



CATHEDRAL PARISH OF ST MARY & ST BONIFACE

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



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Christ the King
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Canon Mark O'Keeffe (Cathedral Dean) **Fr. Louis Rieunier** (Bishop's Private Secretary)

Fr. Oscar Ardila—(Cathedral Priest)

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St. Joseph's School: st-josephs.plymouth.sch.uk

Christmas YEAR A PSALTER WEEK 4, 24th DECEMBER 2019

	<u>Cathedral</u>	<u>Intention</u>	<u>Christ the King:</u>
Sunday 22nd December <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	Holy Mass 8.00am Holy Mass 10.00am Holy Mass 6.00pm	Annie William & Roseline Slater (RIP) George Burt (RIP) People of the Parish	Saturday Holy Mass 6pm Holy Mass 12noon Mon-Fri.
Monday 23rd December <i>Weekday Mass</i>	Holy Mass 10.00am	Daughters of the Cross (Ints)	St. Joseph's Devonport: Sunday Holy Mass 11.30am
Tuesday 24th December <i>Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord</i>	Office of Readings 11-30pm Midnight Mass 00-00am	Rita Hyland (RIP)	Intentions: Ward Family Weds. Holy Mass 11.00am
Wednesday 25th December <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	Holy Mass 8.00am Holy Mass 10.00am	Sue Dalziel (RIP)	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, May their souls rest in peace. Amen.
Thursday 26th December <i>St Stephen</i>	Holy Mass 10.00am	John O'Connor (fdn0)	
Friday 27th December <i>Weekday Mass</i> St John	Holy Mass 10.00am	Terry Keelin (RIP)	
Saturday 28th December <i>Weekday Mass</i> The Holy Innocents	Holy Mass 10.00am	Holy Souls	
Sunday 29th December <i>Holy family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>	Holy Mass 8.00am Holy Mass 10.00am Holy Mass 6.00pm	David Smith (RIP) People of the Parish Moffit & Abbott Families (Fdn)	

Please ensure any news items reach the office by Weds pm

A way for a manger must be found by all, says Pope

Pope Francis wants every Christian to make sure Jesus has a crib for a bed this Christmas

Pope Francis has spoken out on the importance of the Nativity, urging Christians to set up Christmas cribs at work, at school, in hospitals, prisons and town squares. A Nativity scene is a simple reminder of “God’s tender love” and “helps us to relive the history of what took place in Bethlehem”, Pope Francis said in a letter on the meaning and importance of setting up Christmas cribs.

Pope Francis signed the apostolic letter on the first Sunday of Advent, during a visit to Greccio, Italy, the site of the first Nativity scene set up by St Francis of Assisi in 1223. When St Francis prepared the cave with a hay filled manger, an ox and a donkey, he “carried out a great work of evangelisation”, said the Pope. Catholics should continue that work today.

The Pope said: “I wish to encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the Nativity scene in the days before Christmas, but also the custom of setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares.

“It is my hope that this custom will never be lost and that, wherever it has fallen into disuse, it can be rediscovered and revived.”

At the heart of every Nativity scene, is a reminder that the “Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness”, said the Pope.

Even “fanciful additions” to the scene, such as a blacksmith or a baker, “show that in the new world inaugurated by Jesus there is room for whatever is truly human and for all God’s creatures”.

The Pope wrote that the Nativity scene’s starry sky respects the Gospel’s account of Jesus’ birth but also reminds people that even in darkness, “God does not abandon us.”

He said: “His closeness brings light when there is darkness and shows the way to those dwelling in the shadow of suffering.”

The shepherds, the first to welcome Jesus, are reminders that “it is the humble and poor who greet the event of the Incarnation”.

The Pope said: “From the time of its Franciscan origins the Nativity scene has invited us to ‘feel’ and ‘touch’ the poverty that God’s son took upon himself in the incarnation.

“Jesus was born in poverty and led a simple life in order to teach us to recognise what is essential and to act accordingly.” Mary reminds us of her complete obedience to God’s will and Joseph of his guardianship of Mary and the Infant Jesus. Most importantly, at Christmas when “we place the Infant Jesus in the manger, the Nativity scene suddenly comes alive. God appears as a child, for us to take into our arms. Standing before the Christmas creche, we are reminded of the time when we were children eagerly waiting to set it up.”

Pope Francis ended the letter by reminding Catholics to share the Nativity experience with children and grandchildren and continue to pass on their faith through the tradition.



Pope Francis prays in front of last year's Nativity scene during the weekly general audience at Paul VI hall at the Vatican.

THE TABLET December 2019

Christmas Message from Canon Mark and Fr Oscar

Now Christmas is here and we celebrate the Lord’s coming amongst us, we would like to thank all those who have contributed their time and efforts within the parish community. We especially thank the choir, who contribute so much to our celebrations here, the altar servers, whose quiet reverence helps us all pray, all readers, welcomers, Extraordinary Ministers, and all the volunteers and helpers who do so much in the background. Also, we especially thank Sr. Jossy and Sr. Navya whose presence is so much appreciated. And of course we welcome for his first Christmas with us, Fr Oscar. As we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord this Christmas, also let us celebrate his birth into our hearts and minds. Jesus desires to be united to us, to bring us joy, love, and happiness. As we gather with friends and family this Christmas, please pray for those who have none and who find themselves alone. If you are able, try and help those in need, so that the life of Christ can truly be born into your life. **Merry Christmas - Canon Mark & Fr Oscar**