

# PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

2 March 2025. 8th week in Ordinary Time. Year C1. Psalter 4



We have many sayings about results being more important than promises, such as “the proof of the pudding is in the eating”. Today’s scripture readings are all about this – the ways in which our words and actions will reveal who we truly are. There is a wonderful mosaic of poetic wisdom in the readings this Sunday – images and parables and similes that can sit in our heads and hearts and make us think about the sort of people we are, and the words we use and the fruits we produce by them. And we should pray that we will always produce good, sound fruit, so that we may keep on working at the Lord’s work always, and so share in Christ’s victory over death itself. *Salford Office for Liturgy*

## MASS TIMES

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### **Sunday 2 March** – Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Day for the Unemployed

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am *Carmela Tortelli RIP*

6.00pm

### **Tuesday 4 March**

6.30pm *Private Intention*

### **Wednesday 5 March** – **Ash Wednesday**. Day of Fasting and Abstinence

9.30am *Pat Stewart RIP*

*Followed by refreshments in St Richard Reynold Centre. Holy Rosary after Mass*

7.00pm *People of the Parish*

### **Thursday 6 March**

12.30pm Funeral Mass – John Landers RIP

6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

### **Friday 7 March**

6.00pm Stations of the Cross

6.30pm *Private Intention*

### **Saturday 8 March** –

9.30am *Patrick Mason RIP*

### **Sunday 9 March** – First Sunday of Lent

8.45am

10.45am *People of the Parish*

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. If you feel called to help our young children hear the Word of God and grow to love it, please speak to one of the catechists.

**Confessions** Saturdays after 9.30am Mass or by appointment.

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

# NEWS & EVENTS

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## Statement from Bishop Philip Moger

Canon Paul Cummins, our Diocesan Administrator writes: As you will remember, back in November Bishop Philip issued a statement postponing his installation as the Bishop of Plymouth. He has now written a follow-up statement which reads:

*“At the beginning of November 2024, just before I was to begin my ministry in Plymouth, I let it be known that concerns of a personal nature had been raised, to which I had to attend immediately. This has taken longer than I anticipated. All things considered; I have come to the decision to present to the Holy Father a request to step down from my appointment as Bishop of the Diocese of Plymouth. The Holy Father has accepted my request. For the immediate future I will be taking a sabbatical: a time of prayer and personal reflection, the next stage on the journey of my ministry. I realise, with regret, that this leaves a continuing vacancy in the Diocese of Plymouth. I assure the lay faithful, clergy and religious of the Diocese of my good wishes and prayers and ask the same of them for me.”*

This news may come as a shock and a disappointment to you, as I am sure that like me you were looking forward to having a bishop in post. I expect that you may have some questions, but this statement from Bishop Philip is all the information that I have for you. Please continue to keep Bishop Philip in your prayers particularly at this time, and pray for those who will be a part of the selection process for our new bishop. Please also keep Pope Francis in your prayers as he struggles with ill health.

Thank you so much for all your support. Please continue to keep me, and our Diocese, in your prayers. *Canon Paul.*

## The Season of Lent

Lent is the annual penitential season when we prepare spiritually for the celebration of Easter. As Jesus spent 40 days in the desert facing and resisting temptation, so we enter this season facing up to the reality of our sinfulness and committing to change. We know we cannot do this alone, so we pray for the grace of the Holy Spirit to enable us to ask for forgiveness and open our hearts to the love and mercy of God.

### **Shrove Tuesday**

Traditionally named after the 'shriving' (forgiving) of the people. Mass will be celebrated at 6.30pm followed by pancakes in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. We will be burning last year's palms to make the ash for the next day. All welcome.

### **Ash Wednesday**

Mass with the distribution of ashes will be celebrated at 9.30am and 7.00pm. We hope that these times will enable as many of you as possible to celebrate Mass and begin this penitential season. As we mark our foreheads with ash, we show that we are prepared to accept our sinfulness and ask for God's forgiveness.

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence. Please try to fast from some food and abstain from eating red meat.

## We Dare to Hope – Sharing Faith in Lent

As part of the Jubilee Year, as Pilgrims of Hope, you are invited to join a faith sharing group to reflect on Hope and what it means to us as Christians. Themes for reflection will include Christian Hope, The Decision to Hope, The Prayer of Hope.

When: **5 Tuesdays in Lent: 11, 18, 25 March and 1, 8 April.**

What time: **Afternoons at 1.30-2.45pm. Evenings 7.15-8.30pm.**

Where: **St Richard Reynolds Centre.**

We will be using a resource prepared by the Archdiocese of Southwark. You can access the resource [by following this link](#). We look forward to seeing you there.

