

PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER
28 July 2024. Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year B2. Psalter I



MORE THAN ENOUGH

MASS TIMES

Sunday 28 July – Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8.45am *Marjorie Elizabeth Gifford Pitman RIP*
10.45am *People of the Parish*
Followed by refreshments in St Richard Reynolds Centre
6.00pm *Private Intention*

Tuesday 30 July – World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

- 6.30pm *For victims of trafficking*

Wednesday 31 – St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

- 9.30am *Joan and Ron Bexley RIP*
Refreshments in St Richard Reynolds Centre

Thursday 1 August – St Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

- 9.30am *For a bishop for our diocese*
6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 2 August

- 6.30pm *Private Intention*

Saturday 3 August

- 9.30am *Brendan de Sousa RIP*

Sunday 4 August – Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8.45am *Kath Jenkinson RIP*
10.45am *For the catechists of our parish*
6.00pm *People of the Parish*

Liturgy of the Word for Children

During term time at 10.45am Mass on Sunday.

Live stream Mass [Access the parish YouTube page at this link.](#)

Confessions

Saturdays after 9.30am Mass or by appointment.

Mass intentions

If you would like a Mass to be offered for a special intention – perhaps someone you know is sick or has died, perhaps you would like to give thanks to God for graces received – contact the Parish Office and we will find a suitable date. It is traditional to make an offering at the time. There are some small brown envelopes in the church porch to facilitate this.

NEWS & EVENTS

"Do not cast me off in my old age" *Psalm 71:9*

Today is **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**. Pope Francis has given this day the theme above from Psalm 71. We pray for the elderly members of our parish family and those who are grandparents. They are a blessing to us.

You can read the Pope's message for today [by following this link](#). As the Pope says, we should cherish the elderly and recognise that there's no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to grandchildren.

Catholic Grandparents Association

To be a grandparent is a very special role in the Church. As you love your Grandchildren, love them enough to give them the gift of faith, by sharing your faith with them. For more information on the Catholic Grandparents Association of England & Wales, please visit their website [by following this link](#).



Catholic Women's League Centenary

On Tuesday last week the Exeter Section of the CWL celebrated their Centenary. Fr Jonathan celebrated a votive Mass of St Margaret Clitherow – patron of the CWL – with members of the section and their guests and afterwards we enjoyed a delicious lunch in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. Ivy Campbell made a delicious fruit cake which everyone enjoyed.



Thank you to everyone who helped make the day a very special occasion. We give thanks to the members of the Exeter Section across the years who have dedicated so much time and effort to furthering the kingdom of God in this part of the world. May God bless you all. St Margaret Clitheorw, pray for us.

St Richard Reynolds Centre Garden

The garden is in need of some TLC (and some radical weeding!) Anybody who would like to come and help tidy the garden on **Saturday 17 August between 10.00am and 12.00pm**, please just turn up, or contact Sheila on sheilahosker@outlook.com beforehand. Thank you.

Eucharistic Congress 2024

Saturday 14 Sept: Oscott, Birmingham

A coach will leave our diocese to take pilgrims from across our five deaneries to this faith-affirming national event. It will include talks, the celebration of Mass and a procession. Please phone 01202 746539 or email christopher.findlay@prcdtr.org.uk ASAP if would like to join us.



First Holy Communion

Congratulations to Dominik who received Holy Communion for the first time last Sunday. We wish him many blessings.

Dominik has been preparing with his family for this very special day by attending the GIFT sessions which are held every month at St Nicholas School. For more information about GIFT please see the entries below.

GIFT – Growing In Faith Together – is the way the parish accompanies families on their faith journey. It is the gateway to the Sacraments of Initiation and is supported by a wonderful group of dedicated catechists and helpers.

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons – 30 July

30 July is the annual World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, which raises awareness and increases prevention of people trafficking and modern day slavery. The theme this year is, 'Leave no child behind in the fight against human trafficking'. One in three victims of trafficking are children, with girls being disproportionately affected. Children are also twice as likely to be subjected to violence during trafficking than adults. Children will experience various forms of trafficking including forced labour, criminality or begging, online and sexual abuse and exploitation, and being trafficked for illegal adoption.

There are posters in the parish to raise awareness of the signs of modern slavery. If you would like support, or you are concerned about someone else, please contact: The Diocesan Safeguarding Office – call us on 01364 645430 between Monday to Friday, from 9.00am to 4.30pm.

UNSEEN– A UK charity that provides safe houses and support in the community for survivors of trafficking and modern slavery. [UNSEEN website](#)

24/7 Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline: 08000 121 700

Catholic Bishops' Conference

The latest news from the Catholic Bishops' conference can be accessed [here](#).

