

Sacred Heart Tisbury & All Saints Wardour Castle

Trellis House, Station Road, Tisbury 01747 870228 Father Robert Miller
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When visiting our churches please use hand sanitiser, wear a mask and follow guidance-
thank you **Please book with Father Robert as usual.**

- December 20 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, SEA SUNDAY Year B Psalms 4**
*Diocesan prayer league: Our Lady and St Alphege, Bath,
St Joseph's, Peasedown St John*
Second collection for Stella Maris
Sacred Heart: 9 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Exposition 6.00 p.m.
All Saints' Wardour 11 a.m.
- 21 Monday** Weekday of Advent II (O Oriens)
Sacred Heart: M P: 8.45 a.m. Mass, 9.00 a.m. (Justin Hooper RIP)
- 22 Tuesday** Weekday of Advent II (O Rex Gentium)
All Saints, Wardour: Mass at 9.30 a.m. (Mary Jo FitzGerald)
- 23 Wednesday** Weekday of Advent II (O Emmanuel)
Sacred Heart: M P: 8.45 a.m. Mass, 9.00 a.m.
- 24 Thursday** Weekday of Advent II
Christmas Eve Vigil Mass All Saints' Wardour 5 p.m. (fully booked)
Christmas Mass of the Night Sacred Heart 9 p.m. (fully booked)
- 25 SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**
Sacred Heart 9 a.m. (fully booked)
All Saints' Wardour 11.00 a.m. (fully booked)
- 26 Saturday FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR**
Sacred Heart: M P: 8.45 a.m. Mass, 9.00 a.m.
- 27 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH Year B Psalms Proper**
Diocesan prayer league: St Peter & St Paul, Bath
Sacred Heart 9 a.m. Mass
All Saints' Wardour 11 a.m. Mass
Sacred Heart 6.00 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
6.30 p.m. Mass
- 28 Monday FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS**
Sacred Heart 8.45 a.m. MP, 9.00 a.m. Mass
- 29 Tuesday SAINT THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR**
All Saints, Wardour: Mass at 9.30 a.m.
- 30 Wednesday Sixth Day of Christmas**
Sacred Heart 8.45 a.m. MP, 9.00 a.m. Mass
- 31 Thursday Seventh Day of Christmas**
No Mass

- JANUARY 1 Friday MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (NB Bank Holiday)**
Sacred Heart 8.45 a.m. MP, 9.00 a.m. Mass
5.45 p.m. EP, 6.00 p.m. Mass
- 2 Saturday SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church**
Sacred Heart: M P: 8.45 a.m. Mass, 9.00 a.m.
9.30 a.m. Confessions
- 3 SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS Year B Psalms 2**
Diocesan prayer league St John the Evangelist, Bath

Confessions can be heard before or after any Mass, or by appointment.

PRAYERS: for the sick: Tony Grummett, Nick Weeks, for our doctors and their staff, for those at Albany House, The Hays and Clouds House; for those recently died. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace Amen*

OTHER PARISH NEWS: Coronavirus regulations reminder: Communion on the hand in one kind, no singing, Sunday a.m. coffee cancelled. Paper towels and sanitizer available. Collections on exit - a basket will be placed at the back of church. Never mind - at least we have the Mass!

I am grateful for the usual inundation of Christmas prayers, cards, presents and good wishes.RM

There are vacancies for Boxing Day (9.00 a.m. at Tisbury) and all the usual Masses on Dec 27th - the Sunday after Christmas. **Email Nick Wright for Sunday 27th December Wardour 11 a.m. bookings.**

Wardour Carol Service 23rd December at 6pm: Limited numbers and no congregational singing in the church! Please email Emily Hobbs at: emilyarundell@outlook.com

STELLA MARIS (AoS) Thank you: to all the knitters - final total yet to be counted but over 130! To Julia, our AoS rep who is now planning a HUGE coffee morning and cake sale sometime in the Spring when it is possible. To Gill Roddis whose latest masks have been sold in aid of Stella Maris/AoS and has raised over £60. To all of you who are so supportive.

Seafarers are in desperate need and not just for hats. <https://www.stellamaris.org.uk/>

You may like to watch the 3 min video: <https://www.stellamaris.org.uk/sea-sunday-appeal-video/>

Second collection for Stella Maris: A second basket will be placed at the back of the church for Mass over a period of several days leading up to Christmas, and there are Stella Maris envelopes available. For those not able to attend Mass, a second PayPal button has been placed on our website, and donations on this will be allocated to Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) until 31st December. Alternatively, cheques, made payable to Stella Maris, may be sent to Trellis House.

