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.’ ’

The Gospel of the Lord

What is Gift Aid?



- Gift Aid is the method used by the Government to allow charities, including the Church, to obtain a tax refund on donations made to them.
- At present we receive £25 for every £ 100 of donations made through Gift Aid.

The Gift Aid scheme is simple, involves few formalities and is an essential source of revenue for our Churches.

What is involved in joining the Gift Aid Scheme?

- To join the scheme you have to pay sufficient tax to cover the tax reclaimed on all your Gift Aid donations.
- You have to sign a standard declaration that your donations are to count for Gift Aid.
- Thereafter you only have to make sure that your donations are made in such a way that they can be recorded as made by you to the Church. The most common methods are
- By Bankers' Order
- By using special numbered weekly envelopes which are provided free of charge.

Any amount as long as the donation shows your name and the church as recipient.

What donations can be included?

The Gift Aid declaration that you sign is in favour of the Diocese rather than the Parish,

so all donations to the Parish and the Diocese can be included, for example: Offertory Collections, and Easter and Christmas offerings

Please do consider Gift Aiding your donations if you have recently arrived in the parish.

Forms are available at the back of the cathedral.

Caritas Diocese of Plymouth

Caritas Diocese of Plymouth is here to give parishes and individuals.
new opportunities to proclaim our faith in deeds as well as in words.
We are here at the service of the most poor and vulnerable.

We have a great many events and initiatives which all are welcome to join. If you would like to find out about our work, please visit our webpage https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/caritas/
You can also watch out for our posters at the back of the church which will let you know what is coming up soon.

If you would like to receive occasional newsletters about our work and get new ideas to reach out to those around you, please contact Caritas@prcdtr.org.uk

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS – November

For the proper use of wealth

Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

See also : https://thepopevideo.org/

VIDEO

The parish is immensely grateful to all donors who have supported the parish during the year and helped keep our doors open to achieve our Mission. If you don't already do so, please consider whether you could increase the value of your contribution by signing up for Gift Aid (more details and forms available from your parish gift aid organiser or the Cathedral office).

Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals

Good News— The Cathedral is available for: Baptisms, Weddings and Funeral Services,
If you want to discuss or book a date for your service or ceremony please call or email us and we will be happy to help.





Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)

The **Catholic Children's Society** is a child welfare agency covering the Roman Catholic Diocese of Plymouth which consists of Cornwall, Devon and most of Dorset. For the latest news use the link below

News

Helping families stay connected

YouTube

As Masses are restricted throughout the world, many parish and school communities are asking what they can do to keep their families connected to their faith. CathFamily can help with our online resources which are available free of charge.

Click for Link

- **Are you concemed about injustice in our world?**

caritas diocese of plymouth

- Do you feel the need to take action and make your voice heard?
- Would you like support and encouragement?
- Are you already taking action and want to inspire others?

If the answer is yes, then please get in touch with Caritas Plymouth. We are looking to grow the Justice and Peace activities in the Diocese of Plymouth to offer:

- Connections between existing Justice and Peace groups to share ideas
- Opportunities for action,
- Access to related agencies,
- Friendship, solidarity and mutual support

If you are interested in finding out more please contact Deborah, the Caritas Manager, on 01364 645421 or email caritas@prcdtr.org.uk

CAN YOU HELP?

Patients at Mount Gould Hospital appreciate the opportunity to attend Sunday services in the Hospital Chapel, however they need some assistance to get there by being pushed in wheelchairs or accompanied. As the Hospital continues to expand, the Chaplaincy Team is seeking Volunteers to join them in this worthwhile pastoral ministry. If you have 2 hours that you could commit to on a regular rota from 1-3 pm on a Sunday, the Lead Chaplain would love to hear from you: please e mail pamela.howarth1@nhs.net

Loop System in operation - Channel T

YouTube **eguarding information-** Please be aware that our Masses and Events are regularly filmed and will appear online on our YouTube channel. Due to the current guidelines, we are requested to provide a seating area where the cameras will not put the people in shot of the live filming. The designated area will be the pews in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. If you would like to receive Holy Communion but wish not to be visible on YouTube, please request to receive at the Blessed Sacrament chapel as the sacrament is being reposed.