Youth Rally 2024, Saturday 28 September

Please join us at St Rita's in Honiton for the annual Youth Rally on **Saturday 28 September 2024**. As usual there will be many activities for all to join in, including an obstacle course, penalty shoot-out and various inflatable activities. Young people from 6–16 are welcome to form teams of six to compete against others. Don't worry if you can't form a group of six, you can be combined with another parish. For booking and further questions please contact, Saskia: youth@prcdtr.org.uk
Please also see the poster in the porch.

You are invited to **Try Alpha**



Alpha

Alpha has been changing people's lives around the world and has had a powerful effect on the lives of some of our parishioners. We would love you to share their experience of encountering Jesus Christ and the Church in a dynamic way.

Our next Alpha starts on **Tuesday 24 September at 7.00pm in the St Richard Reynolds' Centre at Blessed Sacrament Church**. Come along and why not invite a friend to come with you.

To take part please register by 22 September by filling in this form:

[ALPHA Registration Form](#)

For more information contact Ola at ola.godbeer@gmail.com



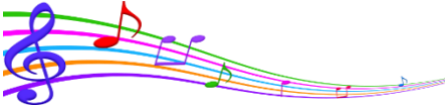
Alpha Culinary Care

As the best conversations often start around food, we begin every Alpha session with a meal.

Would you consider being part of our Alpha Catering Team and supporting this vital ministry in our parish by preparing one of the meals?

Contact Ola ola.godbeer@gmail.com to find out more about what it involves.

Blessed Sacrament Music Collective



The next Collective 'jams' are: **Saturday 5 October - 10.30am - 1.30pm** in the Richard Reynolds Centre, **Saturday 23 November - 10.30am - 1.30pm** in the

church. We would love to hear from anyone who would like to play with us, whether you attend at the 8.45am, 10.45am, 6.00pm, or a mixture. We need your gifts and talents to help our parish lift their hearts and voices in praise and worship.

If you are interested in finding out more or coming to one of the 'jams', please email angelajfolland@gmail.com or angela.bosley@btinternet.com

Caritas Diocese of Plymouth July Newsletter

Please click the link to read this month's newsletter about upcoming events and news of love in action around the diocese [here](#) or visit [this link](#).

Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)

The latest "Children First" **newsletter** can be found in the church porch.

Recycle your ink cartridges and help support CCSP. Please pop your used ink cartridges in the box situated in the Baptistry at Blessed Sacrament. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept toner/laser cartridges. Thank you.

Orange Box. De-clutter and help the children in our Diocese. There is an orange box in the St. Richard Reynolds Centre where items can be placed, and every box filled will raise much needed funds for the CCSP.

Items that can be collected in the boxes include coins and banknotes, precious metals, medals and badges, costume jewellery, metals, watches, keys and locks. Also collected are small antiques and collectibles, anything unusual, contact CCS if not sure. In addition, scientific and photographic items can be donated, but please contact CCSP first. CCS@prcdtr.org.uk, 01364 645420

Diocese of Plymouth Newsletter

The current newsletter can be accessed Black and white version [here](#).

School Transport grants for the academic year 2024-25

The Diocese of Plymouth is now taking applications from parents/guardians wishing to apply for grants for transport to a Catholic or Catholic/CofE school situated in the Diocese of Plymouth. Applications for the academic year 2024-5 must be submitted in writing and be signed by the Parish Priest. Families will be notified at the start of the Autumn term if their application has been successful.

There are limited funds and not all applications may be successful.

You can obtain an application form from the parish office.

Bible Alive

There are 3 free copies of the latest editions of this publication in the church porch. Help yourself. To contribute put your money in the wall box marked 'books'.

Catholic Children's Society Annual Appeal

Message from Canon John Deeny

Please find below the message provided once again this year by Canon John Deeny in support of our 2024 Annual Appeal – Believe, Love, Share : Transforming Lives. The theme of Pope Francis' message for this year's World Day of the Poor is: The prayer of the poor rises up to God (cf. Sir 21:5)

In this year of prayer running up to the Jubilee in 2025, we are invited to reflect on how we reach out to those in need. One of the social action themes chosen by Pope Francis for the Jubilee Year is poverty. We are asked to listen to the prayer of the poor, becoming aware of their presence and their needs.

We are also called to implement initiatives that concretely help and to recognise and support the many volunteers who dedicate themselves passionately to those most in need.

The Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) remains an essential part of the way in which our Diocese responds to the Cry of the Poor. The Society responds week in week out to the many people asking for help to meet the most basic needs. Whilst they make every effort not to turn anyone away, there is always unmet demand.

The Society has benefitted enormously from the compassionate and generous giving of so many people. They need your continuing support to enable them to carry out their mission of charity to those in need in our Diocese.

I appeal to your generosity, once again, to support the remarkable work of the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth), through its Annual Appeal.

Thank you, and your parishioners, for your generosity in the past, and may God bless you for responding as generously as you can to this year's Appeal.

