

## Pope's January Prayer Intention - *For prayer with the Word of God* –

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God nourishes our lives and brings hope to our communities, building a more fraternal and missionary Church.

**Please keep in your prayers those who are sick, housebound and those have requested prayers in our parish** including Helen Smith, Liz Marney, Canon George, Mick Shephard, Mary Hart, Matthew Waters, Tony Kavanagh, Susan Dack, Dermott Lyons.

## CHRISTMAS PRESENT FROM THE CATENIANS

### YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16 to 25 DOING A VOLUNTARY WORK PROJECT

Are you one of those who are volunteering to be part of a project overseas or in the UK and looking for some financial assistance? Then the Catenians may be able to help. **To be eligible you must be:**

A Catholic between your 16th and 25th birthday at the date of travel.

Spend at least 15 full working days engaged in the project.

Show that the Project is voluntary and will benefit other people who need your help.

For further information and application form, visit <https://catenianbursaryfund.com>

Local contact: Bob Bannister 07812488615 or David Gale 07977411121

## Axminster Foodbank

**Items needed:** cereal, soup, rice pudding, long-life milk, tins fruit, mixed veg carrots, peas, potatoes, pasta, tomatoes, beans, tinned meats, tea bags, coffee, jam, biscuits, long-life milk, washing powder/liquid, shampoo, shower gel.

**Seaton Foodbank Items we're short of:** Washing powder or liquid in small & medium sizes, small tins Pineapple, tins of sausages, small bottles of shampoo, washing-up liquid, toilet rolls, bags of sugar.

43 adults and 13 children were supported, and helped 30 households with enough food for 1176 meals along with 30 Goodie bags. **Thank you to all.**

## SAFEGUARDING EVERYBODY EVERY DAY

You can speak to our parish safeguarding reps in confidence if you have any concerns or if you are offering to carry out a ministry that will need a DBS check and want to find out more.

### Safeguarding contacts: Julie Gray and Liz Tompkins

In the absence of a Parish Safeguarding Representative, any concern of a safeguarding nature should be raised with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team who can be contacted on 01364 645430 or email [safeguarding@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@prcdtr.org.uk)

## The Parish of the Most Holy Trinity

### Priest in Charge: Fr Jacek Kostuch

The Priest's House

St Mary's RC Church, Lyme Road, Axminster EX13 5BE

Telephone: 01297 32135 or in an emergency 07776 082408

Parish office hours

Closed from Monday 22nd December until 5th Monday 5th January

Email: [axminster@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:axminster@prcdtr.org.uk) Website: <https://thecatholicpnp.org/>

## The Parish of the Most Holy Trinity



St Mary's Church,  
Axminster,  
EX13 5BE



SS Michael &  
George Church,  
Lyme Regis,  
DT7 3HS



St Augustine's  
Church,  
Seaton,  
EX12 2AJ

## Sunday 4th January 2026

**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.**

1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2,8-12

Responsorial Psalm: 147

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18

Gospel: John 1:1-18



**Our Parish School:**  
St Mary's  
Catholic Primary,  
Lyme Road, Axminster  
EX13 5BE  
T: 01297 32785

Mass times	Mass intentions	
SUNDAY 4th January 2nd Sunday after the Nativity - Year A	Axminster 9am Lyme Regis 11am	FM: All deceased members of the Knight family of Cannington
MONDAY 5th January	No Mass	
TUESDAY 6th January THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	Axminster 10am Seaton 12(noon) Axminster 7pm	FM: Richard Henry; Maud and Violet INGHAM RIP and all deceased relatives and friends
WEDNESDAY 7th January	Seaton 10am	For all sick and housebound and all who care for them
THURSDAY 8th January	Lyme Regis 10am	FM: Agnes Anne RAWLING RIP and deceased parents and siblings
FRIDAY 9th January	Axminster 10am	FM: Lilian May ROBERTSON RIP
SATURDAY 10th January 1st Mass of THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Seaton 5:30pm	Bill HAMPSON RIP
SUNDAY 11th January THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Axminster 9am Lyme Regis 11am	FM: Alexander J. KNIGHT RIP Parish intentions

**Confessions: 10.45-12.00 on Saturday in Axminster  
also after Masses weekdays or by arrangement with Fr Jacek**

**'Thought from Thicket'** \*: The kings at the manger represent seekers from all lands and peoples. Grace led them before they ever belonged to the external church. There lived in them a pure longing for truth that did not stop at the boundaries of native doctrines and traditions. (St. Edith Stein)

\* these reflections are sent to us by Sr. Mary from the Carmelite Monastery (Thicket Priory) where our altar breads, used in our Masses, are made.



