

PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

30 March 2025. *Fourth Sunday of Lent. Year C. Psalter 4*



As today we hear the familiar parable of the Prodigal Son (or the Forgiving Father), the message is Reconciliation - the making new of relationships, the healing of past wrongs and the opening of ourselves to the "new creation". This is just as the Israelites opened themselves to the New Creation of the Promised Land, when under Joshua they ended their sojourn in the wilderness after forty years of hardship, and began to eat of the produce of the country. It is all God's work: it is God who calls us back, and God who welcomes us into the Promised Land of his mercy when we return. So today, let us think not so much of sin and offences, as the new creation God offers us, if we but turn back to him and embrace him as our Father.

Salford Office for Liturgy

MASS TIMES

Sunday 30 March – Fourth Sunday of Lent- Laetare Sunday

Clocks go forward one hour

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

Tuesday 1 April

6.30pm *Private Intention*

Wednesday 2 April –

9.30am *Jackie Coombes RIP*
Holy Rosary after Mass
Followed by refreshments in St Richard Reynold Centre.

Thursday 3 April

9.30am *Private Intention*
6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 4 April

6.00pm Stations of the Cross led by PACT
6.30pm *Mrs Sammon RIP*

Saturday 5 April

9.30am
5.00pm Syro-Malabar Rite Mass

Sunday 6 April – Fifth Sunday of Lent

8.45am *People of the Parish*
10.45am
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.

Confessions Saturdays after 9.30am Mass or by appointment.

Confessions during Lent

The Season of Lent is a time of personal reflection. It is a penitential season when we focus on what we need to change our lives. It is a wonderful time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, especially before the celebration of Easter.

To facilitate this, as well as the regular Confessions on Saturday mornings, there will be additional opportunities to receive the Sacrament:

Thursday 3 April 6.00-8.00pm

Tuesday 15 April 9 (Holy Week) 7.00-8.30pm

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

NEWS & EVENTS

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.

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: **Tuesdays in Lent: 1 and 8 April**

What time: **Afternoons: 1 April 11.15-12.30. 8 April 13.30-14.45.**

Evenings 7.15-8.30pm.

Where: **St Richard Reynolds Centre.**

We are 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 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.

CAFOD Big Lent Walk

Marlen Siegert, one of the members of the Blessed Sacrament CAFOD group, is taking part in the **Big Lent Walk** and is raising money for CAFOD. Please sponsor her at: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising//marlens-big-lent-walk>

It will mean so much to her to know that she has the support of fellow parishioners and friends. Good luck and thanks Marlen.

Bible Alive

There are 2 copies in the porch priced £3.00.

Catholic South West Newspaper

Catholic South West is a monthly newspaper for Catholics in the Plymouth, Clifton and Portsmouth Dioceses. Copies of the March edition are in the porch, priced 50p.

Please put your money for these publications in the box marked 'Books and newspapers'

Lenten Zoom talks 2025

Fr Mark Skelton invites you to join the Lent Zoom Course for 2025 and take the opportunity to hear and reflect on different aspects of our faith during the incredibly important Lenten journey.

The speakers are each reflecting on one of the Holy Father's signs of hope for this Jubilee Year. Each talk is a separate presentation and although you can, of course, come to all five; they are not linked, each speaker talks from their own perspective. The talks themselves will not begin until 7.00pm but the Zoom call will be open from 6.45pm. [Join the Zoom meeting here.](#)

3 April – Peace.

10 April – Jesus's Last Pilgrimage.

Men's Breakfast

We are intending to launch a Men's Breakfast group that will meet every three months. We will get together to share a full English or continental breakfast in a local hotel, with an after-breakfast faith related talk. This has run in the past and was very successful and popular. We are looking for someone who is able to take the bookings and contact venues and speakers. If you are reasonably good with event planning and handling bookings and would like to serve the parish community in this way, please contact Nick Gill on 07796686315 or email drnickgill@gmail.com. Thank you!

