

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

HIGH WEST STREET DORCHESTER

within the RC Diocese of Plymouth: Diocesan Charity No 213227

"The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel" [Pope Francis EG114]

Second Sunday after the Nativity- Year A

Sunday 4th January 2026 Psalter Week II of Breviary

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Date	Mass Times	Intentions
Sun 4th January 2026 2nd Sunday after the Nativity	Mass 8.30 am at Holy Trinity Jubilee Closing Mass 11 am at Holy Trinity Parish Centre and Social gathering	<i>Martin Long RIP (FO) and David Charles RIP (JC)</i>
Tue 6th January	Mass 7 pm	<i>Epiphany of the Lord</i>
Wed 7th January Weekday of Christmas after Epiphany	Mass 10 am	<i>Frank Kerley RIP (JK)</i>
Fri 9th January Weekday of Christmas After Epiphany	Holy Half Hour and Benediction 9.15 am Mass 10 am	<i>Anna Viccars Barber's Ints (AB)</i>
Sun 11th January Baptism of the Lord	Mass 8.30 am Mass 10.30 am	<i>Evelyn Burden RIP (HB)</i> <i>Thanksgiving Mass (J and D)</i>
	There will be no Weekday Masses at Holy Trinity due to Church maintenance works taking place from 12 to 17 January	
Sun 18th January 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mass 8.30 am Mass 10.30 am	<i>Clive Bishop RIP (FO)</i>
	There will be no Weekday Masses at Holy Trinity due to Church maintenance works taking place from 19 to 24 January	
Sun 25th January 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mass 8.30 am Mass 10.30 am	<i>Rev James Weekes (FM)</i> <i>Thanksgiving Mass (BG)</i>
Wed 28th January St Thomas Aquinas (Mem)	Mass 10 am	<i>Anna Viccars Barber's Ints (AB)</i>
Fri 30th January	Holy Half Hour and Benediction 9.15 am Mass 10 am	<i>Aideeu Shooki's Ints (AB)</i>
Sun 1st February 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mass 8.30 am Mass 10.30 am	<i>Betty Munroe RIP (JM)</i>
Mon 2nd February Presentation of the Lord (Feast)	Mass 7 pm	<i>Religious Day</i>
Wed 4th February	Mass 10 am	<i>Souls of Frank, John, Nicola, and friends of Anna Barber, who have all died recently (AB)</i>
Fri 6th February St Paul Miki and Companions (Mem)	Holy Half Hour and Benediction 9.15 am Mass 10 am	<i>Anna Viccars Barber's Ints (AB)</i>
Sun 8th February 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mass 8.30 am Mass 10.30 am	

Pray for the Sick: Rosemary Cortes, Christopher Browne, Sarah Jones, Ralph Johnson, Patricia Netley, Jim Watters, Carl Thomson, Sr Damian, William Parmiter, Richard Crail, Robin Netley, Kevin Gibson, Eileen L, Paul Burden, Ruth Davis, Deborah Follett, Deacon-Reverend Nicholas Thompson (Retired) and for all those in Nursing Homes

Pray for those who have died recently: Phyllis Titterington, Audrey Bowen, Diana McGuinness, Robert Blackwell, Mary Hardiman, Mary Carmel, Kate Gorman, Noreen Hague, Janet Bicheno, Margaret McDade, Carmel Moore, Sr Cosmos, Alison Sandford, Paul Gladstone, Mei Xian Lin, Michael Phelan, Joseph Rigby, Frances Carroll, Marilyn Rowland and Colin Rolls

PARISH UPDATES AND PROGRAMMES

Bible Class: We are pleased to let you know that the Bible class will resume on Saturday 10 January 2026 at 9.30 am in the Church Meeting Room.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: The children preparing for their **First Holy Communion** will celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)** on Tuesday 10th February at 4 pm and on Friday 13th February at 4 pm in the Church. We keep them and their families in our prayers as they take this important step in their journey of faith.

The statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be away for approximately one month for cleaning and painting. In the meantime, a smaller statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Thanks to Elizabeth M) will be placed in the church.