### Epiphany of the Lord (This week 6th January)

"Epiphany" means "manifestation." It comes from Greek roots that mean "to show, to display" (*phainein*) and "on, to" (*epi*). An epiphany is therefore a time when something is shown, displayed, or manifested to an audience.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world. the great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (*magi*) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee.

In the *magi*, representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation.

The *magi*'s coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations. Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Saviour of the world only by turning towards the Jews and receiving from them the messianic promise as contained in the Old Testament. The Epiphany shows that "the full number of the nations" now takes its "place in the family of the patriarchs", and acquires *Israelitica dignitas* (is made "worthy of the heritage of Israel") [CCC 528].

### Patricia TARBOX RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Patricia TARBOX who died on the 8th December. Please also pray for Patricia's family and friends who mourn her. The funeral will take place at EDC, Whimple on Friday 9th January 2026.

### Chris ADAMS RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Chris ADAMS who died on the 2nd January. Please also pray for Sheree Lynch and Chris's family and friends who mourn at this time. The funeral details will follow.

### 80 Club - Christmas Draw

**Congratulations to our Christmas Bumper draw winners:** 1st Prize Aedine WESTOBY; 2nd Prize Laura SALT; 3rd Prize Joe HARRISON.

In a couple of months we will again have the opportunity to enter these draws which provide much needed funds for our Parish costs whilst also providing those taking part with the opportunity to win these useful prizes. Thank you for your continued commitment to this fundraising initiative.

### Reflection

Today's Gospel reading reminds us that our Beginning, middle, and end are with God. This prompts the questions for all of us:

How do I start each day?

Do I start each day listening out to hear the Word of God?

In Isaiah 50:4 we read '*The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher,*

*that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.*

*Morning by morning he wakens me - wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.*'

There are people whose first thing when waking and last before falling asleep is reading a passage from the Holy Scriptures. In this way, they begin each day with God and end each day with the last Word being from Him.

This practice shows an intentional approach to the relationship offered to us by God. There is evidence here of an understanding that life flows from reflecting on the Word of God. It's a practice that helps to remain in His presence every day. After all, it is not just about remembering God in the morning and evening, but about striving for continuous life with Him. *In Him, we live, move, and exist* (cf. Acts 17:28), which is why it is worth keeping the Word of God in our hearts, just as Mary did. Every time we think of reaching for our phone to access social media, or the like, if instead, we chose to look several times during the day at passages from the Scriptures, perhaps the one's of the 'Mass of the Day' readings, we will have the opportunity to continuously begin each moment with God.

*May His word always inspire all our thoughts and actions.*

*Jesus! You are the Word of God! I want to reflect in my heart as often as possible on what You say to me.*

**Resources:** Bible in a Year (with Fr Michael SCHMITZ -20 minutes a day) <https://bit.ly/49ljmsa>

Pray as you go (a daily led reflection on Gospel - 8 minutes) <https://prayasyougo.org/>

### Dilexi Te – The Burning Heart of the Church's Mission

#### *A day of reflection with Bishop Nicholas Hudson*

21 February 2026, 11am-4pm, Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre

Join Caritas and CAFOD this Lent for a diocesan day to reflect on Pope Leo XIV's powerful Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te*, which calls us to return to the Gospel and reminds us that love of the poorest of our sisters and brothers is part of the "burning heart of the Church's mission".

Hear from our inspirational Speakers:

Rt Rev Nicholas Hudson, Bishop of Plymouth;

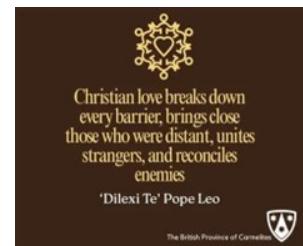
Christine Allen, CAFOD Director;

Raymond Friel OBE, CSAN Chief Executive Officer;

Fr. Richard Finn OP, University of Oxford.

To register: <https://bit.ly/4apdzUz> or

email: [caritas@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:caritas@prcdtr.org.uk)



### Christmas Crib

Please take time to visit the crib at our churches over the Christmas period. The collection will be shared between the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) and Life Charity.

[lifecharity.org.uk/](http://lifecharity.org.uk/) [ccsplymouth.org.uk/](http://ccsplymouth.org.uk/)