Midnight Mass: The BBC will be televising Midnight Mass from Clifton Cathedral from 11.45 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Starting School? If you have a child born between **1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017**, then **now** is the time to apply for a place at a primary school for admission from **September 2021** onwards. You must complete an application form that is available from the school admissions team of your Local Authority – that is the County Council of the county in which you reside. If your child has been baptised and you are applying for Wardour Catholic Primary School, you **must** also provide a copy of the baptism certificate to the school. Please ensure you apply by the closing date of **15 January 2021**. Wardour School is a good choice for parishioners: the school was awarded a Good Ofsted report just before the Covid lockdown, has an excellent Head teacher in Emma Dixon, who is ably supported by a loyal and committed staff. The school has very good facilities and lovely grounds. Please call the school to arrange a visit - 01747 870537.

Holy Shop: can be opened on request. Ask Father Robert, Catherine or Sue B-M

THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE- FROM THE LITURGY OFFICE, CLIFTON DIOCESE

How many times over the years have we found ourselves saying “Christmas is a season, not just a day!”? The commercial signs of Christmas arrive in our shops and on our TV screens predictably early every year and, against this background, we try to keep our resolve to celebrate the Advent season fully in our homes, schools and parishes, waiting in stillness and joyful expectation, preparing our hearts to welcome Christ our Redeemer.

As this challenging year draws to a close, many people have put up their trees and decorations earlier than ever as an antidote to the gloom and despondency of the pandemic and the most recent lockdown, to bring cheer, lift spirits, brighten the darkness; so the world around us will probably be even more ready than usual to move on as soon as Christmas Day is over.

The government has allowed us a five-day Christmas exemption from restrictions, but the Church is ever-generous and gives us the great gift of an Octave to celebrate and enter into the mystery of the Incarnation – the Word made flesh who came to dwell among us – and the season of Christmas Time to celebrate Christ’s first manifestations – his Epiphany, incorporating the visit of the Magi, his baptism in the Jordan, and his first miracle at Cana (not just the twelve days of Christmas in the carol).

So what are octaves (from the Latin *octo*, meaning ‘eight’)? Centuries ago, the Church understood the human need for more than a single day to contemplate the mysteries celebrated in the greatest solemnities of the liturgical year: the empty tomb, and Christ’s birth, which marks the beginning of the paschal mystery of our salvation. After the initial wonder, we need time to ponder and reflect on these mysteries and what God is revealing on these holy days, and to enter more deeply into the experience – a period of *mystagogia*. And so began the custom of extending the celebration of certain major feasts, including Easter and Christmas, across eight days. The feast day itself is the first day of the octave, followed by six ‘days within the octave’. The eighth day is called the Octave Day and is kept with greater solemnity than the ‘days within the octave’ but lesser than the original feast. (‘Octave’ can refer both to the eighth day and to the period of eight days.)

Since the 4th century, when the date of Christmas was established and it became widely celebrated, the days immediately following have been dedicated to companions and earliest witnesses of Christ: members of his family (especially his mother), holy men and women, and the early martyrs. Still in our calendar from those early centuries are St Stephen, the first martyr (December 26th), St John the Evangelist (27th) and the Holy Innocents (28th). The Sunday within the octave (or December 30th if Christmas falls on a Sunday) is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In 1969 it was linked with the Christmas Octave and provided with a three-year cycle of readings. The weekdays of December 29th, 30th and 31st have proper Masses, though St Thomas Becket (29th) is a Feast in England and Wales, and the Missal provides a Collect for St Sylvester on the 31st.

Ironically, the pandemic which has had such an effect on the lives of our parishes, has provided us with an opportunity to reclaim the Christmas Octave. **In a year when attendances may need to be spread over several days because we simply can't fit everyone in on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, and some may wish to go to Mass on a day when the church is likely to be less crowded, how good it is to be able to say that every day of the octave is Christmas Day.**

It offers us a renewed chance to reflect deeply on the holy exchange, whereby 'we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity,' and to be 'caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.' And maybe it will help us to celebrate the whole Christmas season anew this year, and to have a better sense of the whole period of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany as a season of the Manifestation of Our Lord as we are called to rediscover, to celebrate and to live the gift of salvation as part of the process of transformation in Christ.

Father Robert wishes you all peace & blessings this Christmas