All the Homilies and Addresses can be found on the Diocesan website in the Latest section <https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/latest/>

Finances: The Parish is grateful to all Parishioners who support the Parish financially. The Offertory collections for December were as follows: Standing Orders £4,115.50; Card machine £486; Envelopes £149; Loose plate £1,064.32; Total for December 2025 £5,814.82. Thank you to all Parishioners. Thank you for your kind and generous giving of £4,145.99 for Christmas.

If you are donating by cheque, it should be made payable to "Plymouth Diocesan Trust Dorchester RC Parish". Please make sure all giving envelopes are sealed, as donations may easily slip out.

The **Card Machine** is available for your Offertory giving and you can Gift Aid Offertory donations. It is also available for purchases from the Repository. *The Card Machine works on a mobile signal in a similar way to a mobile phone and sometimes the signal is weak and it does not work. So please try again later.* Many thanks for using this method of contributing. The Card Machine has now been installed for a year and has been used 600 times raising a total of over £7,000.

The Church Roof Repairs: Thank you to all who have contributed to the £30,698 cost of repairing the Church roof. The total donated and grants received is now **£15,979. 73**. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. We have also applied for a VAT refund because the work was carried out on a Listed Building.

Hand gel: new Hand gel has been placed at both Church doors. Please make use of it during this time of colds etc.

Presbytery Gardening: We have quite a lot of gardening work to do around the Presbytery. We kindly ask those who are able to help to come along on **Saturday 7th February at 11:00 am**. Many hands make light work, and there is plenty to be done!

The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham seeks help to purchase a property to accommodate their growing community and further their apostolates of prayer, parish missions, hospitality, chaplaincy and youth work. Any amount, large or small is greatly appreciated and the community assure you of their prayers. Cheques payable to COLW can be sent to House of the Divine Will, Neatherd Moor, Dereham, NR20 4AZ. More information, as well as the option to donate online, can be found at: www.maryshouseappeal.org E: office@walsinghamcommunity.org T: 01362 692574

Teens residential, 23rd - 25th January 2026, Est Shallowford Farm, Dartmoor

The 2026 teens residential (those aged 13-17) are invited to explore lives of people holding the a refugee and asylum seekers status in the UK. There is time to question refugees and asylum seekers to hear why they left their homes to seek asylum. Once listening to the stories there is a chance for young people to form their own opinion and decide what action they would like to do. This event cost £50pp. To book: For further information: youth@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Information

Priest in Charge: Fr. Babu Francis CM, Hon Assistant Priest: Fr. Scott Anderson,
Deacons: Rev Nicholas Thompson (Retired) and Rev Jonathan de Kretser (07876 748836)
Parish Safeguarding Reps: Elizabeth Hughes (01305 269163) and Catherine Macer-Wright (07577 479119)
Guidance and information also on www.csas.uk.net/resource-area
The Presbytery, Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Culliford Road North, Dorchester DT1 1QG
Tel: 01305 251976 or email: babu.francis@predtr.org.uk (Presbytery)
Website: www.holytrinitycatholicchurchdorchester.org.uk Facebook: Holy Trinity Catholic Church Dorchester
Parish Secretary: Irina Osborn Tuesday– Friday 9 am – 2 pm
Email: dorchester@predtr.org.uk
Pastoral Council: Chair – Mark Rodgers (01305 250488)
St. Mary's Catholic School, Lucetta Lane, Dorchester DT1 2DD Tel: 01305 262258
Headteacher: Mr. Simon Thomas

Dear All

I wish to express my **heartfelt gratitude** to each of you for your generous Christmas offerings, thoughtful cards, and gifts. Above all, I am deeply touched by the love, care, and concern you have shown me always.

Your kindness and support are a true reflection of the spirit of Christmas and a testament to the bond we share as a faith community. Please know that your gestures of generosity and thoughtfulness mean so much to me and are greatly appreciated.

God Bless,
Babu

Homily: Feast of the Epiphany

The word Epiphany means manifestation—God showing Himself to the world. On this Feast, we celebrate how Jesus is revealed not only to Israel, but to all people.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is revealed to the Gentiles through the Magi. These foreign seekers follow a star and find not a palace, but a child in poverty. Yet they recognize who He truly is. They kneel, worship, and offer their gifts.

