

ParishNews



Blessed Sacrament Parish Heavitree Exeter
10 December 2017 *Second Sunday of Advent. Psalter Week 2*



THROUGHOUT THE FIRST THREE WEEKS OF ADVENT our focus is very clearly on the Second Coming of the Lord - not so much on the run up to Christmas (until the last week). If we view Advent as a preparation for Christmas these readings will make little sense - and neither will the figure of John the Baptist who appears today: if it's about the preparation for Christmas, then John the Baptist, preaching after Jesus was born, is a confusing figure: but his role is to preach to us, as he did of old, and to prepare us for the (second) coming of the Lord. Today we have a very graphic reference to the end of time and the Second Coming in the reading from Saint Peter; it is a frightening picture, and so the first reading offers tender words of comfort to help us understand who is coming, and why we should be ready to meet him.

As we prepare for Christmas and may be tempted to stock up on food for the holidays, we should perhaps pause and reflect on the issues of food poverty and food waste. In the UK, 1 in 5 people are estimated to be living in food poverty – not being able to access enough (nutritious) food. At the same time, in this country, we collectively throw away around 7 million tonnes of food per year. So perhaps instead of excessively buying Christmas food, we can try to focus on what we really need and donate non-perishable food to the Exeter Food Bank. Check

<https://exeter.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/> to find out where to drop off donations and what items are most needed. Another local organisations that we can support is Exeter Food Action (<http://exeterfoodaction.org.uk/>) that collects surplus food from shops and suppliers and redistributes it to local charities.

Extraordinary Ministers

Please approach the sanctuary when the bell rings as the celebrant drinks from the chalice. The servers will get into position to receive Holy Communion giving you space to come up. There is no need to wait at the step, just bow and come straight into position. Thank you.

Eucharistic Adoration

Mondays 9.30am at Blessed Sacrament.

Tuesdays 8.00–9.00pm at Mount St Mary Convent. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Convent on Tuesday evenings will finish this year on 19 December and resume on 2 January 2018.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

At 10.30am Mass on Sundays our young children are invited to go to the St Richard Reynolds Centre with their catechists.



NIGHTFEVER 2017

This year Nightfever will take place at the Sacred Heart church on Thursday 14 December beginning with Mass at 6.00pm. Please come along to help or just to soak up the atmosphere. Everyone is welcome.

SVP CHRISTMAS PARCELS

We are enormously grateful for all the generous food and money donations we have received to-date. With just over a week to go before the distribution of the food parcels we are not far off meeting our targets. We do remain a little short on coffee and sugar and one or two other items so if you are still looking to make a contribution, the chart at the back of the church will show where the need is greatest. Once again, thank you: your gifts will give those in need a much better Christmas.

Christmas Get Together

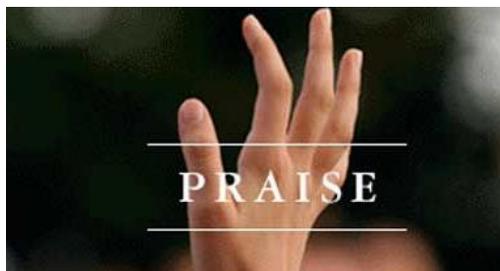
On Friday 15th December there will be a Christmas Afternoon Tea in the Richard Reynolds Centre at 2.00pm. Please bring your own scones, cake etc. - we can provide the tea and mulled wine! No cost for this afternoon of fun and chat! For more details call Jane on 07890 373617

Sisters' Christmas Cards

The Sisters have been busy making cards (religious Christmas and general). These cards are now for sale at the convent. All proceeds will go towards their orphanage in the Philippines. Please drop by the Convent to buy some

Diocesan Yearbook 2018

The new Diocesan Year book is now available in the church porch at a cost of **£4.00** each. It is a great source of diocesan information and news. Please put your payment in the wall box marked 'Books'.



Charismatic prayer group

Because of everyone's involvement with Nightfever the meeting on 14 December is cancelled. The group usually meets in the St Richard Reynolds Centre from 7.15 to 9.00pm on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be on Thursday 11 January. For more info call Chris and Sue Lee on 01392 432929.

Praise and Worship

The next Praise and Worship evening will be on 21 December instead of the 28 December: "Praising God takes many forms. Prayer is as diverse and different as we are. If you'd like to join us for an evening of charismatic praise and worship then come to the St Richard Reynolds Centre on Thursday 21 December at 7.15pm. Together we will allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us". If you would like more information contact Chris and Sue: 01392 432929



Please
remember
**Exeter
Foodbank**

at Christmas by donating listed food items into boxes found in local supermarkets – and perhaps a treat? On average about 100 Exeter children and adults each week need our help.