## Stations of the Cross in Lent

Join us on Fridays in Lent starting on **7 March at 6.00pm** as we follow Jesus on his final journey to the Cross. This moving devotion opens our hearts to understand more deeply the great sacrifice Jesus made for us and encourages us to follow his example of self-sacrificial love. Evening Mass will follow Stations each Friday.



Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development

## Lent Calendar emails

Our Lent emails offer daily prayers and reflections through your Lenten journey, alongside information about ways in which you and the wider CAFOD family can support our ongoing activities. Sign up [here](#).

## CAFOD Big Lent Walk

Challenge yourself and take on The CAFOD Big Lent Walk! Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends. Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty. [Sign up here](#).



## CAFOD Lent Lunch

The parish CAFOD group invite you to a Lenten Lunch on **Thursday 20 March 12.00 midday** in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. All welcome. Proceeds will be going to CAFOD's [Lenten Appeal](#), supporting families like Lokho's. Lokho and Wakera are pictured here.

## Force Spring Fayre with Breakfast

**8 March 11.00am** at the URC in aid of Force Cancer Charity. Breakfast offerings, raffles, tombolas, bric a brac, books, jewellery, jigsaws and lots of singing and games. Many of our parishioners are helping out and it would be lovely if as many of you as possible could come along and support us. Thank you, Jane and Gary (07890 37317)

## St Nicholas School News

We have begun the new term and are delighted to see a bit of sun and signs of Spring. The children are able to enjoy the school grounds and play outside. We continue to develop our outdoor provision and have exciting plans ahead! Our Yr 3/4 children are looking forward to their trip to Plymouth to 'Sleep with the Sharks'.

## We need Foundation Governors

We need committed Catholics to become foundation governors in our schools.

- We want the Diocese of Plymouth to have a community of outstanding schools in which our pupils flourish in safe, happy and stimulating environments, so they leave us with the knowledge and skills, personal qualities and aspirations, to make the world a better place, inspired by the Gospel.
- You could make a huge difference in our diocese. Your faith and encouragement could help the school community to develop their Catholic identity, keep our children and staff safe and help them in their commitment to the vision of Pope Francis who said, 'Only by changing education can we change the world.'
- A background in education or safeguarding would be desirable but no experience is totally necessary – your passion, faith and commitment is what is really needed as lots of friendly advice and training will be given.
- Inspired by our teacher, Jesus Christ, and his good news to the poor, we have a commitment especially to those who are disadvantaged. We are determined that a child's start in life need not determine their future. We are committed to the well-being of the earth, our common home, inspired by the example of Pope Francis: to live wisely, think deeply and love generously
- Truly consider if you can take on this vital role. Pray about it. If you feel you can help, please speak to your parish priest about the next steps on the journey.
- May the Lord reward your service and may you be blessed in the generosity of sharing your gifts.

If any parishioner would be interested in becoming a Foundation Governor at the school please contact Mrs Brocksom at [clark@stncls.uk](mailto:clark@stncls.uk)

## Lent Retreat Day Saturday 15 March at St Rita's Centre


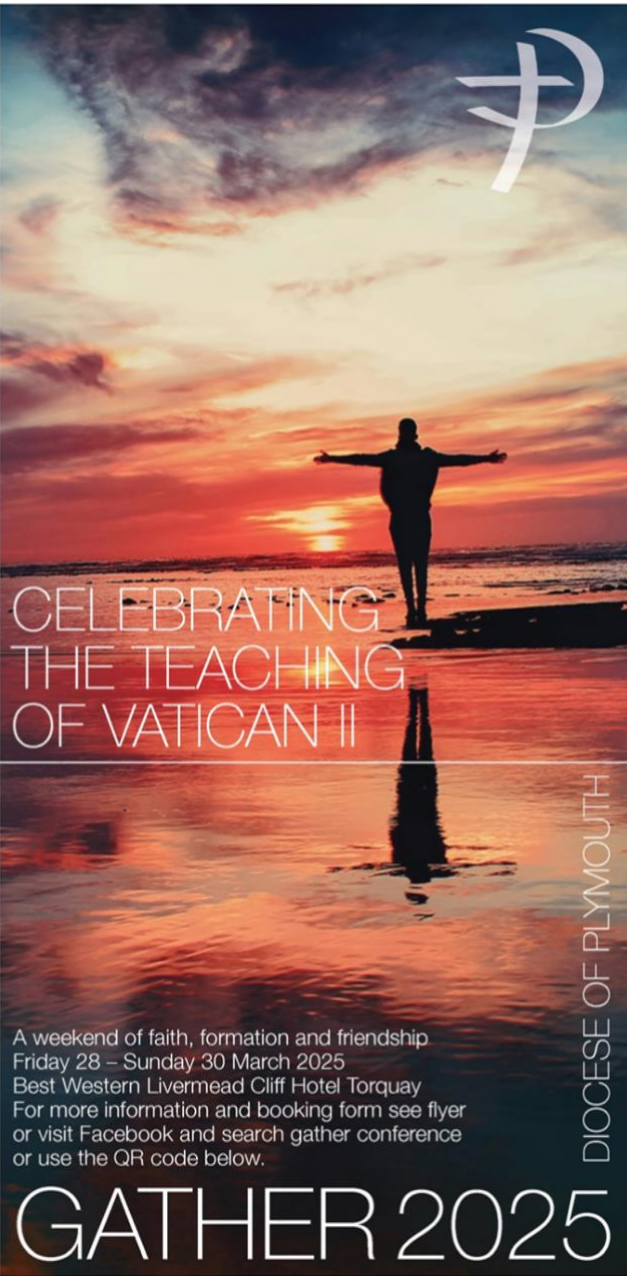
"Who am I? A tourist or a pilgrim?" by Fr Ignatius Paul Raj