Family Film Night

Friday 11 April St Nicholas Primary School 5.30–7.30pm

Come along to watch Dreamwork's animation of Moses' life: The Prince of Egypt. Bring your snacks and beanbags; you can even wear your pj's. Don't forget your cuddly toy! 🧸 All children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult.

Word on Fire – The Mass

You are invited to watch a new six-part series from *Word on Fire*, in which Bishop Baron teaches on the Mass, with an online group, **Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm during Lent and Easter.**

Each one-hour session consists of a half hour film followed by prayer and reflection. For a link or for more information contact deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk



Easter Bonnet Parade

On Easter Day, at Blessed Sacrament at the end of the 10.45am Mass, we will have a traditional Easter Bonnet Parade.

The making and wearing of a specially decorated hat at Easter symbolises hope, joy, and new beginnings, and the promise of spiritual renewal and redemption.

Jane, Stephanie and Anne sported their hats at the recent Spring Fayre and look forward to young and old, male and female, joining them.



Parish Pilgrimage to Crediton

Everyone is invited to join a parish pilgrimage to St Boniface's Church, Crediton – one of the four pilgrimage sites in the diocese this Jubilee year. Saturday 26 April. You can choose to walk from Blessed Sacrament through the beautiful Devon countryside all the way to Crediton (c. 6 hrs); join halfway (c.2.5 hrs); or meet us at St Boniface

for Mass at 4.00pm.

For further information, please contact the parish office.



Hosanna

House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust (HCPT) Group 141

Parishioners may be aware of HCPT Group, who are a charity that organises annual pilgrimages to the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes for disadvantaged and/or disabled children. Group 141 serves East Devon.

Group 141 will be taking a group of children for a fun and safe week in Lourdes over Easter. They have kindly offered to take prayer intentions to place at the Grotto. Please place any intentions in an envelope and put them through the Presbytery letter box by 9 April. and they will be picked up by Chloe, one of the volunteer helpers, to take to Lourdes.

Diocese of Plymouth Vacancy

The Diocese of Plymouth currently has a vacancy for a Head of Caritas. Further information can be obtained by emailing recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk. Please also see the advert in the church porch.

Adoration with Prayer and Praise Buckfast Abbey

On Monday 7 April you are invited to join us for Adoration with Prayer and Praise in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Buckfast Abbey. This will be held after the 12.05 Mass until 13.30. During Adoration there will be praise, silent prayer, scripture reading and reflection and intercessory prayers. Afterwards, there is the opportunity to gather in the Grange for lunch or drinks. Anyone is welcome to join us for all or part of this as commitments permit.

Maria & Alan McCarthy – *Co-ordinators of Diocese of Plymouth Charismatic Diocesan Service of Communion*

Jubilee Year – Mass for Marriage 2025

Saturday May 31 12.00pm

The Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Boniface, Plymouth PL1 5HW. Marriage enriches us all, all are welcome. Let us know your anniversaries or intentions, or when your wedding will take place. For more information please contact

deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk

Diocese of Plymouth Newsletter...

The latest newsletter includes a Lenten video message from Canon Paul, stories of hope and a list of upcoming events. It can be found [on this link](#)

Diocesan Weekly Lenten Offerings

The Lenten offering for this week includes a reflection on the readings for the Fourth Sunday of Lent by Monsignor Robert Draper, and CAFOD's intercessory prayer.

[Find this week's Lenten Offering at this link](#)

You are invited to sign up [here](#) to receive our monthly diocesan newsletter and weekly Lenten reflections by Monsignor Robert Draper.

Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) Diocese of Plymouth

Caritas March Newsletter

Click [on this link](#) for news from Caritas about love in action around the diocese.

