

17th December 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm

Luke 1:46-50,53-54

R: My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

My soul rejoices in my God.

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.

My soul rejoices in my God.

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy.

My soul rejoices in my God.

Second reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel

John 1:6-8,19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Communion Antiphon

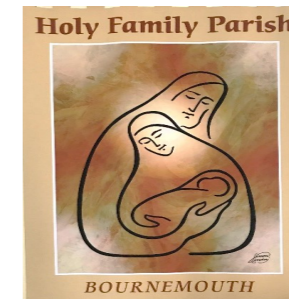
Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us

Third Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday(B)

17th December 2023

THE PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, BOURNEMOUTH

incorporating the churches of Christ the King, Kinson & St Bernadette's, Ensbury Park



GOSPEL REFLECTION

So, John the Baptist came as a witness to the light. In today's gospel reading he seems rather to refuse witness. He is quite negative, answering with a stalwart and repeated 'No!'. He witnesses only 'There is one standing among you whom you do not know'. It is not always easy to find Jesus. All the way through the Gospel of John there are misunderstandings about Jesus, as people fail to recognise him for what he is: the Samaritan at the well, Nicodemus, Mary Magdalen beside the empty tomb, even Peter and the disciples as they fish on the Lake.

We can easily become so wrapped up in our own troubles and worries that we fail to recognise the one figure who can bring their solution, although he is standing among us, the one who 'has the words of eternal life'. He may come to us in a way we do not like, as a corrective, blocking or diverting the way we had chosen. He may come as suffering, disappointment, failure or bereavement. All of these may be acts of God's love, to show us the way, though we cannot see it at the time.

It is just like John the Baptist, saying steadily 'No!', until eventually we turn around and see Christ as our true light

HW—Universalis



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Hospital Chaplain Bournemouth: 01202 303626 Poole: 03000192167

Parish Facebook [Holy Family Parish Bournemouth](#)

Sr Rosie PHJC 97 Namu Road BH9 2RA 07504816370

We welcome Fr Chacko back this weekend.
Please continue to pray for him and his family.

Together we are Church, together we are community, together we are Christ

A NEW BISHOP !

His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Canon Christopher Whitehead as the tenth Bishop to our Diocese of Plymouth. Bishop-elect Christopher was born in Gloucester and studied for the priesthood at St Marys College, Oscott before being ordained in 1994.
Please pray for him.



GIFT AID

A Gift Aid Declaration is the person's declaration that they wish for the church to reclaim tax on their gift and can be made for a single donation or for multiple donations. It's easy !!

The Parish needs funds and by gift aiding your contributions makes a huge difference.

Please complete a form for your Gift Aid Declaration at the back of church and return it to the office.

If you would like to pay by standing order/ direct debit, there are forms to set this up at the back of the church.

Please consider your offering for our church, our parish...



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

- Noel Harris, Kevin Moore, Margaret Simpson,
- Sheila Shelley, Tony Bateman,
- Les Netherton, Frances Smith, Anna Browne,
- Joeleyne & Peter Cotrel
- Frances & Tony Herbert
- The Carter family

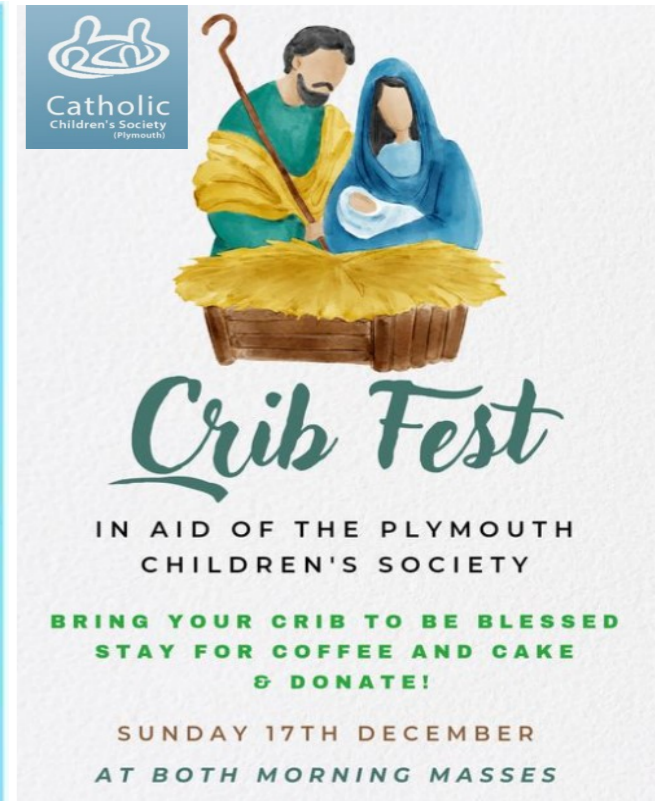


CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR THE NEEDY

PLEASE REMEMBER

Cartons of 1 litre UHT milk for the
Christmas Hampers
Our Parish has offered to collect 50
Please bring them this weekend !

DAY	CHURCH	TIME	CELEBRATION or FEAST DAY/ MEMORIAL
Sat 16	StB	6pm	Vigil Mass of the Third Sunday of Advent
Sun 17	CtK StB	9.30am 11am	Masses of The Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday
Mon 18	StB	6pm	Adoration at 6.30pm followed by Mass
Tues 19	CtK	9am	Adoration followed by Mass at 9.30am
Wed 20			NO MASS
Thur 21	CtK	9.30am	Mass St Peter Canisius
Fri 22	CtK StB	9.30am 7pm	Mass followed by the Divine Chaplet HOLY HOUR—adoration & prayer
Sat 23	StB	6pm	Vigil Mass of the Fourth Sunday of Advent St John of Kanty
Sun 24	CtK StB	9.30am 11am	Masses of Fourth Sunday of Advent CHRISTMAS EVE



**CHRISTMAS OFFERING
THANK YOU TO FR CHACKO**

This is an important opportunity for us all to express our gratitude to our parish Priest, Fr Chacko.

Love lies at the heart of Christmas—God's love for us—and a love that we share every time we attend Mass together.

A priest loves us and feeds us from the table of the Lord and by this offering, we can show our appreciation for their vocation.

Your kind offering at the Christmas Masses is a significant part of their income and are our gifts to them.

Thank you

POPE'S INTENTIONS for December 2023

For people with disabilities

Let us pray that people with disabilities maybe at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusion programmes that value their active participation

www.thepopevideo.org