The day will begin with coffee/tea on arrival at 9.30am. First talk will start at 10.00am, second talk will be at 11.00am. Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in silence will be at 12.00pm. Lunch will be served at 1.00pm, Mass at 2.45pm. There will be an opportunity for Confession. The charge for the day, including lunch, is just £25.00. Booking can be made by phone or email at [www.stritascentre.org](http://www.stritascentre.org). Payment can be made on the day.

## The Book of Revelation

In this Jubilee year where Pope Francis has asked us to be active "Pilgrims of Hope," renowned scripture scholar and author, Fr. Nicholas King SJ, will lead us to understand the Book of Revelation and how the Word of God is our power for Mission. This event will be held at Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre on **Saturday 15 March 10.00am–4.00pm** (Dart View Room 4). There will be an opportunity to attend the Abbey Mass at noon. Booking is essential through [plymouth-crownhill@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:plymouth-crownhill@prcdtr.org.uk) Enquiries: 01752 701660. We look forward to seeing you at this inspiring day.

# SUBILITATE



CELEBRATING  
THE TEACHING  
OF VATICAN II

A weekend of faith, formation and friendship  
Friday 28 – Sunday 30 March 2025  
Best Western Livermead Cliff Hotel Torquay  
For more information and booking form see flyer  
or visit Facebook and search gather conference  
or use the QR code below.

# GATHER 2025

DIocese OF PLYMOUTH

Places are still available for Day Delegates for the GATHER 2025 Conference. Please get in touch with the Livermead Cliff Hotel to book your place. Use the QR code to access the booking form and details of cost.

## World Day of Prayer

Friday 3 March 10.30am at Mint Methodist Church Fore St, Exeter EX4 3AT.

## Monthly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Buckfast Abbey

On **Monday 3rd March** will be the first monthly Adoration with Prayer in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Buckfast Abbey. This will be held after the 12.05pm Mass until 1.30pm. Afterwards, there is the opportunity to gather together in the Grange for lunch or drinks. Anyone is welcome to join us for all or part of this as commitments permit.

## Catholic Children's Society News

CCSP have produced a six-monthly Essential Grants Programme report detailing how many families they have helped, where in the Diocese, together with a breakdown of what items they have purchased. Most importantly there is some feedback they have received. There is a copy in the church porch.



## You can make a difference

To tie in with the Jubilee of Volunteering on Saturday, **8 and Sunday, 9 March 2025**, the CCSP is delighted that a number of parishes have stepped forward and now have a Parish Volunteer in place to help them with their fundraising.

There is a ladder of involvement and some parishes just want to **maintain and monitor** the supply of CCSP promotional material such as the twice yearly newsletters, whilst others want to help **promote** organised CCSP fundraising events such as the Annual Appeal, Crib appeal and the Great Big Diocesan Quiz and some are happy to get more involved by **organising** fundraising events of their own.

The CCSP Parish Volunteer pack has recently been updated and if you would like a copy to see what's involved, please ask in the parish office for a copy or you can email [here](#) ,or please call the office on **01364 645420**. And don't forget, a member of CCSP staff or one of their Trustees could visit your parish to make a short presentation on the role of the Parish Volunteer and how your parish could help the charity further.