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

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

Caritas Jubilee Lent resources

The theme of the 2025 Jubilee year is "Pilgrims of Hope". This is a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. The Pope has chosen six social action themes for prayer and reflection during the Jubilee Year: care for creation, food poverty, modern slavery, managing debt, forgiveness and rest. Caritas Diocese of Plymouth has created a resource on these six themes. It can be used by individuals or parish groups to discuss one or more of the themes. Caritas Plymouth can also provide support to parishes wishing to explore any of these themes in greater details. [Jubilee Parish Resources](#)

Catholic Bishops of England and Wales

For the latest news please [click here](#)



Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)(CCCP)

The CCSP has once again teamed up with Tozers Solicitors who have a long history of being legal advisers to the Diocese of Plymouth and CCSP and will be holding another Wills Week during w/c 28 April 2025 following

the success of their inaugural event year.

Tozers have offices in Exeter, Newton Abbot and Teignmouth and they have kindly offered CCSP 10 appointments for parishioners to make a simple will to provide security for themselves, their loved ones, and the children of the future. They have suggested a small donation be made to CCSP and they will then waive their usual fee which is considerably more. They have suggested a donation of £300 and this payment would be made to Tozers during the appointment and then they will ensure the payment is sent to CCSP.

To request more information, or to book an appointment to make a simple will with a member of the team from Tozers, please email enquiries@tozers.co.uk or call 01392 207020. Appointments during Wills Week will be offered first come first served, although if you are unable to make w/c 28 April 2025, they can offer a little flexibility in their appointment schedule. Thank you.

St Nicholas School News

We have had Electric Vehicle charging points put in this week! This is from our participation in the NZ Pathfinder project for climate action. This is one of the actions towards meeting our responsibility to have a positive effect on our community and the world!!

Linked to this project is our desire to develop the outside of the school aligned to the commitment of the PTA. We are working on some great new developments including playground equipment, playground markings and a sensory / prayer area. If any parishioners are interested in being a Foundation Governor at St Nicholas please contact the Clerk to Governors - Mrs Brocksom by emailing clerk@stncls.uk.

Diocese of Plymouth Youth Events

Heatree 2025; May 23– 25.

This residential is open to young people **aged 10 – 12**. It is a great chance for young people to meet others from parishes across the Diocese. During the weekend we will explore the scripture John 14:23, whilst we try things like high ropes and raft making, games around the campfire, along with other activities (activities will be confirmed nearer the time). Cost £90 per person. To book: For further information please contact, Saskia: youth@prcdtr.org.uk

Proclaim, Sclerder Abbey, 2025; June 20 – 22

This residential is open to young adults aged 18+ Proclaim is running for the first time this year. It is a Christian gathering for young adults in the South West, featuring talks, workshops, testimonies, prayer and worship. People are encouraged to camp but there are opportunities to stay in the Abbey. A contribution of £60 for those camping. For further information please contact, Saskia: youth@prcdtr.org.uk

Please pray for our young people and youth ministry in our diocese.

Many people pray for our young people and youth ministry in our diocese. Please contact me if you would like me to keep you up to date with information and things to focus our prayers on. Please contact me, Saskia Hogbin at youth@prcdtr.org.uk

Assisted Suicide

The important vote for all MPs on the assisted suicide legislation, known as the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill*, is likely to take place on 25th April. The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to allow people to contact their Member of Parliament and it only takes a few moments to submit a message to ask an MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law. It can be accessed here:

<https://righttolife.org.uk/asvote>.

Right to Life is also distributing postcards to parishes for parishioners to send to their MPs on this subject.

You may also have received in the post a petition from the Care Not Killing organisation. Parishioners can also sign the petition online at

<https://carenotkilling.org.uk/petition/> and email their MP.

Care not Killing is supported by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales.

A range of further resources on opposing assisted suicide is available [on this link](#).

Hard Cases Don't Make Good Law

The Catholic Union is holding a [webinar](#) on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill on Thursday 3 April. Chaired by Baroness Hollins, President of the Catholic Union, it will give members and supporters the chance to unpick the Bill guided by three experts: Dr Matthew Doré; Dr Philip Howard and Professor Julian Hughes. Please register your interest on the above link. A Zoom link will then be shared with you in due course.