This fulfils the words of the Prophet Isaiah: nations will walk by God's light, and kings will bring gold and incense. St. Paul reminds us in the Second Reading that this was always God's plan—that the Gentiles are equal partners in God's promise through Christ.

The Gospel also shows us three different reactions to Jesus.

Herod feels threatened and tries to destroy Him.

The Priests and Scribes know the Scriptures but do nothing.

Only the Magi and the Shepherds act—they come, they worship, and they are changed.

We must ask ourselves: Which group do we belong to?

The Magi teach us how to live this Feast. First, they offer their gifts. Today, we offer Jesus the gold of our love, the frankincense of our prayer, and the myrrh of our humility and repentance.

Second, they go home by a different route. Encountering Christ always changes our direction. We are called to leave behind sin, pride, selfishness, and unhealthy habits, and to choose a better way of life.

Third, the Magi followed a star. Today, we are called to become stars for others—leading them to Jesus by our kindness, forgiveness, service, and love.

On this Feast of the Epiphany, let us come before Jesus as the Magi did: with open hearts, grateful lives, and a willingness to be changed. Then, like them, we will return home by a different road—closer to Christ and bringing His light to the world.

THANK YOU NOTE

Part of the remit of the **Finance Committee** is to advise me not only on Financial matters but also on Building and Maintenance issues. Throughout 2025, the members of the Committee have been closely involved in a wide range of Building and Maintenance projects, for which I am very grateful.

I am pleased to report that the **Church Roof** is no longer leaking. This has been a long and complex Project, spanning several years, due in part to the Church being a Grade II Listed Building. I would like to express my particular thanks to **Terry** (the Chair) **Catherine and Andrzej** (Committee members) for the specialist knowledge and expertise they brought to this work. We were also well supported throughout by the Diocesan Property Team and the Diocesan surveyors.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to **Margaret** for her dedicated work in overseeing and organising the Gift Aid scheme in the Parish. Her careful and continued efforts are greatly appreciated and make an important contribution to the Parish's finances.

Many of you will have noticed improvements to the **Sound system**. Additional microphones have been installed, and the piano is now fully integrated into the system. My thanks go to **Deacon Jonathan** (Committee member), who worked closely with **David Tozer** to identify a good-quality and reasonably priced solution.

The Project to repair the **Church floor** is due to begin this month. Repointing of the stonework will also continue, and the scaffolding will remain in place to enable this work to be completed.

Following a visit from the **Diocesan Health and Safety Officer**, a number of changes to Fire safety were requested for both the Church and the Parish Centre. These improvements are being implemented gradually and include drip trays under the Candle stands, improved signage within the Church, and an upgraded Fire alarm system in the Parish Centre. This work has been overseen by **Irina** (Parish Secretary), with support from **Alvin** (Committee member).

Repairs were also needed to the **blinds in the two classrooms**, and additional blinds were installed as these rooms are used as changing areas during productions at the Parish/Sunninghill Hall. This Project has now been completed, thanks to Irina, with support from the Committee.

The ongoing Project to **replace windows** in the Parish Centre and Presbytery has continued. This represents an important first step in reducing energy costs. Further work will be required to explore ways of improving energy efficiency across the whole building. This is a complex area, and we are awaiting further guidance and support from the Diocese.

In addition to these major Projects, there has been a significant amount of routine but essential work during the year, including tree surgery, boiler servicing, electrical repairs, gardening and plumbing. All of this has been supported by members of the Finance Committee.

Christine Land resigned from the Finance Committee in the Autumn, and we thank her sincerely for her diligent service and generous support over many years.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Finance Committee for their ongoing commitment, generosity and invaluable support.

God Bless

Babu

THANK YOU NOTE

Dear Brothers and Sisters

With a grateful heart, I express my deepest thanks to each one of you for generously volunteering your time, energy, and talents during the **Jubilee Year 2025, “Pilgrims of Hope,”** here at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Dorchester, one of the Pilgrimage centres of our Diocese of Plymouth. Throughout this blessed Jubilee Year, more than a hundred volunteers came forward in so many different ways. Your generosity of spirit has been truly inspiring. Whether your contribution was large or small, visible or unseen, every single act of service mattered. Each one helped make this Jubilee Year a source of grace and joy for countless Pilgrims who walked through our doors.

