

PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER
12 January 2025. *The Baptism of the Lord. Year C*



THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED

It may seem strange, but this is a Christmas Feast. Not if we think of Christmas only in terms of the Baby in Bethlehem, but if we have followed the ideas of the Feasts of Holy Family and especially Epiphany, and have seen the Season in terms of the growing manifestation or appearing of the Son of God: first to the shepherds and then to the wise men from the East. Now in the River Jordan, Jesus, Son of Mary, is revealed to all as the fullness of all God's promises: "This is my Son, the Beloved".

On this day we stand before the revelation of God's love for us, such that he would send his only Son into the world. Christmas without the Baptism of the Lord, and the words that are spoken from heaven, would be incomplete, since it is only in them that we fully see the wonder of what happened in Bethlehem. As we come to the end of Christmas today, and look forward to hearing the Gospels in Ordinary Time, we do so having been shown who it is we listen to: the only Son of God, the Beloved.

Diocese of Salford Office for Liturgy

MASS TIMES

Sunday 12 January – The Baptism of the Lord

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am *Private Intention*

6.00pm

Tuesday 14 January

No Mass

Wednesday 15 January

9.30am *Special Intention of Mr Sammon*

Followed by refreshments in St Richard Reynold Centre

Holy Rosary after Mass

Thursday 16 January

9.30am

6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 17 January – St Anthony, Abbot

No Mass

Saturday 18 January

9.30am

Followed by Confessions

Sunday 19 January – Second Sunday in Ordinary time

8.45am *Emma Bullous RIP*

10.45am *People of the Parish*

6.00pm

Tuesday 21 January – St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr

6.30pm

Wednesday 22 January

9.30am *Special Intention of Mr Sammon*

Thursday 23 January

9.30am

6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 24 January – St Francis de Sales Bishop & Doctor

6.30pm

Saturday 25 January – Conversion of St Paul, Feast

9.30am

Followed by Confessions

Sunday 26 January –Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am

10.45am

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

Liturgy of the Word for Children

During term time at 10.45am Mass on Sunday. For children aged 3 – School Year 3.

Please register as you arrive at church.

Do you feel called to help our young children hear the Word of God and grow to love it? Then please speak to one of the catechists or Fr Jonathan.

Confessions Saturdays after 9.30am Mass or by appointment.

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

NEWS & EVENTS

St Nicholas School News

Happy New Year to all parishioners from St Nicholas School!

Our yr 5 pupils are excited to be going on their trip to London next week to visit Parliament, the Tate Modern and to see Matilda. We now start planning for the Yr 3/4 trip to Sleep with the Sharks at Plymouth Aquarium.

We were delighted to have raised nearly £200 for CAFOD World Gifts before Christmas. Each class is currently deciding what to purchase with their allocation – they can buy bees, queen bees, vegetable gardens, firewood, worms and so much more. It is exciting to think that we are making a (small) difference to people's lives.

Admissions To find out more about joining our school from Nursery to Yr 6 please contact the school at admissions@stnics.uk.

Vocations Day of Reflection

Have you ever asked the question 'Is God calling me to Priesthood or to the Religious life?'. This 'Day of Reflection' for men will be held on **Saturday 1**

February from 10:00 to 16:00 at Exeter University Chaplaincy, Boniface House, Glenthorne Road, Exeter EX4 4QU.

The day will include Mass, a time of Adoration, a short conference, an opportunity for Confession and 'One to One talks' with serving Priests from our Diocese; and sharing food together (this will be provided – please let us know of special dietary requirements). Under 18s are welcome to attend with parents' permission. For more information and to register your interest please contact Fr Jacek Kostuch on jacek.kostuch@prcdtr.org.uk or vocation@prcdtr.org.uk

A Urafiki wish for Christmas 2024



Dear Urafiki supporters, many of you have been asking if we are having a Christmas appeal this year. We would like to raise money for mattresses and blankets for primary and secondary school students. Supporting a child's school fees is a wonderful gift – but if they can't get a good night's sleep, they can struggle to concentrate at school.

Many children live in extreme poverty. Food is scarce, and they sleep on the floor covered in rags. Blankets are shared with siblings and so they wear out quickly as a result of all the 'tugging', when children are trying to stay warm at night. The photos below show the conditions such a family live in.

A simple foam mattress and a blanket gives the prospect of a good night's sleep. Mattresses cost £15 each. Blankets cost £5 each. If you can help in any way, we would be most grateful, but no pressure. A direct payment to the Urafiki bank account avoids any charges and is preferable.

Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland **Account Name** URAFIKI **Account No** 10051307
Sort code: 161925

For more info please contact Imelda Wightman 01392 460041. [Urafiki website](#)



World Leprosy Day Sunday 26 January 2025

Please visit www.lepra.org.uk to read some real life stories of some of the beneficiaries whose lives have been changed through the work of this charity, or for further information contact lauricej@lepra.org.uk. Please help us beat leprosy-even the smallest contribution can help treat and rehabilitate people trapped by this disease. Please see [World Leprosy Day 2025 - YouTube](#) and the poster in the porch.

Christians Together across Exeter

Homelessness Sunday Service

This will take place on **Sunday 26th January at 4pm** – in St Petrock's church, with refreshments afterwards in St Petrock's Centre. All warmly welcome.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18–25 January 2025

United Prayer Invitation. **Tuesday 21st January 10.00–11.00am** Pray4Exeter
At the Rediscover Prayer Rooms, Providence Chapel, Northernhay Street, EX4 3ER.

Diocese of Plymouth Vacancies

Head of Safeguarding

We are recruiting a **Head of Safeguarding** based at St Boniface House, Ashburton.

To express your interest please contact recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk

Please also see the advertisement in the porch.

Closing date for applications: **20th January 2025**.

Property Administrator

"We are recruiting a **Property Administrator** based at St Boniface House,

Ashburton. To express your interest please contact recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk

Closing date for applications: **Monday 3 February 2025**.

Caritas Diocese of Plymouth – Cost of Living

Caritas Plymouth have developed a fact sheet to help people to access information about where to get help with the cost of living. They hope that it will provide some useful sources of free financial support and information. There is a copy in the porch.

[You can access the information by following this link.](#)

Caritas Newsletter

Click [here](#) to read the latest news about upcoming events and love in action around the diocese in the November Caritas newsletter. To subscribe [follow this link](#).

Keeping warm and well

There is information from Age UK about how to stay warm and well this winter.

Please visit www.ageuk.org.uk/winterprep or phone 0800 169 6565.

Please also see the leaflet in the church porch.

Diocesan Newsletter

Please sign up [here](#) to receive newsletters and Jubilee 2025 related content.

Diocesan Yearbook 2025

Copies of the 2025 Diocese of Plymouth Yearbook are available in the church porch.

Price £5.00. Please place money in wall box marked 'books'. Thank you.

Catholic Children's Society

Putting all children first especially at Christmas time. Please take time to visit the crib over the Christmas period. The collection will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society as it works across the Diocese spreading God's love and giving families hope in times of crisis. We continue to ask you for a combination of concern, prayer and action. **May God bless all our supporters and donors.**



A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more for a lively start to the Jubilee. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. **Saturday 18 Jan 10:30am-midday** online. All welcome. Register here for free: cafod.org.uk/jubilee

Diocese of Plymouth Residential Retreats – Lent 2025

Ignatian silent and individually guided retreats are available locally in the diocese for Lent 2025 for those who would like to step back from everyday life for a little while to review their journey in faith and make a little extra space and time for God.

Weekend Retreat (Fri – Sun) **March 7-9** (£160)

Extended Weekend Retreat (Fri - Tues) **March 7-11** (£280)

Midweek Retreat (Mon - Fri) **March 10-14** (£275)

6-day Retreat (Fri-Fri) **March 7-14** (£475)

Venue: St Rita's Centre Honiton, a well-appointed retreat house with comfortable ensuite accommodation situated in the Vale of Honiton.

Cost includes full board & lodging, but help is available for those who would like to go on retreat but have difficulties with the recommended donations.

For further details and bookings contact Plymouth Diocesan Ignatian Spirituality Group at diocesan-ignatian-retreats@prcdtr.org.uk or phone 01752 769164 or 07823 447637. Please also see the notice in the porch.

Guided Retreats at Buckfast Abbey 2025

These retreats offer spiritual nourishment and reflection. To book and for more information, please visit www.buckfast.org.uk/retreats, or see the poster in the porch for details including dates.

Catholic Bishops' Conference

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



Come and share a weekend of faith, formation and friendship at the annual Gather Conference. **Friday 28 – Sunday 30 March** at the Livermead Cliff Hotel, Torquay.

