

PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

9 February 2025. *5th week in Ordinary Time. Year C1. Psalter I*

THEY FOLLOWED HIM



We hear the call of another prophet this week – Isaiah. This introduces the Gospel, where we hear Jesus calling his first disciples to follow him. Notice that the initiative is Jesus': there is no application process or interview procedure! Notice also the way that Jesus calls his disciples in this account – not with words, but with a miracle that is also a parable. It is, in a way, a miraculous 'job description': if the disciple trusts completely in the one who calls, then the result will be truly amazing – a huge catch of men and women hungry for God. Simon's simple words "if you say so" give us an example of Christian discipleship: we should leave our own concerns behind, and simply follow the Lord with great trust.

MASS TIMES

Sunday 9 February – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am

6.00pm

Tuesday 11 February

No Mass

Wednesday 12 February

9.30am *In thanksgiving*

Followed by refreshments in St Richard Reynold Centre

Thursday 13 February

9.30am *Private Intention*

6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 14 February – St Cyril, Monk, and St Methodius, Bishop

6.30pm

Saturday 15 February

9.30am Funeral Mass of Mary Teresa Morgan RIP

No confessions today

Sunday 16 February – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Racial Justice Day

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

Vision into Action

The Parish Vision Team met again last week. We are charged with the responsibility of keeping the vision of our parish alive and supporting the community of faith.

One of the aims of our Parish Vision is that we are all 'welcomed, known and loved'. To this end we are working towards introducing a way of creating community by the creation of **Parish Evangelisation Cells**. These 'cells' will be made up of small groups of parishioners who will meet on a regular basis in one another's homes. They will support us spiritually and help nourish our faith, but most importantly be a place to which we can invite friends, family and others so that they may encounter God and become part of the faith community. More about this in the coming weeks.

We are also working towards creating a **Guide to Ministry** in the parish. This will include a list of the huge variety of ministries which are currently being exercised by a large number of people and an invitation to join them.

We are also looking forward to publishing a **Calendar of Events** for the year. This will enable us to know when things are taking place and to take part in the huge variety of events which take place during the year.

Currently the members of the Parish Vision Team are: Angela Bosley (Chair), Ellen Gill, Maria Quinn, Ann Wright, Nick Gill, Angela Folland, Sheila Hosker, Sreya Paul, Ola Godbeer and Fr Jonathan. Please keep us in your prayers.

Feast of St Josephine Bakhita 8 February

St Josephine Bakhita is the patron saint of victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. Josephine Margaret Bakhita was a Sudanese-Italian Canossian religious sister who lived in Italy for 45 years, after having been a slave in Sudan. In 2000 she was declared a saint.

On her Feast Day we are encouraged to pray for those affected by the crimes of modern slavery and human trafficking, and the people that volunteer and work to eradicate this crime. Modern Slavery is one of the social action themes for the Jubilee. To find out more about how you can respond, please visit [this website](#).

St Vincent de Paul Society

Seeking help from any care sector employers –Sponsorship?

The SVP team are aware that a person within our community needs to transfer their certificate of sponsorship from a care provider in the north of England to here in Exeter where the family resides. The current hours of sponsorship are 20 hours per week and the SVP team are trying to facilitate a new position within a care residential setting that could take on this person's 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 an SVP team member about the sponsorship, please contact one of us at the address below. Contact Peter on pschranz5@gmail.com or Imelda on imelda.wightman@gmail.com

Force Spring Fayre with Breakfast

On **8 March** there is a fundraising event at the URC church next door. This is in aid of Force Cancer Charity. It starts at 11.00am and will have lovely 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)

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.

Lost and Found

There is a gold coloured ring in the office which was recently found after a 10.45 Sunday Mass. Please contact the office if you think it may be yours.

St Nicholas School News

As Spring approaches, we are looking for volunteers to help us tidy and improve the school grounds. We are hoping to organise a 'ground force' day to do this, weather permitting! If any parishioners would be interested in coming in to do this or can offer any specific help please can you contact Mrs Brocksom, Senior Administrator by emailing school@stnics.uk. Once we have arranged the date we will then contact you and see if you are available. All help gratefully received!

Our Yr 2 children are excitedly looking forward to their Yr 2 sleepover in school. They will do a torchlight tour all around the building. In the past children have discovered many exciting things happening such as teddies working in the office, teddy bear parties and races, Gruffalos stealing the Head's glasses and bears sleeping in the library!

If you wish to have a tour of the school or to find out more about joining our community, please email Mrs Brocksom as above.