Refreshments after Mass

Served in the St Richard Reynolds Centre after the 10.30 Mass on Sunday and the 9.30 Mass on Wednesday mornings. Please join us for a cuppa and a chat.

Sick Parishioners

Please let a priest or the parish office know details of parishioners who would like a visit or Holy Communion at home or in hospital.

Mass in the Extraordinary Form

Today, Sunday 10 December 3.00pm at Blessed Sacrament church.

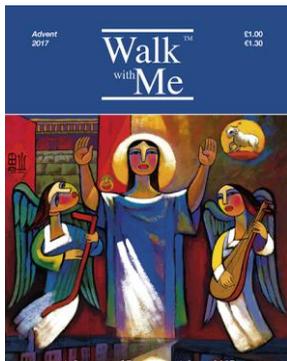
Our Catholic Schools

Do you support catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents new catholic schools from allowing all catholic pupils to attend. The prime minister has acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and had promised previously to abandon it. Now the government may decide to keep this discriminatory policy in place instead of removing it. We need you to tell the government not to discriminate against Catholics and to remove the admissions cap on new faith-based schools. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> to write to the government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new catholic schools.

ADVENT EVENTS

Advent Day of Recollection

At St Rita's Centre, Honiton with Rev Terry Enright entitled 'What are *You* Waiting For?' on Saturday 16 December 10.30am till 4.30pm. Refreshments and lunch provided at a cost of £25 per person. For further information contact St Rita's Promotions 01404 42635 stribas@btinternet.com



Walk with Me Advent Reflection

Booklets are still available in the church porch, £1 each. Please put money in box marked 'books'.

Opportunity for Reconciliation

Church of the Most Precious Blood, Sidmouth. All-Age Service Wednesday 13 December 6.30pm. Reconciliation Service Saturday 16 December 10.00am

Parish Advent Carol Service

Sunday 17 December at 3.00pm followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. All welcome.

Advent Holy Hour

Friday 15 December at 6.00pm in the church. Please come along.

Churches Together in Heavitree

Carols at St Loyes Ruins Monday 18 December at 6.00pm. Please come along.

Ministry at Christmas

Readers and Extraordinary ministers will find a sign up list in the porch for all Christmas Masses. Please indicate on this if you are available to read or help with the distribution of Holy Communion.



Pyramid Boxes

A huge thank you to

everyone who brought in their pyramid box. We made £ 544.19. Don't worry if you forgot your box this time, the next collection date will be in May.

Power to Be

Thank you to everyone who signed a Power to Be card. We received 303 cards. These will now be sent to CAFOD along with those from Sacred Heart and the Chaplaincy. They will join with cards from parishes across the country and be forwarded to the UK representative of the World Bank, calling on the Bank to fund renewable sources of electricity for the 1 in 6 people across the world who do not have access to power.

Carols at Tesco's

The Sacred Heart CAFOD group have arranged two evenings of music and carol singing at the main Tesco's supermarket 6.00– 8.00pm on Tuesday 12 December and Wednesday 20 December. Please support or join in with playing or singing.

Children's Society (Plymouth)

Some copies of Children First, the newsletter of the Catholic Children's Society, are available in the church porch. To receive the newsletter direct to your door or mailbox please contact our office on 01364 645420 or email ccs@prcdtr.org.uk or look on the Society's website www.ccsplymouth.org.uk. Or sign up for our newsletter here: <http://ccsplymouth.org.uk/contact-us/>

Exeter Cathedral Choir Concerts

Tickets for the two Exeter Cathedral Choir Christmas Concerts, at 7.00pm on 9 and 14 December, are now on sale. There is also a performance of Handel's Messiah at 2.30pm on Sunday 10 December. For more Details: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/news-events/whats-on/>

YMCA Carol Service



The YMCA invite you to join them for a lunchtime Christmas Carol Service. In 1931, at the request of the Bishop of

Exeter, the YMCA began running services in St Stephen's church on the High Street to save the building from closure. So they are back there this year and all are invited to join them on Thursday 14 December from 1.00 – 2.00pm for carols, readings and refreshments. All are very welcome