It may not be possible to name every person individually but please know that your efforts have not gone unnoticed. From welcoming Pilgrims, organising Liturgies, preparing Refreshments, guiding Visitors, and countless other tasks, you have embodied the true meaning of Christian hospitality and kindness. As Pilgrims of Hope, we journeyed together, and together we have witnessed the beauty of faith in action. Your dedication has left a lasting mark on our Parish and on the hearts of all who came seeking God’s presence.

I begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the **Jubilee Planning Committee** for their dedication and vision throughout the year. A special Word of Thanks goes to **Lawrence**, Chair of the Planning Committee, for his tireless leadership and careful planning.

My heartfelt thanks also go to the **Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)**, the **Finance Committee**, and the **Liturgy Committee** for their guidance, cooperation, and generous support. Your wisdom and careful oversight helped ensure that everything was carried out smoothly and responsibly.

A heartfelt thank you to the **Jubilee Pilgrimage Team** who made the Pilgrimages possible. The Jubilee Pilgrimage was not simply a well-organised programme it was a profound experience of hope, faith, unity, and Christian love.

I extend my sincere gratitude to **Jackie**, whose support in preparing the Dorchester visiting map proved invaluable to many Pilgrims. Many thanks to **Chris**, whose careful revision and summarising of the History of the Church enabled Pilgrims to appreciate our rich heritage.

A special word of appreciation goes to **Maureen Jones** for her beautiful and thoughtful contribution. The visitors’ map, showing where pilgrims came from and featuring welcoming words in different languages, was a powerful sign of the universality of the Church and made many feel truly at home.

My heartfelt thanks to **Elizabeth M and Jackie**, who lovingly coordinated the Pilgrimage from neighbouring Parishes and welcomed everyone with generosity, care, and support.

Gratitude is also due to **Keith**, who worked tirelessly to organise the Pilgrimage to Chideock, and to **Mary and John** who carefully arranged a special Pilgrimage around Dorchester, helping many journey together in faith.

Special thanks to **Sue**, whose generosity of time and talent greatly enriched the Jubilee celebrations. Her engaging and informative talks on the Chideock Martyrs, her role as the main Photographer, and her faithful accompaniment of Pilgrims on guided tours ensured that each person felt supported, informed, and warmly welcomed.

To all **Volunteers** who contributed in any way to the Pilgrimage events, thank you for making this Pilgrimage a true witness of faith and fellowship.

Special thanks are due to **Natasha and Lawrence and to all members of the Jubilee Events and Decoration Team** for their immense contribution towards our Jubilee events. They have also worked closely with St Mary's Catholic First School to organise and present a joyful Children's "The Jubilee Show" reminding us that hope is alive in our young people. I am also grateful to them for generously sponsoring the "Seeds of Hope" given to Pilgrims, a simple yet powerful symbol that many carried home as a reminder of Faith, Hope, and new beginnings.

As we reflect on the grace-filled Jubilee celebrations, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to all volunteers from our entire Parish Community, thank you for your tireless support in preparing the Church and other venues, decorating, setting up gazebos, preparing and clearing halls before and after events, providing refreshments and all others who ensured regular cleaning and tidying.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Transformative Lenten Retreat: "Pilgrims of Hope" in April and Altar Servers Retreat in December. A special word of thanks to **Fr Jon Bielawski** and his team, and to **Fr Jacek**, who preached at the Altar Servers Retreat.

I thank all those who served in the **Liturgy, Reading, Serving, Ministering, Welcoming** and those who provided technical support (**Margaret and John**) and sound systems at Church events (**David and Joy**) for all our **Jubilee Masses**.

I would like to thank **Mark and the Altar Servers Team** for their support towards all Jubilee Masses.

A special word of thanks to **Chris and Kate and all Choir members, Organists** whose careful preparation, choice of hymns, and thoughtful arrangement of the Order of Service lifted our Liturgies in prayer and beauty.

To our **Children's Liturgists, Catechists, Helpers and Parents**, thank you for supporting our young people. And to our **Children and Youth**, your joyful participation was a true blessing as you are the future Pilgrims of Hope.

My gratitude also goes to **Sarita and to all members of the Social media team** for their work on reports, taking photographs, creating video albums, updating social media platforms, proofreading our website and giving valuable input in developing it.

