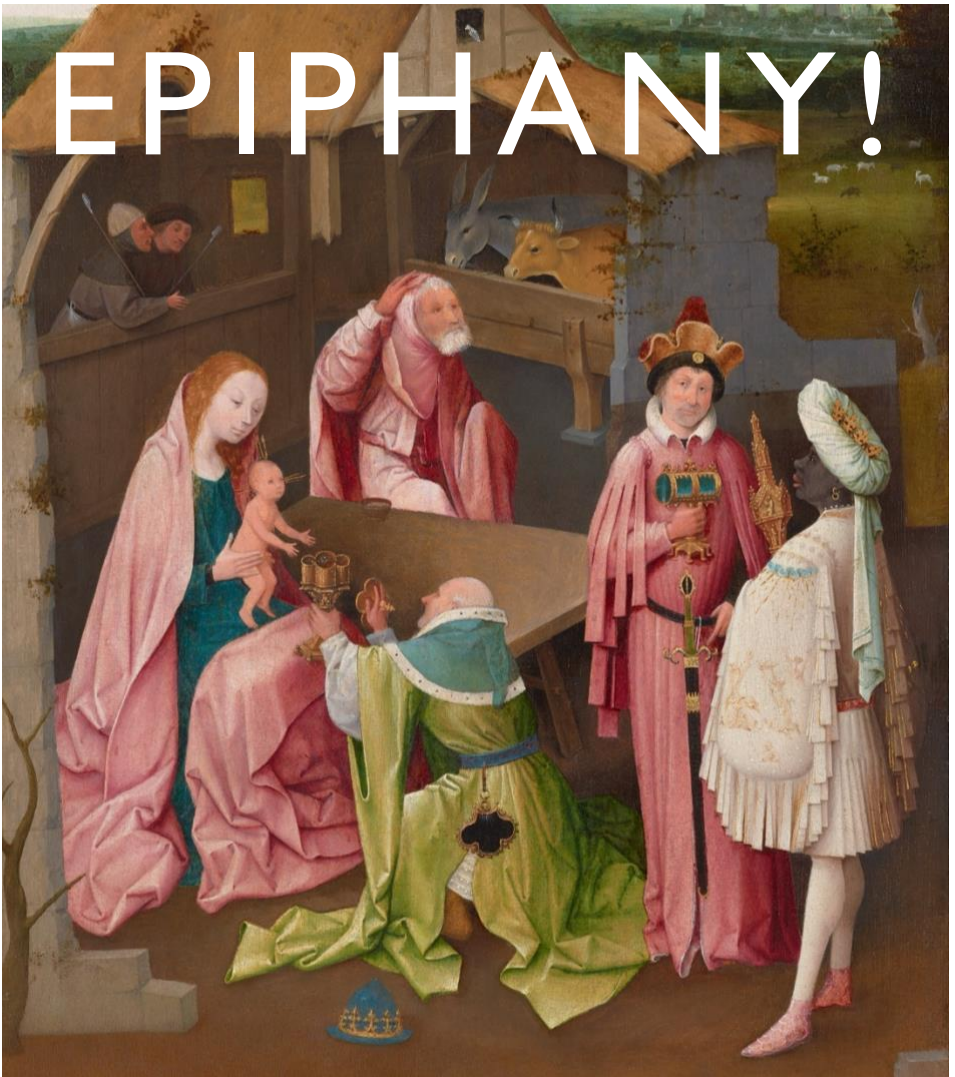


PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER
5 January 2025. *The Epiphany of the Lord. Year C. Psalter 1*

EPIPHANY!



In the East, this Season of Christmas is called the Time of Manifestation, or Showing. Today is the 'Feast of the Manifestation', or the Showing of the Saviour to all nations. In the wise men who travel from the East, we see all nations being welcomed at the New Temple of the New Covenant - the child in the manger. Remember that for the people of Israel this was to be their Messiah, come to restore their fortunes. By this feast, we proclaim God's plan was to extend his salvation to men and women of every nation, of every time and every place - including us. In many ways this is our Christmas Feast, when we celebrate the Good News of the Saviour's birth revealed at last to us. *Diocese of Salford Office for Liturgy*

MASS TIMES

Sunday 5 January – The Epiphany of the Lord

8.45am *Jack and Peggy Webber RIP*
10.45am *People of the Parish*
6.00pm *Olive Morgan RIP*

Tuesday 7 January

10.00am Funeral Mass John Woods RIP
No evening Mass

Wednesday 8 January

9.30am *David Bryant RIP and Family*

Thursday 9 January

9.30am
6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 10 January

6.30pm

Saturday 11 January

9.30am
Followed by Confessions

Sunday 12 January – The Baptism of the Lord

8.45am *People of the Parish*
10.45am *Private Intention*
6.00pm

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

Parishioners' Christmas Card Post-box.