TRUE SURVIVOR

Beyond the Wild presents True Survivor: Hearing the Call 29-31 May 2018. Learn how to survive in the wild and discover how the fire of your faith can survive and flourish in our world. For young men aged 13-18. For more info email: info@beyondthewild.org or contact Fr Dylan James fatherdj@gmail.com and see poster in the church porch

Make Christmas Day Special

Could you help make Christmas day special for someone? Every year since 1989 the St Thomas Ecumenical Project have provided a lunch on Christmas day at the *AgeUK* premises in St Thomas for people in the Exeter area that would otherwise be on their own on Christmas day. We provide transport for our guests to and from the centre, a carol service, a Christmas lunch followed by tea, coffee and mince pies and a chance to be with others. If you would like to support us and are able to help us at *AgeUK* and / or with transporting guests either to and or from the *AgeUK* (pick up is usually between 10.45 and 11.30am and departure between 3.30 and 4.00pm) If you are able to help us please contact Trevor Olding on 07738 58 09 92 or email: trevorolding@blueyonder.co.uk. Thank you



RE:connect

At Buckfast Abbey – an exciting interactive experience for young people. RE:connect is an amazing thing to do – but very difficult to describe! Enter the Network to explore the interconnectivity of the world through hands on and thought provoking activities, exercises and reflections. Specially designed to help young people think more deeply about themselves and the world around them. £5.00 per person (leaders free) which includes RE:connect, RE:imagine (café style follow up session) and exhibitions. Saturday 13 January 2018 various time slots available. Please email education@buckfast.org.uk or call 01364 645517 to book.



Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

2-8 August 2018 led by Bishop Mark. Flying from Exeter. A time of prayer and relaxation. Cost £779. For further information and to book please see the information in church porch.

Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes

2-8 August 2018 also led by Bishop Mark. Flying from Exeter. Cost £495. For further information and to book please contact Fr Anthony O'Gorman tel: 01637 851697 or email: anthony.o'gorman@prcdtr.org.uk.



The World Meeting of Families

Will take place in Dublin from 21- 26 August 2018. Pope Francis intends to be present for the

last part of the gathering including the Final Mass on 26 August. This is a wonderful opportunity to attend a global Church event. For info see: www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/

Collection for church flowers

It is traditional that there are no flowers during Advent. We will start the flower arrangements again at Christmas when the Church will be decorated throughout, with a beautiful display. There will be a collection for Christmas flowers next Sunday 17 December at all Masses. If you wish to donate towards the flowers at any other time, there is a box for "Flowers" on the wall boxes.

Catholic Women's League

The monthly Mass for the work of the CWL will be celebrated at the Sacred Heart Church, South Street next Saturday 16 December at 10.00 am followed by coffee and cakes in the Lower Room.

St Nick's News

We had a wonderful morning on 6 December celebrating our 10th anniversary on the Ringswell Avenue site and also the feast day of St Nicholas. We were delighted that our Bishop Mark O'Toole, along with Fr Harry Doyle from Holy Cross church in Topsham and Fr Jonathan Stewart from Blessed Sacrament church in Heavitree, celebrated Mass for the whole school, staff, parents, governors old and new and parishioners. At the mass Bishop Mark commissioned a sculpture of St Nicholas for the school which will be unveiled at a later date. We also said our new St Nicholas school prayer for the first time which was written by the children. After the Mass we all celebrated with a very special cake. We were delighted to have so many friends celebrate this very special occasion with us and look forward to the next 10 years.

New Diocesan Trustees

The Trustees of the Diocese are responsible to the Charity Commission for the running of the Diocese as a registered Charity. Their invaluable work helps ensure that the mission of the church in the Diocese is carried out responsibly and smoothly. The Diocese is looking to recruit one or two new trustees with particular expertise in accountancy, corporate financial management or in Human Resources management (HR). If you would like to know more please contact: Mgr Robert Draper VG Moderator of the Curia St Boniface House, Ashburton TQ13 7JL robert.draper@prcdtr.org.uk

GATHER 2018



A residential weekend of faith, formation and friendship. Come and join catechists, parents, clergy and friends, and Bishop Mark, and strengthen your faith with other Catholics. 19–21 January 2018
Livermead Cliff

Hotel, Torquay. Cost £150 residential, £40 non-residential day rate. To book your place use the flyer provided or download from Facebook page Gather Conference. Early booking is essential. We hope to see you in Torquay in January.

