

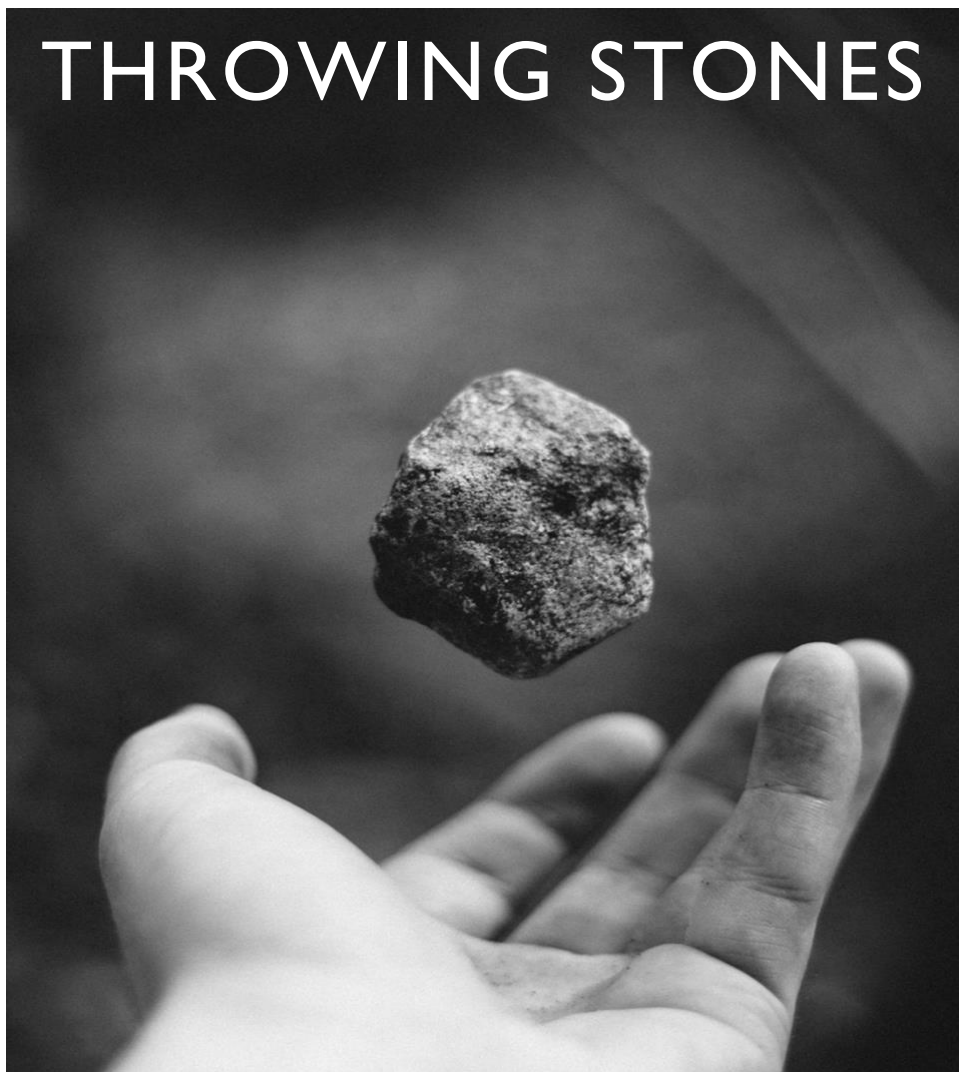
PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

6 April 2025. *Fifth Sunday of Lent. Year C. Psalter I*

THROWING STONES



MASS TIMES

Sunday 6 April – Fifth Sunday of Lent

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am

6.00pm

Tuesday 8 April

6.30pm *Private Intention*

Wednesday 9 April –

9.30am *Private Intention*

Followed by refreshments in St Richard Reynold Centre.

Thursday 10 April

9.30am *Private Intention*

6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 11 April

6.00pm Stations of the Cross

6.30pm

Saturday 12 April

9.30am

4.00pm Syro-Malabar Rite Mass

Sunday 13 April – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8.45am

10.45am *Michael Dorrian RIP*

1.00pm Syro-Malabar Rite Mass

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.

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 an additional opportunity to receive the Sacrament:

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

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

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

The celebrations of Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum, the three days of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection, are the most important and significant celebrations in the Church's year.

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday when we commemorate the Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The solemn reading of the Passion is the pinnacle of the Liturgy of the Word on this day. Palms are blessed and distributed.

On Maundy Thursday we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the commemoration of the Last Supper when Jesus gave himself as Body and Blood to his disciples and washed their feet as an example of service for them, and us, to follow.

On Good Friday the reading of the Passion and the Adoration of the Cross are the solemn acts which commemorate the Lord's suffering and death.

The Easter Vigil during the night on Holy Saturday is the culmination of these celebrations. The lighting of the Paschal Candle, the singing of the Exultet, the proclamation of the Word of God and the blessing of new water remind us of who we are as the People of God and the history of his loving care for us.