## Diocese of Plymouth Newsletter

at [this link](#). Sign up here to receive newsletters and Jubilee 2025 related content.

## Parish Secretary Vacancy

The Diocese are recruiting a Parish Secretary for Holy Family Parish, Plymouth. 12 hours a week over 3 days. Closing date: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. To apply please contact [recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk) to obtain an application form and job description or see the advert in the porch.

## Caritas Diocese of Plymouth Newsletter

To read more about love in action around the diocese please [visit this link](#).

To subscribe to the Caritas newsletter please [follow this link](#).

There are some paper copies of the newsletter in the church porch, as well as a special Jubilee edition about the environment.

## Exeter Foodbank

Donations of priority items are especially needed: tins of meat, tins of vegetarian meals, sugar, squash, toiletries and tea bags (80s). There is a collection basket at the back of the church. Please email Mark at [info@exeterfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@exeterfoodbank.org.uk) to find out how you can help.

## World Day of Prayer Friday 7 March

This annual women-led, global, ecumenical service will be at St Stephen's church at 11am with refreshments from 10.30am. The theme this year is *I made you wonderful* from Psalm 139 and has been prepared by the women of the Cook Islands.

## GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

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### Forming in Faith

Join us as we explore the richness of the Vatican II documents through video and discussion. We will focus on Lumen Gentium on **Monday 10 March 10.30-12.00** in the Lower Room, Sacred Heart. All welcome.

### Baptism Preparation Courses 2025

Next Courses: **14 and 21 June 2025 and 11 and 18 October 2025, 10.10 am to 12.15pm.** Godparents are especially welcome to attend the course as their role is explored. If you have any problem accessing this, contact the parish office at [Exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:Exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk) or 01392 274724. Click [Baptism Enquiry form](#) to register.

### Grow In Faith Together (GIFT)

Join the team

We'd love you to help us; get in touch if you could offer one Saturday morning, a month to join the catechist teams or volunteer to serve refreshments.

### GIFT Sacrament Families

We continue to pray for the Chacko, Ajayi, FitzPatrick, Peri, Vingo, Wos, Specchia, Goldsmith, Adamik, Bisogno and DePaula families, as they prepare their children to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

### GIFT tots

Our next session will be on **Friday 14 March** 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: **Saturday 5 April 2025** at St Nicholas School. Register for GIFT and GIFT Youth at the links: [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](mailto: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

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### We commend to the Lord...

the soul of John **Landers** who has died. John's funeral is on **6 March** at 12.30pm. Please keep his family and all those who mourn his loss in your prayers. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

### We welcome into the life of the Church....

Ashton who was baptised on Saturday. May he grow in knowledge and love of the Lord and be richly blessed. Please keep him in your prayers.

## Worship Thursday

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in church each Thursday 6.00–7.00pm.

## Pope's February Prayer Intention – Pilgrims of Hope.

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life. Pope Francis – February 2025 [The Pope Video](#)

## THE WORD

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### Sunday 2 March – Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**First Reading** Sirach 27:4-7.

*Do not praise a man before you hear him reason.*

**Psalm Response** It is good to give thanks to you, O Lord.

**Second Reading** I Corinthians 15: 54-58

*He gives us the victory through Jesus Christ.*

**Gospel** Luke 6: 39-45 *Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.*

### Sunday 9 March – First Sunday of Lent

**First Reading** Deuteronomy 26: 4-10 *The confession of faith of the chosen people.*

**Psalm Response** Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.

**Second Reading** Romans 10: 8-13 *The confession of faith of believers in Christ.*

**Gospel** Luke 4:1-13. *Jesus was led by the Spirit in the wilderness and tempted by the devil.*



## A Prayer for Racial Justice

God of justice, in your wisdom you create all people in your image, without exception. Through your goodness, open our eyes to see the

dignity, beauty and worth of every human being. Open our minds to understand that all your children are brothers and sisters in the same human family. Open our eyes to repent of racist attitudes, behaviours and speech which demean others. Open our ears to hear the cries of those wounded by racial discrimination, and their passionate appeals for change. Strengthen our resolve to make amends for past injustices and to right the wrongs of history. And fill us with courage that we might seek to heal wounds, build bridges, forgive and be forgiven, and establish peace and equality for all in our communities. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# CONTACT US

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## Blessed Sacrament Parish

29 Fore Street, Heavitree, Exeter EX1 2QJ

01392 274724

[exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Exeter-heavitree-giftaid@prcdtr.org.uk)

Parish website [blessedsacrament.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@stnics.uk)

[www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk](http://www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk)

Head Teacher Mr D Railston