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7.1.18

ST. CATHARINE OF ALEXANDRIA FROME & ST. DOMINIC'S CHAPEL MELLS

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

9.30am St. Catharine of Alexandria, 5.30pm St. Catharine of Alexandria (Private Intentions)

11.30am St. Dominic's Chapel, Mells (People of the Parish)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION 11.00am- 12.00pm SATURDAY AT ST. CATHARINE OF ALEXANDRIA

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES AT ST. CATHARINE OF ALEXANDRIA

Monday 8th January 7.30pm Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday 10th January 7.00pm Weekday in Ordinary Time (Bill Alford R.I.P.)

Thursday 11th January 9.30am Weekday in Ordinary Time (Kim Clinton R.I.P.)

Friday 12th January 9.30am Weekday in Ordinary Time (Holy Souls)

Saturday 13th January 9.30am Weekday in Ordinary Time (Holy Souls)

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES AT ST. DOMINIC'S CHAPEL, MELLS

Monday 8th January (The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord) 6.00pm, Tuesday 9th January 6.00pm, Wednesday 10th January 6.00pm, Thursday 11th January 6.00pm, Friday 12th January 6.00pm.

YEAR OF MISSION

There are so many images before our eyes at the Epiphany. Wise men and their gifts feed our imaginings as to who this child truly is. Herod's curiosity speaks, ironically, of our own desire to find the child who holds life's meaning and promise. But it's the light of the star that can be easily overlooked... but not just the fact that its bright: it guides. This New Year and, indeed, this Year of Mission invite us to consider how we might be leading others towards Christ. Do we lead people towards him because of who we are, because of who we seek to be? In all we do for Christ – in our words and actions – let's seek to satisfy the curiosity of those who are truly searching. Let's allow them to encounter, truly encounter, the Christ in us, the Christ who draws all peoples to the love he reaches out to bring.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK There will be second collection this week for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

REVOLUTION OF TENDERNESS Raymond Friel, author of *The Revolution of Tenderness: Being a Catholic in Today's Church*, will be giving a talk at 7.30pm on Monday 29th January 2018 in St. John's Paish Hall, South Parade, Bath. There is a poster on the noticeboard giving more details if you are interested in attending.

FLOWERS SPONSORSHIP The flowers in the sanctuary this week are sponsored by A & M Hudzik in celebration of their 25th Wedding Anniversary.

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WHITE FLOWER APPEAL – There will be a second collection on 21st January. The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal on 21st January. SPUC is currently campaigning to stop the decriminalization of abortion, which means taking abortion outside the law. This is the most dangerous threat to unborn children and their mothers in decades. Please be as generous as you can to help us defeat this latest attack on unborn babies and their mothers and to stop abortion getting even worse in this country by decriminalisation.

THANK YOU Father Richard writes, “I would like to say a big ‘THANK YOU’ to all who sent me cards & gifts for Christmas. Your wonderful warmth and welcome have helped to make my first Christmas with you a most memorable and joyful time. Another big ‘THANK YOU’ for the most generous Christmas offering. Let’s pray and resolve that, as we enter into the new year of 2018, we may join forces and work together, as far as our personal means will allow, to grow in so many ways as a parish, especially in the sense of MISSION towards which Bishop Declan invites us to work in this current year; more about this in the weeks and months ahead.

HOME BLESSING: I would like to invite you to adopt a custom for your homes: to ask God’s blessing on your home and on those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows. A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk, or a crayon, to write above the home’s entrance, 20 + C + M + B + 18. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, “May Christ bless the house.” The “+” signs represent the cross and 2018 is the year.

BLESSING THE CHALK

V. Our help is the name of the Lord:

R. The maker of heaven and earth.

V. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

R. From this time forth for evermore.

LET US PRAY.

Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BLESSING THE HOME

Using the blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:

20 + C + M + B + 16 while saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God’s Son who was born into our world. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then we offer the following prayer: *Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen*

“Chalking the door” is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God’s blessing of our

lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions the Latin words, *Christus Mansionem Benedictat*, "May Christ bless the house."

MONDAY TEAS Come and join us in the hall at 3.00pm tomorrow 8th January for afternoon tea, raffle and bingo. Everyone welcome with partners or friends.

BAPTISM WELCOME - a special welcome & thanks to Becky & Huey Morgan who joined us last weekend as Beau and Indi were baptised. May God continue to pour his blessings upon you all.

ROSARY PRAYERS - we will meet again at the Church to offer the Rosary for the intentions of the Parish each Monday in term time. We meet again on Monday 15th January 215pm. If you have any specific prayers please do add them to the Prayer Book in the porch.

LIVING FAITH - January to March 2018. Do make the most of the new Living Faith booklet! - Daily reflections to help and inspire you. Only £1 for three months of spiritual gems!

LIVING FAITH FOR KIDS - January to March 2018. Do take your copy of the latest daily reflections and fun for children and young people. These are FREE! Enjoy!

BAPTISM PREPARATION 2018. This will run three times this year, beginning in February, June and September. Please complete and send a Registration Form from the porch, we will then give you the full details of the Preparation. Included will be three Monday evening meetings, as well as gathering at Mass on three occasions, with a Rite of Welcome for all the families.

CHRISTMAS THANKS - grateful thanks to everyone who made a special effort and helped prepare the Church and ceremonies so beautifully this Christmas time. You are fantastic! To all the children, thank you for joining in so wonderfully & to the children at St Louis thank you for making such lovely decorations!

FOOD BANK DONATIONS - thank you for all your generous donations which have been passed on to the Food Bank in Frome.

FROME REFRESH – we had a fantastic response from the parish, with the Refresh basket completely filled. Thank you everyone. Frome Refresh are now holding an appeal they have called "Re-gift for Refresh" which is the collection of unwanted Christmas toiletries. We will therefore continue with the basket & ask you to consider re-gifting any unneeded or unwanted items. Many thanks.