Although these celebrations take place on three different days, they are a single, continuous liturgy. Please consider attending all three if you can. The times of the celebrations are listed here:

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion 13 April

Mass and Blessing and Distribution of Palms

8.45am, 10.45am and 6.00pm

Tuesday 15 April

Mass at 6.30pm, followed by Adoration and Confessions

Wednesday 16 April

No Mass

12.00pm Chrism Mass at Plymouth Cathedral

Maundy Thursday 17 April

7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

followed by watching at the Altar of Repose

Good Friday 18 April

9.30am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer

followed by Confessions.

3.00pm The Lord's Passion

followed by Confessions.

Holy Saturday 19 April

9.30am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer

followed by Confessions

9.00pm The Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday 20 April
Mass at 8.45am and 10.45am
No evening Mass.

Divine Mercy Sunday 27 April
Confessions at 2.30pm
Service 3.00pm

NEWS & EVENTS

We Dare to Hope – Sharing Faith in Lent

Final meeting: Tuesdays 8 April at 1.30pm or 7.15pm. St Richard Reynolds Centre

Stations of the Cross in Lent

Friday at 6.00pm followed by evening Mass.

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.

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 in the box marked 'Books and newspapers'

Lenten Zoom talks 2025

Final talk: **10 April** – Jesus's Last Pilgrimage. . [Join the Zoom meeting here.](#)

The talk will not begin until 7.00pm but the Zoom call will be open from 6.45pm

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.

Hosanna 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.

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.

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.

Plymouth CAST Vacancy

There is a vacancy for a Headteacher at St Mary's Catholic Primary in Falmouth. The closing date for applications is the 22 April 2025. Please visit the Plymouth CAST website [by following this link](#) for details and recruitment pack.

Adoration with Prayer and Praise Buckfast Abbey

Monday 7 April Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Buckfast Abbey. After the 12.05 Mass. 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.

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](#)

Jubilee Year – Mass for Marriage 2025

Saturday 31 May 12.00pm

Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Boniface, Plymouth PL1 5HW. Marriage enriches us all. Let us know your anniversaries or intentions, or when your wedding will take place. For information contact deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk

Diocesan Weekly Lenten Offerings

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

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

Sign up [here](#) to receive our monthly diocesan newsletter.

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 [follow this link](#).

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 are looking forward to our Easter break, especially as it feels like Spring! In the spirit of love, caring, and kindness that are at the heart of our Catholic school values, we are launching a school food bank in our front reception. This special space is more than just a food bank – it's a testament to the strength and compassion of our school community. We believe that no family should ever go hungry.

We have held two lovely liturgies this week, the Supper of the Lord and the Way of the Cross, to lead the school towards Easter.

We are ending the week with a fundraiser, Break the Rules day, where children are allowed to pay to break the rules, such as eat their pudding first, wear bright socks or a hat or have wild hair. All funds will go towards the redevelopment of our school grounds.

For information about joining our school community, either in Nursery to Yr 6 OR as a Foundation Governor, please contact Mrs Brocksom by emailing admissions@stncls.uk. We will have spaces in our Nursery from September and can offer wrap around care from 7.45am to 6pm. Additional hours will be charged at only £5.50 per hour. Contact us for a tour and more information!

We wish all parishioners a happy Easter.

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

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has written a pastoral letter urging Catholics to contact their MPs – even if they have done so already – to oppose the Bill that seeks to legalise assisted suicide. The letter will be read in the parishes of Westminster archdiocese over the weekend of 5-6 April and can be read [at this link](#).

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. Access it [by following this link](#). You can also sign a petition from the Care Not Killing organization, online at [this link](#) and by emailing your MP. Care not Killing is supported by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales. A range of resources on opposing assisted suicide [at this link](#).

CAFOD Myanmar Earthquake Appeal

On Sunday 6 April, following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, there will be special collection for CAFOD, who is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal in church or you can donate online at [this link](#) or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10.

Celebrate the Jubilee at WeBelieve

Here is an exciting Summer event in beautiful St Mary's College, Oscott. Celebrate the Jubilee at WeBelieve, a festival of Catholic Life gathering the Church to share the hope that we have in Christ.

From 25th-28th July, join us for four days of music, keynotes, conversation & worship at St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham.

Featuring Dr Gianna Emanuela Molla (daughter of St Gianna Molla), Fr Paul Murray, Msgr Michael Nazir-Ali, AnMari, Fr Toby Lees & many more.

Early Bird Tickets available now at www.webeliefefestival.com

Exeter Foodbank

Donations of priority items are especially needed: vegetarian meals, pasta/noodle snacks, tinned vegetables, squash, small jars of coffee. 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 April Prayer Intention

For the use of the new technologies

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

Pope Francis-April 2025 [The Pope Video](#)

Christians Together Across Exeter CTaX

CTaX invite you to the: Good Friday United Service at 10.00am in Exeter Cathedral and afterwards on Cathedral Green. "To remember the crucifixion of Jesus and anticipate his resurrection." All Welcome.

THE WORD

Sunday 6 April – Fifth Sunday of Lent.

First Reading Isaiah 4:3, 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.

Sunday 13 March – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

First Reading Isaiah 50: 4-7 *I hid not my face from disgrace, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.*

Psalm Response My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Second Reading Philippians 2:6-11

He humbled himself, therefore God has highly exalted him.

Gospel Luke 22:14-23:56 The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ

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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Head Teacher Mr Damian Railston