Professor David McLoughlin, theologian and lecturer will offer keynote presentations on the four great Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council: Dei Verbum, Sacrosanctum Concilium, Gaudium et Spes and Lumen Gentium.

Booking forms are available from the parish office or [download a copy by using this link](#). Please see the Facebook page [Gather Conference](#) or email plymouthgather@yahoo.com for more information.

Stay Awake 5 April 2025

A day conference for all the family including the celebration of Mass, Children's streams, Praise and Worship, inspiring speakers, Workshops and pizza! Venue: All Saints School in Weymouth. More details later! **All welcome!** Please save the date!

13–17-year-old Residential

East Shallowford Farm, Dartmoor **24 – 26 January 2025**.

Come and join other 13 -17-year-olds from across the diocese to explore the scripture Job 12:7-10. There will be workshops for you to join including: photography; music; art and filming. East Shallowford is a working farm giving you a chance to meet the animals and feed them. £50 for the weekend.

Contact Saskia Hogbin for further information; youth@prcdtr.org.uk or [follow this link](#) to book. Please also see the poster in the porch.

You Can Help Your Marriage –

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped because it only makes it worse?

Retrouvaille has helped 10s of 1000s of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about the next programme which will be presented on Zoom ... *27 February to 2 March 2025* . Email: info@retrouvaille.org.uk Call or text 0788 7296983 or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Catholic South West

Catholic South West is a monthly newspaper for Catholics in the Plymouth, Clifton and Portsmouth Dioceses. Copies are in the porch. Please put your money in the wall box marked "newspapers" (50p)

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

Forming in Faith

Join us in this new year as we explore the richness of the Vatican II documents through video and discussion. We begin with Dei Verbum (The Word of God)

Monday 13 January 10.30-12.00 in the Lower Room, Sacred Heart. All welcome.

Baptism Preparation Courses 2025

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: **15 & 22 February 2025** Godparents are especially welcome to attend the course as the role of Godparents is explored. Click on this link at the end of this article to register. If you have any problem accessing this, contact Catherine in the parish office at Exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk or 01392 274724.

Click the [Baptism Enquiry form](#) to register for the February Course.

Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) News

GIFT Sacrament Families

We congratulate the Ngotho and Lynde families whose children have recently received Holy Communion for the first time. We continue to pray for the Ajayi, FitzPatrick, Jones and Peri families as prepare their children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

GIFT tots

Our next session will be on **Friday 24 January** in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. If you and your little one(s) would like to join us please register using this link: [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.

Next GIFT session at St Nicholas School: **Saturday 1 February 2025**

Register for GIFT and GIFT Youth at the links below:

[GIFT Registration Form](#)

[GIFT Youth Registration Form](#)

GIFT youth: Sacrament of Confirmation

Growing in faith, attending GIFT Youth sessions and participating in Sunday Mass are all key elements of a deepening faith. If you are interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, please get in touch with the parish office.

GIFT youth socials

Please note Parents of any young person wishing to come to GIFT Youth socials please register them before they attend by using 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

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. Contact Maria exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk if you would like to join us.

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 January Prayer Intention – Pilgrims of Hope.

“Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.”

Pope Francis.

[The Pope Video](#)

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 After morning Mass every first and third Wednesday each month.

THE WORD

Sunday 12 January – The Baptism of the Lord

First Reading Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 *Behold my servant, in whom my soul delights.*

Psalm Response The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Second Reading Acts 10:34-38 *God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit.*

Gospel Luke 3:15-15, 21-22

When Jesus had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened.

Sunday 19 January – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Isaiah 62:1-5 *The bridegroom rejoices over the bride.*

Psalm Response Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

The one and same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Gospel John 2:1-11 *This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee.*

Sunday 26 January – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

They read from the book of the Law, and gave the meaning.

Psalm Response Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27

You are the Body of Christ and individually members of it.

Gospel Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21 *Today this Scripture has been fulfilled.*

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*

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

Parish Secretary *Catherine Odams*

Parish Office *Open Tuesday – Friday 10.00am–4.00pm*

Gift Aid enquiries: Exeter-heavitree-giftaid@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish website blessedsacrament.org.uk

Parish Facebook [Catholic Exeter](#)

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

Maria Edwards 07870 696530

Catherine Odams 01392 274724

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

Head Teacher *Mr D Railston*

Useful links

[Bishops' Conference Updates](#)

[Churches Together Devon News](#)

[Churches Together Exeter News](#)

[Churches Together in England News](#)