

PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

23 February 2025. 7th week in Ordinary Time. Year C1. Psalter 3



BE MERCIFUL

What is compassion? What is love? And how do we live them out in our own age? These are the questions that spring from the Gospel today. In many ways this is the hardest teaching Jesus offers us, because it goes against so much of what the "modern world" would have us believe. Look at the first reading: David and Saul are enemies, and Saul is suddenly in David's power. The logic of the modern world would say "Strike while you can." But David chooses another path. He is compassionate. We can all think of times when we were in a position to take revenge, score a victory over someone, take it out on them. Our measure of our faith is whether or not we were compassionate - especially with our enemies - as Jesus taught us.

Salford Office for Liturgy

MASS TIMES

Sunday 23 February – Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Tuesday 25 February – St Walburga, Virgin

6.30pm

Wednesday 26 February

9.30am *Mr Sammon RIP*

Followed by refreshments in St Richard Reynold Centre

Thursday 27 February

9.30am *Tim David RIP*
6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 28 February

6.30pm

Saturday 1 March – St David, Bishop. Patron Saint of Wales

9.30am

Sunday 2 March – Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Day for the Unemployed

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. 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

GATHER 2025

Last chance to book for the 2025 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.

Flyers including booking forms are available in the church porch or [download a copy by using this link](#). Please see the Facebook page [Gather Conference](#) or email plymouthgather@yahoo.com for more information.

Safeguarding our Children

We want everyone who comes to Mass at Blessed Sacrament to be safe at all times. The welcomers have been concerned that children are often unaccompanied when going to the toilet. Please ensure that a parent or an adult who has responsibility for the child accompanies them. Thank you for your vigilance and care.

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. We will meet on 5 Tuesdays in Lent: **11, 18, 25 March and 1, 8 April** in the St Richard Reynolds Centre at 7.15pm. All welcome.

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.

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 Vincent de Paul Society

Seeking help from any care sector employers –Sponsorship?

Someone in our community needs to transfer their certificate of sponsorship from a care provider in the north of England to Exeter where the family resides. The current hours of sponsorship are 20 hours per week. SVP are trying to facilitate a new position within a care residential setting that could take on this sponsorship. Once the hours are transferred, the person is willing to work more hours per week. If there are any care providers in our parishes that would like to chat informally to SVP about the sponsorship, please contact Peter or Imelda on pschranz5@gmail.com or Imelda on imelda.wightman@gmail.com

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 Enquiries: 01752 701660. We look forward to seeing you..

St Nicholas School News

If you wish to have a tour of the school or to find out more about joining our community, please email Mrs Brocksom, Senior Administrator, by emailing school@stnics.uk.

Catholic Women’s League

Calling all ladies. The Catholic Women’s League is urgently seeking new members. Our mantras are Charity Work and Loyalty and Caring with Love. This includes caring for and loyalty towards each other, as well as to others who need us. The more of us there are the more we can achieve, so please come to our next meeting of the Exeter Section on **Tuesday 25 February** in the Lower Room, Sacred Heart Church, South Street at 2.00pm. The business meeting will be short because Mr Keith Green is coming to give a talk about his career working for Customs and Excise and the Border Force.

Anyone interested including men are welcome to come to the talk.

Enquiries to Frances 01392 209542. email francesandedward@blueyonder.co.uk

Assisted Suicide Bill

What you can do to defeat the Leadbeater Bill

MPs voted for the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill to pass its Second Reading in November. This bill can still be defeated when MPs next vote at the end of April, but we need your help. To find out how to best lobby your MP on this issue, please attend a meeting by the SPUC South Devon branch on **Friday 28 February 7.00pm** at St Peter's Church, St Boniface Lane, Plymouth, PL5 3AX or on **Saturday 1 March at 10.30am** at St Joseph's RC Church Hall, 96 Queen St, Newton Abbot. TQ12 2ET. To book or for information contact:

Plymouth – Christine Hudson: chrishud78@gmail.com

Newton Abbot – Deborah van Kroonenburg:

deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk or newtonabbot@prcdtr.org.uk

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.

Diocese of Plymouth News

Newsletter can be found at [this link](#).

Please 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 days a week over 3 days. Closing date: Monday 3 March. To apply please contact recruitment@prcdtr to obtain an application form and job description or see the advert posted on the notice board in the church porch.

Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)

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.

Recycle your ink cartridges and help support CCSP. Please pop your used ink cartridges in the box situated in the Baptistry at Blessed Sacrament. Thank you.



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

Items that can be collected in the box include coins and bank notes, precious metals, medals and badges, costume jewellery, metals, watches, keys and locks, small antiques and collectibles. Thank you.



CAFOD Lent Calendar Emails

These 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](#).

The 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](#).

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 holy Sacrament in silence will be at 12.00pm. Lunch will be served at 1.00pm, Mass at 2.45pm and there will be an opportunity for Confession. The charge for the day, including lunch, is just £25.00. Booking can be made by phone, email www.stritascentre.org, or online here. Payment can be made on the day.

Saying Goodbye – Remembrance Service Exeter Cathedral 1 March 2025 12.30pm

For anyone who has either personally lost a baby at any stage of pregnancy, at birth, or in early years, or who has been affected by family members' or friends' loss. We have also extended the services, and gladly welcome anyone who is grieving the fact that they haven't had children. This may be due to circumstance, infertility, or for other reasons - but all are welcome. Babies and children are also invited to come with their families, as the Saying Goodbye service is truly a family event for all. Please see www.sayinggoodbye.org

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 to find out how you can help. More information about the Food Bank can be found at [this link](#).

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

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 24th February 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 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 tots

Our next session will be on **Friday 28 February** 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 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.

We celebrate with Toni Matawaran and his family as he made his First Holy Communion on Saturday.

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 1 March 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 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...

the souls of **Margaret Welsh** and **John Landers** who have died.

Margaret's Funeral Service will be on **26 February** at 12.00 midday.

John's Funeral Mass will be celebrated on **6 March** at 12.30pm.

Please keep their families and all those who mourn their loss in your prayers. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Worship Thursday

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

An hour of quiet reflection and prayer in the presence of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Prayer is accompanied by reflective music and a simple Benediction at the close. It is a very special time for those who come, and you would be most welcome to join us.

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

Sunday 23 February – Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading | Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23. *The Lord gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the Lord's anointed.*

Psalm Response The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

Second Reading | Corinthians 15:45-49. *Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.*

Gospel Luke 6:27-38. *Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.*

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 | 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.*

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*