Canon John Deeny
Chair, Caritas Plymouth

Forget-me-not Bereavement Café

The café is held once a month on a Saturday morning (fourth Saturday of the month) at 10.30am in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. Come along, and maybe bring a friend with you who you think would also benefit from making contact with others in a friendly relaxed café. There is no need to book just come along on **Saturday 24 August**. We look forward to seeing you.

St Nicholas School News

We are looking forward to a restful and fun-filled summer holiday and to welcoming many new families to the school in September. Prospective parents can contact Mrs Brockson admissions@stnics.uk for information about joining our school community.

Christians Together in Exeter – Volunteering Opportunities

Have you ever felt called to volunteer with prisoners and their families? If so, please follow this link to learn more: [Prison Advice and Care Trust Volunteering](#)
To find out more about Southwest Community Chaplaincy [click here](#).

Plymouth CAST – We need you!

Plymouth CAST is a Catholic multi-academy trust of 34 schools and one nursery, spanning the Diocese of Plymouth. Our mission is to be a community of outstanding schools in which our pupils flourish in safe, happy, and stimulating environments and leave us with the knowledge and skills, personal qualities, and aspirations, to make the world a better place, inspired by the Gospel.

Plymouth CAST is currently recruiting to expand its Board of Directors. We are particularly interested in hearing from you if you have skills and experience in Finance, HR, and/or Education. Please contact the Clerk to the Trust Board for further information, Mrs Leah Paiano lpaiano@plymouthcast.org.uk

Laudato Sí – Exeter

The Diocese is reminding us of Pope Francis's Letters, Laudato Si' and more recently Laudate Deum. The Holy Father uses words from the great Canticle of St Francis of Assisi to ask us to consider our care for the Earth and its diversity of life, and for people threatened by the very serious environmental problems we face together.

We propose to reflect on the Pope's teaching documents and what they might mean for our lives and wider social responsibilities, drawing on the strengths of all three Parishes. If this interests you, can you please share your name and contact details with Coral Mortier, Parish Secretary at South Street (Phone, email). Your support will help us organise a combined Laudato Si' meeting for Exeter. Watch this space for more details.

Exeter Foodbank Summer Campaign

The demand for Emergency food has increased by 36% since last year, and we have noticed a decline in donations. Our store is struggling to keep up with demand and so we are asking local schools, churches and community groups to take part in a food collection for Exeter Foodbank in July.

The 3 items we are asking for this year, as we are particularly low, are **tinned meat, fish and vegetables**.

Collection basket at the back of the church. [Exeter Foodbank Newsletter](#)

Exeter Community Assembly

We at Exeter Humanity Project would like to invite you to the next Exeter Community Assembly on the afternoon of **Sunday 4 August 2024**. It would be fantastic if you are able to come along.

The theme for this assembly will be Transport, which was decided at the assembly in January as one of the priority issues to address in Exeter. Transport is an issue that nearly everyone has an interest in. **So please book early to ensure you guarantee your place**. This assembly will hopefully develop new ideas and thinking about mobility which could involve local action, engaging with local authorities, and / or negotiation for changes to national policies or initiatives.

Book your place [by following this link](#).

The Community Assembly is a new way for communities to get together and listen to

There will be free refreshments, children are very welcome. The room is wheelchair accessible, and let us know if you will need any support to make the assembly accessible for you, e.g., British Sign Language signer.

The assembly is being organised by a group of local volunteers called the Exeter Humanity Project. The Humanity Project is a nationwide network supporting communities to create a series of self-organised and facilitated community conversations across the UK. We are helping create assemblies in over 50 communities across the country.

We look forward to seeing you on **Sunday 4th August 2024 from 2.00pm – 5.00pm at The Beacon Community Centre, Beacon Lane, EX4 8LZ.**

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

GIFT tots

GIFT tots will not meet throughout June, July and August. Our next session will be on **Friday 13 September** in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. If you and your little one(s) would like to join us please register using the link below.

[GIFT Tots Registration Form](#)

GIFT families and youth

GIFT is for primary and secondary aged families and supports them to live and grow as Catholics. It enables parents to prepare their children to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Register for GIFT and GIFT Youth:

[GIFT Registration Form.](#) [GIFT Youth Registration Form](#)

GIFT youth socials

We ask that parents of any young person wishing to come to GIFT Youth socials have registered them before they attend. Please use the link above. This helps ensure everyone's safety. If you've signed up for GIFT Youth, details of the next session will be sent to you.

Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

Prayerfully Preparing for the Proclamation of Sunday's Gospel

Wednesdays 2.00 – 3.00pm via zoom. We meet to pray, read, meditate and reflect on the upcoming Sunday's Gospel. We are a friendly and inclusive group from different walks of life, and we'd be delighted if you joined us. A weekly commitment is not necessary. Contact Maria exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk if you would like to join or have further questions about how the session runs.