A heartfelt thank you to **Rebecca and Aleksandra and to all members of the Jubilee Catering team** for organising and creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere, Sponsoring beautiful cakes, refreshments and hospitality throughout the Jubilee events. Thanks to all the sponsors.

Special thanks to **Kathy, Ita, Liz, Jill, Jo, Katy, Len, Veronica, Aby, and Christine** for their dedication in cleaning and tidying the Church regularly.

The Mass vestments and Altar were always prepared with great care and reverence. Thank you to our Sacristan **Kathy**.

For Secretarial work, heartfelt thanks to **Irina**, and for the beautiful Flower arrangements in the Church and Hall, gratitude to **Angela and Elizabeth M**.

My heartfelt thanks to Finance (**Terry, Margaret, and Irina**); Safeguarding (**Liz and Catherine**); and Health and Safety (**Alvin**). Your practical support was essential and deeply appreciated. In one way or another, each of you have contributed to and supported this Jubilee Year.

With a grateful heart, I thank all our **generous sponsors** for providing items, food, offerings, items for the children and their time to enhance the Jubilee Masses and all events. To all unnamed sponsors who wish to remain anonymous thank you for your generosity and humility.

Repository Team: Thank you (**Elizabeth W and Team**) for serving our Parish through the Repository. Your kindness and dedication make a real difference.

Gardening (Liz) and Maintenance (Michael, Ita and Team): Thank you for bringing beauty and looking after our beautiful Church and gardens.

I would also like to acknowledge with gratitude those who worked behind the scenes to make all our events possible. Every role, seen or unseen, helped create a prayerful, welcoming, and faith-filled experience for all who visited.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks go to **Canon John Webb (Dean), Fr James Barber (Jubilee Coordinator of the Diocese), Fr Scott, Deacon Jonathan, and Mark** for their constant support, wise guidance, and encouragement throughout the Jubilee Year. Your leadership and pastoral care were a great source of strength and blessing.

Your dedication and service have allowed countless Pilgrims to experience the living spirit of hope, faith, unity and Christian love. You truly became “Pilgrims of Hope” for others. Please know that your generosity and hard work are deeply appreciated and remembered in my prayers. May the Lord pour out His abundant blessings upon you and your families, reward your generosity, and fill your hearts with lasting peace and joy. Once again, thank you for walking together in faith and hope throughout this special Jubilee Year. As we begin the New Year, let us continue with the same spirit of unity and commitment.

With sincere gratitude and prayers,

Babu

Homily : Baptism of our Lord

Sunday 11th January

The Baptism of the Lord is an important event in the life of Jesus. It is especially celebrated by the Eastern Churches on the feast of the Epiphany because it is the first public revelation of the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. At Jesus' baptism, God the Father reveals Jesus as His beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit descends upon Him. This event, recorded in all four Gospels, marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

The Turning Point

Jesus' baptism by John was a decisive moment in His life. As He came up from the water, the heavens opened, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him like a dove, and the Father's voice was heard: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Through this moment, God revealed to the world that He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This baptism showed Jesus' true identity and mission. It marked the end of His hidden life and the beginning of His public ministry. By being baptised, Jesus chose to stand with His people and share fully in their journey back to God. He also received the Father's approval and confirmation of His mission: not to save the world through power or force, but through love, service, suffering, and the cross.

The descent of the Holy Spirit equipped Jesus for His mission. Filled with the Spirit, He would proclaim the Good News of God's love and mercy, revealing God not as an angry judge, but as a loving Father who desires the salvation of all.

Messages

1. Our Identity

The baptism of Jesus reminds us of who we are and to whom we belong. Through our own baptism, we become children of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, members of the Church, temples of the Holy Spirit, and heirs of heaven.

2. Our Mission

We are called to live as God's children by recognising God's presence within us and in others. We are invited to live with dignity, humility, love, and service, and to reflect Christ in our thoughts, words, and actions. We are also called to live holy and sincere lives, avoiding anything that dishonours our bodies or harms others.

3. Our Response

The Baptism of the Lord invites us to thank God for the gift of our own baptism, to renew our baptismal promises, and to proclaim the Good News of Christ through lives marked by love, mercy, forgiveness, and service.