Young Adults Pilgrimage to Rome

Do you want to deepen your faith and engage more fully in your Catholic community? Come and encounter the breadth and depth of the Catholic Church with a Pilgrimage to Rome **28 July – 4 August 2025 for 20-35 year olds**. As well as Mass with Pope Francis, you will experience the vibrancy of the Church as you are surrounded by thousands of young pilgrims from around the world, glorifying God. You will then be able to share this unique experience by giving back to your community from the riches that God wills to give to you. For more information and to register your interest by **17 February**. [For more information follow this link.](#)

Catholic Chaplaincy at the University of Exeter :

Accommodation for 2025-2026 is now open – The Catholic Chaplaincy offers affordable accommodation from September to June each year for full-time second and third-year students. We have four single rooms available, each furnished with a bed, wardrobe, shelves, desk, chair, and desk lamp. Bathroom and shower facilities are shared. If you wish to apply, please email Maria M.G.Giannone@exeter.ac.uk or Mirtha exeter-university@prcdtr.org.uk , and we will send you an application pack. The deadline to submit your application is Monday 3 March.

Diocese of Plymouth newsletter

The latest newsletter can be found at [this link](#).

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

Caritas Love in Action

Ending Child Poverty

Child poverty levels have remained alarmingly high over the last decade. Caritas Plymouth supports the call from the Catholic Bishops' Conference (CBCEW) to lift the two-child benefit cap as one of the ways in which we can help thousands of children out of poverty. We invite people to join the CBCEW campaign by writing to your local MP. It will take just two minutes to follow the link below and make your voice heard to end the two-child benefit cap: [Take action on the two-child cap policy - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#). Please also see the poster in the porch.

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

Caritas Diocese of Plymouth latest 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.

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](#).

Keeping warm and well

There is also 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. There's also a leaflet in the church porch.

Catholic Social Teaching: an introduction

Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) is offering a new online course on Catholic Social Teaching (CST) for parishioners. The course will be spread over five one-hour Zoom sessions on each **Tuesdays in Spring 2025, from 12 noon to 1.00pm, on 4, 11, 18, 25 March, and 1 April.**

The course is aimed at parishioners who are not so familiar with CST or who would welcome a refresh. It will be grounded in the reality of CSAN members and their work on the front line of poverty and exclusion, with inputs from member organisations.

The course fee is £95, which includes a copy of Raymond Friel's book, *Catholic Social Teaching: an introduction for schools, parishes and charities*. Please let us have a postal address to send the book to before the course starts. To ensure you receive the book before the course starts, please register by **12 noon on Friday 14 February 2025**. [Please click here](#).

Catholic South West

A monthly newspaper for Catholics in the Plymouth, Clifton and Portsmouth dioceses. Copies are in the porch. Money in the wall box marked 'newspapers' (50p)

Catholic Children's Society Plymouth (CCSP) News

2024 was a wonderful year for the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) thanks to the generosity of all our loyal supporters, parishes, schools and grant funders. Our Annual Appeal, Crib appeal, Great Big Diocesan Quiz, orange box recycling scheme and ink cartridge recycling scheme all raised record breaking totals for our small children's charity.

Wills Week

To request more information about making a will, or to book an appointment to make a simple will with a member of the team from Tozers in one of their offices, please email enquiries@tozers.co.uk or call **01392 207020**. Please allow up to 5 working days for a response.

2025 Great Big Diocesan Quiz – Friday, 9 May 2025

Could one of the teams from your parish be crowned Overall Diocesan Champion 2025, the title which is currently held by 'The Only Ones' from St Peter & St Thomas More in Plymouth who scored 104 out of a possible 130 marks in our 2024 Great Big Diocesan Quiz?

Join our 50:50 club?

It costs £12 a year for entry into all twelve monthly draws and you can enter each draw more than once by increasing your subscription to £24 for two entries, £36 for three entries and so on. If your name is drawn out, we will post a cheque to you.

To start your Helping Hands membership, all you need to do is complete our application by visiting our website [here](#).

Thank you for everything you do to support the Catholic Children's Society based in the Diocese of Plymouth which covers all of Devon, Cornwall and parts of Dorset.

Diocese of Plymouth Yearbook 2025

There are some copies of the 2025 Yearbook available in the church porch at a cost of £5. Please put your payment in the wall box marked 'Books and papers'.

Bible Alive

There are four copies of this publication in the church porch, price £3.75. Please put your money in the box marked 'books and papers'.