Baptism Preparation Course

Are you expecting a baby and/or wish to have your child baptised? We look forward to supporting you in preparation for this important sacrament and welcoming you

and your family into the community of the Church. Courses are over two consecutive Saturday mornings from 10.15-12.15 delivered via Zoom.

Forthcoming dates: **12 & 19 October 2024**. Godparents are especially welcome to attend the second Saturday session as the role of Godparents is explored. Click on the link at the end of this article to register. If you have any problems accessing this, contact Catherine in the parish office on 01392 274724 or exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk. We are now taking bookings for the October 2024 course. [Baptism Enquiry form](#)

The Call to Conversion

Explore how ordinary people in the Bible, just like you, were met by Jesus where they were and called to a better life through Him. The common theme in each story is the turning of all one's attention and energy towards an ever deeper, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Join us every fortnight on Monday morning after the 10.00am Mass until 12.15pm in the Lower Room at Sacred Heart. The next meeting will be after a summer break on **9 September**.

Going into hospital?

If you, or someone you know is going into hospital for any length of time and would like the Chaplaincy team to know, please let the parish office know.

Getting Married?

Congratulations. If you are hoping to marry at Blessed Sacrament Church or any other place, including abroad, we require at least six months' notice. Please contact the parish office to arrange an appointment to meet with the parish priest.

PRAYER & LITURGY

Pope's July Prayer Intention [The Pope Video](#)

With this month's prayer intention, Pope Francis invites us to pray for the pastoral care for the sick.

Pope Francis lifts up his prayer that the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick might become more and more a "visible sign of compassion and hope."

In his video message the **Pope** insists that Anointing of the Sick "is not a sacrament only for those who are at the point of death," but states that it "is one of the 'sacraments of healing,' of 'restoration,' that heals the spirit."

We commend to the Lord...

... Brendan de Sousa and Kath Franklin. Kath was a member of staff at St Nicholas School for many years. She was also an active member of Topsham parish and produced the parish newsletter. She will be known to many of you. Kath's funeral will be at 11am at Holy Cross Topsham on 14 August. Please keep them both in your prayers as we ask God to gather them into paradise and grant them eternal rest.

Worship Thursday

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in church each Thursday 6.00–7.00pm.
Come and spend time with the Lord, opening your heart to all he has for you.

Holy Rosary is prayed after Mass every first and third Wednesday. You would be most welcome to join us.

THE WORD

Sunday 28 July – Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

First Reading: Kings 4: 42-44

They will eat and have some left over.

Psalms Response: You open wide your hand, O Lord, and grant our desires.

Second Reading: Ephesians 4: 1- 6

One Body, one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

Gospel: John 6: 1-15

Jesus gave out as much as was wanted to all who were sitting ready.

Sunday 4 August – Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Exodus 16: 2-4. 12-15

I will rain down bread for you from the heavens.

Psalms Response: The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:17. 20-24

Put on the new self that has been created in God's way.

Gospel: John 6: 24-35

He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.

New Lectionary

The Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has confirmed the approval by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for the new Lectionary. The Lectionary, which includes the scripture readings for Mass and the sacraments, will come into use in Catholic parishes in England and Wales from Advent 2024.

Cardinal Arthur Roche, Prefect of the Dicastery, wrote to Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Bishops' Conference, confirming the new translation of the Lectionary, which has been done in collaboration with the Bishops' Conference of Scotland. He said: "The use of the English Standard Version – Catholic Edition, already in use in India, along with the Abbey Psalms and Canticles will help to ensure that the Word of the Lord reaches God's holy people without alloy.

The Lectionary was revised after the Second Vatican Council. Paragraph 51 of Second Vatican Council document *Sacrosanctum Concilium* said: "The treasures of the bible are to be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God's word."

CONTACT US

Blessed Sacrament Parish

29 Fore Street, Heavitree, Exeter EX1 2QJ
01392 274724

exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Priest *Fr Jonathan Stewart*

Priest in retirement *Fr John Watkins*

Parish Secretary *Catherine Odams*

Pastoral Assistant *Maria Quinn* exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Office *Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10.00am–4.00pm*

Gift Aid enquiries: exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish website blessedsacrament.org.uk

Parish Facebook [Facebook Catholic Exeter](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicExeter)

Safeguarding

If you have any concerns about a vulnerable child or adult, please contact the parish office on 01392 274724 or by email: exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

Lesley Hooper 07712 216724

Maria Edwards 07870 696530

St Nicholas School

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School, Ringswell Avenue, Exeter EX1 3EG
01392 445403

admin@stnics.uk

www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk

Executive Head Teacher *Cathy Blatchford*

Useful links

[Bishops' Conference Updates](#)

[Churches Together Devon News](#)

[Churches Together Exeter News](#)

[Churches Together England News](#)