



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST *In the Diocese of Plymouth*

Christmas Eve

24th December 2023

The Canons and Seminarians of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest in the Diocese of Plymouth wish you a very happy and holy celebration of Christmas. We thank you for your kind and generous support of the apostolates and for your constant prayers.

"The deep bond that unites Christ to his first martyr, Stephen, is divine Charity: the Love that led the Son of God to strip himself and become obedient to the point of death on a cross (cf. Phil 2:6-8), then led the Apostles and martyrs to give their lives for the Gospel. This distinguishing characteristic of Christian martyrdom must always be emphasised: it is exclusively an act of love, towards God and towards people, including persecutors. (...) The Christian martyr, like Christ and through union with him, "accepts the cross and death in the depths of his being, and transforms it into an act of love. (...) The Christian martyr achieves the victory of love over hatred and death. Let us pray for those who suffer because of their fidelity to Christ and his Church. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Martyrs, help us to be credible witnesses to the Gospel, responding to our enemies with the disarming force of truth and charity". Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus of 26 December 2007

The Feast of Christmas



Faith tells us that this Child is God's own Son. He is the Word, the second Person of the Adorable Trinity; He is the Son Who receives Divine life from His Father. He possesses the Divine Nature with all its infinite perfections. In appearance, He is only like all other infants, and yet, being God, being the Eternal Word,

He is, at this moment, judging the souls that appear before Him.”

Because “human nature was assumed, not absorbed” in the mysterious union of the Incarnation, the Church was led over the course of centuries to confess the full reality of Christ’s human soul, with its operations of intellect and will, and of his human body. In parallel fashion, she had to recall on each occasion that Christ’s human nature belongs, as his own, to the divine person of the Son of God, who assumed it. Everything that Christ is and does in this nature derives from “One of the Trinity.” The Son of God therefore communicates to his humanity his own personal mode of existence in the Trinity. In his soul as in his body, Christ thus expresses humanly the divine way of the Trinity.”

“The Son of God... worked with human hands; he thought with a human mind. He acted with a human will, and with a human heart he loved. Born of the Virgin Mary, he has truly been made one of us, like to us in all things except sin.”

The 26th of December 2022: Feast day of St Stephen. (Martyr)

St Stephen was the first person to die for believing in Christ. Stephen became one of the first of seven



deacons chosen by the Apostles. Everything known about him is contained in the book of Acts.

St Stephen was renowned for his virtue and working of great wonders and signs, which caused alarm amongst certain Jews. He was therefore summoned before the Sanhedrin. After making a stirring speech to a hostile audience and with a “face like the face of an angel,” Stephen was stoned to death prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit... Lord, lay not this sin to their charge”

The 27th of December 2022: Feast day of St John. (Apostle)



St John is the virgin Apostle, the disciple whom “Jesus loved.” It is to St. John, who wrote a gospel, three Epistles and the Apocalypse, that we owe the most beautiful pages on the Divinity of the Word becoming flesh. It is for this reason that St. John is also symbolised by the Eagle.

It was John who sat next to Jesus at the Last Supper. It was to John that Jesus, from the Cross, entrusted the care of His mother. It was John who was first to recognise the risen Christ when fishing on the Sea of Galilee. He was there with Peter and James at Jesus's highest spiritual moments. (The Transfiguration on the mountain and Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane).

The 28th of December 2022. The Holy Innocents. (Martyrs)

“Thus says the Lord: A voice was heard on high of lamentation, of mourning, and weeping, of Rachel weeping for her children, and refusing to be comforted for them, because they are not.” (Jer. 31:15)

The Holy Innocents suffered Martyrdom at the hands of Herod. After he had been visited by the Magi and told of a new king being born; he felt deceived by the wise men, who did not return to him as he had requested;



As such Herod then pursued the Child Jesus in an attempt to destroy Him; and in doing so killed all the male children under two years of age with in Bethlehem and surrounding area.

The Gospel of Matthew records the event:

“Then Herod perceiving that he was deluded by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and sending killed all the men children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the borders thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men” (Mt 2:16)

The new Bishop for the Diocese of Plymouth, Christopher Whitehead, to be Consecrated on the 22nd of February

Please keep him in your prayers:

O God, thou pastor and ruler of the faithful, look favourably upon thy servant Christopher., whom thou hast been pleased to appoint chief shepherd of the Church of Plymouth. Enable him to further by his teaching and good example the salvation of those over whom he is placed, so that, With the flock entrusted to his care, he may attain life everlasting: through our Lord Jesus Christ thy Son, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

	AT LANHERNE	CANON TANNER
24	BENEFACTORS Rhoda Old RIP	Cardinal Burke
25	Novena for Christmas The Nuns at Lanherne Novena for Christmas	Donor's Intentions Donor's Intentions Liisa Tanner RIP
26	Holy Souls	Novena for Christmas
27	Novena for Christmas	Donor's Intentions
28	Holy Souls Daniel, Theresa & Fam	Novena for Christmas
29	Novena for Christmas	Ellen, Michael, & James Murphy RIP
30	Leo Rayment	Novena for Christmas

Rev. Canon Scott Smith
 Chaplain of Lanherne Convent
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lanherne@icksp.org.uk
 Safeguarding Reps:
 Christina Hunt / Sarah Checkley

At Lanherne Convent
Sunday 8am Conventual Mass
 11am Sung Mass
Monday – Saturday 8am Mass
Thursday Mass at 8am and 6.15pm
 Confession:
Thursday: 5.15pm-5.45pm
Friday & Saturday after Mass

The Sisters of Lanherne are grateful to the Providence of God who supplies their needs through the generous support of the faithful.

Friends of Lanherne
 Sort code: 60-02-20
 Account: 64557391

Rev. Canon Scott Tanner, Prior
 House of Saint-Richard-Reynolds
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 Safeguarding Rep: Katarzyna Adamiak

At Holy Angels
Sundays:
 10.20-10.40am Confessions
 10.45am Sung Mass

Mon. Christmas Schedule
Tues. & Wed: No Mass
Thurs. Fri. & Sat. Mass at 8.30am

Holy Angels Torquay
 Account Name: ICKSP
 Account Details: 40-03-33
 Account Number: 12333902

No Adoration this week.

Plymouth: Sundays at 8.30am
 First Saturdays: 11.30