Bible Alive is a great way to get to know the scriptures from the daily and Sunday liturgy. The daily reflections are accessible, informative and encouraging” Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster

UNBOUND

A practical guide to deliverance and true freedom in Christ.

In this Jubilee year where Pope Francis has asked us to be “Pilgrims of Hope” this day will offer practical guidance on the spiritual battle of life and how inner healing and deliverance can give us true freedom in Christ.

The day is being led by Sue Walsh the National Co-Ordinator of Unbound Prayer ministry UK. This event will be held at Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre on **Saturday 15 February 10.00am-3.00pm**. There will be an opportunity to go to Mass in the Abbey church at noon. Please book at plymouth-crownhill@prcdtr.org.uk Enquiries: 01752 701660. We look forward to seeing you.

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.

Diocese of Plymouth Invitation to Survivors

We have two survivor groups in the diocese that have now been running for over a year, which provide an opportunity for anyone with lived experience of abuse to

share their thoughts and ideas about survivor support work in our diocese. We are grateful to all those who so generously give of their time to attend these meetings.

The diocese would welcome the opportunity to hear from others who have a lived experience of abuse, so that we can involve them in the work we are doing to support survivors. If you would like to help us with this work, or you would like to find out more, please contact: Sophie Scagell (Survivor Support Caseworker) on 01364 645436 / sophie.scagell@prcdtr.org.uk

Stay Awake 5 April 2025

Bookings are open for Stay Awake 2025! Date **5th April**, Venue: All Saints School in Weymouth (Sunnyside Rd, Weymouth DT4 9BJ). For more information and to book for this exciting, all day Catholic Conference which caters for all ages (Mass, speakers, workshops and children's streams), [Please follow this link for more information](#)



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.

David spoke recently to the clergy of the diocese on these themes and his talks were very well received. He speaks with great knowledge and understanding but also with grace and humour. It should be a fascinating weekend.

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.

You Can Help Your Marriage

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

Christians Together Across Exeter

Exeter City Centre Chaplaincy is recruiting.

Contact exeterccchaplaincy@gmail.com for more info and see poster in the porch.

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

Who is the service 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. Whether the loss was recent or 80 years ago, everyone is welcome to attend. 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, vegetarian meals (tins), sugar, squash, toiletries and tea bags. 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](#).

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

Forming in Faith

Join us as we explore the richness of the Vatican II documents through video and discussion. We begin with Dei Verbum (The Word of God) **Monday 10 February 10.30-12.00** in the Lower Room, Sacred Heart. All welcome.

Baptism Preparation Courses 2025

Courses are over two consecutive Saturday mornings from 10.15-12.15 delivered via zoom. Next Course: **15 & 22 February 2025** 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 the [Baptism Enquiry form](#) to register for the February Course.

Grow In Faith Together (GIFT)

Did You Know...

that GIFT welcomed over 45 parents, 45 primary aged children and 20 youth to their February session, served by a cross-parish team of over 20 parishioners? Families, we'd love you to join us; register using the link below. Parishioners 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 Ajayi, FitzPatrick, Peri, Matawaran Vingo, Wos, Specchia, Goldsmith, Adamik, Bisogno and DePaula families as they prepare their children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

GIFT tots

Our next session will be on **Friday 14 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 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 **Pamela Coughlan, Mary Morgan and Margaret Welsh.**

Funeral Mass for Mary at Blessed Sacrament Church: Saturday 15 February 9.30am.

Funeral Mass for Pamela at Blessed Sacrament Church: Friday 21 February 11.30am.

Funeral service for Margaret at Blessed Sacrament Church: Wednesday 26 February 12.00 noon. May they all rest in peace in the kingdom of heaven.

A Funeral is an occasion when the Christian community gathers to pray for the soul of one who has died. All are welcome to attend. Praying for those who have died is one of the corporal acts of mercy, which we are all called to observe.

We welcome into the life of the Church...

Clara Clemente, who will be baptised on 15 February.

Rosary After morning Mass, every first and third Wednesday each month.

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.

Pope's February 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](#)

THE WORD

Sunday 9 February – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8. *Here I am! Send me.*

Psalm Response In the presence of the angels I praise you.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 11. *So we preach and so you believed.*

Gospel Luke 5:1-11. *They left everything and followed him.*

Sunday 16 February – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Jeremiah 17:5-8.

Cursed is the man who trusts in man; blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord.

Psalm Response Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15-12, 16-20.

If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile.

Gospel Luke 6:17, 20-26. *Blessed are you who are poor. Woe to you who are rich.*

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