There is a box in the porch for posting cards to parishioners only. Please post alphabetically by surname. Please check the box each time you come to Mass to collect the cards sent to you.

St Nicholas School News

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

We wish all parishioners a Happy Christmas and New Year!

Diocese of Plymouth – 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

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

A Pastoral Letter for The Feast of The Holy Family and the Opening of the Jubilee Year

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

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](#).

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.**

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

Guided Retreats at Buckfast Abbey 2025

Offering 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.

Gather 2025 Jubilate

A weekend of faith, formation and friendship, **Friday 28 – Sunday 30 March**, Livermead Cliff Hotel, Torquay. Booking forms are available from the parish office. Please see the Facebook page 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 the link](#) to book

Catholic Bishops' Conference

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

Catholic South West

Copies are in the porch. Please put your money in the wall box marked 'newspapers'.

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

GIFT News

There are a number of Blessed Sacrament GIFT families currently preparing their children for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Please keep the Ajayi, Fitzpatrick, Jones, Lynde, Ngotho and Peri families in your prayers.

Forming in Faith

We continue to journey through the Word on Fire series 'Priest, Prophet, King'. Discover Jesus as the Anointed One: the ultimate priest, prophet and king fore-shadowed throughout Scripture. All are welcome to our next fortnightly meeting on **Monday 13 January** from **10:30-12:00** at Sacred Heart Lower Room.

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 [here](#) to register for the February Course.

GIFT tots

Our next session will be on **Friday 10 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 11 January 2025**

Register for GIFT and GIFT Youth at the links below:

[GIFT Registration Form](#)

[GIFT Youth Registration Form](#)

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

We commend to the Lord...

John Woods and Margaret Cohen who have died. John's Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday 7 January at 10.00am. Please keep John and Margaret in your prayers as we ask God to bring them into paradise and grant them eternal rest.

Pope's December Prayer Intention – Pilgrims of Hope.

Let us pray that this Jubilee strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

[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 5 January – The Epiphany of the Lord

First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6. *The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

Psalm Response All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Second Reading Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6.

It has now been revealed that the Gentiles are fellow heirs of the promise.

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12. *We have come from the east to worship the king.*

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 baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened.

The Adoration of the Magi – Hieronymus Bosch c.1499



This gorgeous depiction of the visit of the Magi, the wise men from the East is one of my favourites. Unusually, three of the characters, Mary, Joseph and one of the Magi, possibly Melchior, are all clothed in rich pink. The colour lends the scene a quality of softness and gentleness.

Balthasar kneels in front of Jesus and offers his gift which the baby is clearly keen to get his hands on! The king has placed his crown on the ground in a gesture of deference to this newborn king.

Mary is the picture of serenity as she gently holds Jesus, not possessively, but almost offering him to these strange visitors, and the world.

Joseph is depicted as an older man. He scratches his head, confused at the wonders he is witnessing. He is also worried about how to care for this new family who are in danger from Herod's jealousy and power. Remember they will have to flee to Egypt.

The stable is only just standing, a depiction of the poverty of the birth of God's Son, but also an image of the falling away of the old order and the establishment of the new kingdom. The bare tree could be a symbol of the tree of the Cross.

The town in the background doesn't look much like Bethlehem; it's a depiction of a Northern European city, one with which the painter would have been more familiar.

Paintings such as these are full of rich symbolism and meaning. This enabled those who were lucky enough to see them, many of whom would have been illiterate, to meditate upon the image and come to a deeper understanding of the mysteries of God's loving plan of salvation. May it continue to help us today.

Fr Jonathan

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](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

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](#)