Stay Awake

Stay Awake is taking place for the seventh year on Saturday 5 April, 2025 from 10:00 – 19:00 at All Saints Church of England Academy, Weymouth. including Mass at 5.00pm,

followed by a time of fellowship over free pizza. Looking to go deeper with Jesus? Come along for some inspiring and thought-provoking talks, including kids' activities, praise and worship, workshops and the Sacrament of Reconciliation! This is an event for everyone and anyone. Tickets are free for those in Year 9 and under, £10.00 for those in Year 10 – 13, and only £12.50 for everyone else! Tickets available now,

online from www.stayawakejc.com/2025. NB: Make sure you book by 1 April, 2025, please! We look forward to welcoming you!

South Lawn Medical Practice Volunteer Vacancies

There is a copy of the Spring newsletter in the porch with news from the practice. In particular, it is looking for volunteer drivers to help transport patients to essential health appointments. If you have a few hours to spare and a desire to make a difference in your community, they would love to hear from you. Please contact Jackie on 01392 277409

Exeter Foodbank

Donations of priority items are especially needed: tins of meat, pasta/noodle snacks, squash, toothpaste, household cleaning products. 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.

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

Forming in Faith

Join us as Bishop Robert Barron from Word on Fire Ministry helps us to explore the life and teachings of St Thomas Aquinas on Monday 7th April from 10:30-12:00 in the Lower Room, Sacred Heart. All welcome.

Please note that we will not meet on Monday 21st April and Monday 5th May due to Bank Holidays. We will reconvene on Monday 19th May every fortnight until Monday 28th July to watch and discuss Bishop Robert Barron's Mass film series. Join us in the Lower Room, Sacred Heart from 10:30-12:00.

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.

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, Fitzpatrick, 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 11 April 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](#)

Mark 10 Mission

This website offers short children's liturgy videos for both under 8s and 8-12 year olds to help families engage with the Sunday Gospel. You can use this to help your children prepare for and engage with the Sunday Mass. Check out the [website here](#).

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 Social

Next social is on Friday 25 April 7.30–9.30pm in the St Richard Reynolds Centre.

GIFT Youth – SPREE Festival Weekend

Held at Westpoint Arena, SPREE is an exciting weekend festival for young people to build strong friendships and explore their Christian faith together. The festival is running from Friday 27 June–Sunday 29 June. Early bird tickets cost £80, and parishes have kindly offered to subsidise youth tickets by 50%.

Have a look at Spree's 60 second promotional video [here](#).

Please note all youth attending must register with GIFT youth. If you are interested in attending, please get in touch with Maria for more information: exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

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

Worship Thursday

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in church each Thursday 6.00–7.00pm.
Come and spend some time with the Lord in an atmosphere of prayer and peace.

Praying the Rosary

The Rosary is prayed at Blessed Sacrament Parish every first and third Wednesday after 9.30am Mass. All welcome.

Pope's March Prayer Intention – For families in crisis.

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Pope Francis – March 2025 [The Pope Video](#)

THE WORD

Sunday 30 March – Fourth Sunday of Lent. Laetare Sunday

First Reading Joshua 5:9a, 10-12.

The people of God entered the promised land and there kept the Passover

Psalm Response Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:17- 21. *God through Christ reconciled us to himself.*

Gospel Luke 15:1-3, 11-32. *Your brother was dead, and is alive.*

Sunday 30 March – Fifth Sunday of Lent

First Reading Isaiah 43:16-21 *Behold, I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my chosen people.*

Psalm Response What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad!

Second Reading Philippians 3:8-14. *For the sake of Christ I have suffered the loss of all things, becoming like him in his death.*

Gospel John 8:1-11. *Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.*

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

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01392 445403. admin@stnics.uk
www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk

Head Teacher Mr Damian Railston