Diocesan Job Vacancy

The diocese is looking to appoint two part time Safeguarding Administrators who will work with the Safeguarding Co-ordinator and other Safeguarding staff delivering effective measures to ensure that young and vulnerable people within the Diocese are kept safe. For more info about the roles please see the poster in the church porch or contact the Safeguarding Co-ordinator on 01364 645430. A copy of the job description etc. are obtainable from Jan Holton in the HR Department on 01364 645383 or email recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk Application form and covering letter to arrive by Tuesday 2 January 2018 and interviews will be on Thursday 11 January 2018 at St. Boniface House.

Bible Sunday

This Sunday 10 December is Bible Sunday when we pray for our openness to the Word so that we may hear God speaking to us today.

Filipino Mass

At Blessed Sacrament church on Saturday 23 December at 4.30pm.

Concert at Blessed Sacrament

The Clifton String Trio, with guest Jilly Spencer, will present a programme of music and words at Blessed Sacrament Church on Sunday 28 January 2018 at 3pm.

Please pray for...

Lauren Hoare and Mike Green who were recently married at Blessed Sacrament. We wish them every blessing as they begin life as husband and wife.

Pope's Intention for December

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generation.

The Pope Tweets... No child of God can be discarded in his eyes. He entrusts a mission to each one of us.

Christmas Mass times

December 24 Christmas Eve

Morning Masses at 9.00 and 10.30am
Christmas Vigil Mass at 6.00pm
Vigil of readings and carols at 11.30pm followed by Midnight Mass

December 25 Christmas Day

Masses at 9.00 and 10.30am

NB There will be no evening Mass

December 26 Feast of St Stephen

Mass at 9.30am. At this Mass our new altar servers will be enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen and receive their medals.

Diary Dates

Friday 15 December – Holy Hour 6pm

Sunday 31 December – Holy Hour 7pm

New Year's Day 1 January – Mass at 12.00noon followed by Cheese & Wine party in St Richard Reynolds Centre

Sunday 7 January – Epiphany Praise at 3.00pm in the church.

Masses

Sunday 10 December

2nd Sunday of Advent

Bible Sunday

9.00am *People of the Parish*

10.30am

6.00pm *Exeter Street Pastors*

Monday 11 December

7.30am Convent

Tuesday 12 December

7.00pm

Wednesday 13 December

St Lucy

9.30am

Sr Joseph's Diamond Jubilee

4.00pm RD&E Hospital

Thursday 14 December

St John of the Cross

9.30am

Friday 15 December

7.30am Convent

9.30am *Sr Patrick's Intention*

Saturday 16 December

9.30am

Dorothy & Albert Elson RIP

Sunday 17 December

2nd Sunday of Advent

Gaudete Sunday

9.00am

10.30am

Andre Raymond Mein RIP

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

Confessions

After 9.30am Mass
on Saturday morning
and by appointment.

The Word

This Sunday 10 Dec

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11

Psalm Response

*Let us see, O Lord, your
mercy and give us your
saving help.*

Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel *Mark 1:1-8*

Next Sunday 17 Dec

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11

Psalm Response

My soul rejoices in my God

Second Reading

Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel *John 1:6-8.19-28*

Welcome

We hope you have a happy and peaceful time with us here in Exeter. Please ask one of the Welcomers or contact the parish office if we can help in any way.

Thank you

Collection Sunday
3 December **£1,269.53**

Getting married?

Congratulations! Please give us at least six months' notice if you are planning to marry in the Church.

Newsletter

Deadline for newsletter items 4.00pm Wednesday.
By phone or email.

Contact us

Parish Priest

Fr Jonathan Stewart

Priest in retirement

Fr John Watkins

PARISH OFFICE

The Presbytery,
29 Fore Street, Heavitree
Exeter EX1 2QJ

Telephone

01392 274724

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

@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Office hours

Tuesday, Wednesday and
Thursday 10.00am-4.00pm

Parish Secretary

Lesley Hooper

Safeguarding Reps

Vince Clark &

Lesley Hooper

PARISH SCHOOL

St Nicholas Catholic

Primary School

Ringswell Avenue,
Exeter EX1 3EG

Telephone

01392 445403

Email admin@stnics.uk

Website

www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk

Head Teacher

Angela Folland

CONVENT

Mount St Mary Convent,

Wonford Road,
Exeter EX2 4PF

Telephone 01392 433301

*Blessed Sacrament Parish is
part of the Roman Catholic
Diocese of Plymouth.*