

Parish News



Blessed Sacrament Parish Heavitree Exeter
26 November 2017 Feast of Christ the King. Psalter Week 2



In the lead up to the Synod on Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment, Pope Francis said, "Every young person has something to say...something to say to priests, sisters, bishops and even the Pope." He is encouraging young people to turn to the Church and share their thoughts, cares and concerns. It is a chance for those in positions of influence to take advantage of the opportunity provided by this synod, to encourage young people to make their voice heard as we too believe they have something to say to their parish priests, to their chaplains, to the Church in general. By making the most of this conversation it will help the Church become better at accompanying young people in their vocational discernment.

YOUTH SUNDAY 2017

Today is National Youth Sunday when we pray for the young people in the Church locally and around the country.

The Church is often described as a family and like any family we have our challenges. One of the greatest is how to engage our young people with what we do, when we know very well they'd like to be doing something else! We need to find creative ways to approach and encourage them. We need to find ways of communicating which bring life and hope. And most importantly we need to look at ourselves and ask questions about the way we do things. It might mean we have to change and adapt, but if the family stays together then it's worth it.

At the 10.30am Mass today the young people who are preparing to receive the sacrament of confirmation will be enrolling as part of the preparation process. We pray that this experience will strengthen their faith and their commitment to following Jesus. We look forward to accompanying them in the coming weeks and months.

The children who will be preparing to receive **Holy Communion** for the first time will be starting their preparation soon. Please keep them all in your prayers.

Exeter's Young Catholic Community (16-21) is another tremendous grace in our city and parishes. Please keep this important initiative in your prayers and ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide them in all they do for one another and for our community. Their next gathering will be on Wednesday 6 December 7.00-8.30pm in St Richard Reynolds Centre and we'd love to see you there! Like our Facebook page to keep updated and if you'd like more info.

Erik Renz, our parish youth worker, will be supporting the younger members of the community (11-15). We are planning the first meeting for the beginning of February. He needs our prayers.



One way of showing solidarity with the poor is for us to support campaigns and political action that focus on the needs of those experiencing poverty – whether they live close to home or in other parts of the world. Today, we have the opportunity to help address the problem of 'energy poverty' in different parts of the world. By signing a '**Power to be**' campaign card, we speak up for safe, reliable, affordable and renewable energy to help families around the world to lift themselves out of poverty. On Saturday, 2 December at 10.00am we will hold the next *livesimply* meeting in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. This will be an opportunity to learn more about issues relating to poverty and inequality and to gather ideas on what we as a parish community can do to demonstrate that we are 'living in solidarity with the poor'. Seasonal refreshments will be provided! All welcome! If you are not able to attend the meeting, but would like to find out more or get involved with *livesimply*, please contact Kathrin at: kathrin_forstner@hotmail.com

First Holy Communion

Registration meeting **Wednesday**

29 November at 6.30 pm at St Nicholas School EX1 3EG. NB Children do not need to attend this meeting. Please bring a copy of your child's certificate of baptism, your contact details and £8.00 (*which funds the book we will be using for preparation*). It is essential you attend this meeting as it will not be possible to join the preparation process part way through.

GATHER 2018

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.

NIGHTFEVER 2017

A meeting to discuss arrangements for this year's Nightfever will be on Tuesday 28 November at 7.30 pm within the Blessed Sacrament Church, following 7.00 pm Mass. Please try to attend if you would like to volunteer your help. This year Nightfever will take place at the Sacred Heart church on Thursday 14 December.

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

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.

St Nicks News

Feast of St Nicholas 6 December

We are busy making plans for our 10th anniversary on our Ringswell Avenue site. Bishop Mark will be coming to celebrate Mass with the school community at 9.15am on Wednesday 6 December. Parishioners are welcome to join us. Please let Ali know if you wish to come: email paslt@stnics.uk or by calling 01392 445403 ext. 222.

St Nicholas Christmas Fayre

Friday 1st December 2017 5.30–8.00pm.
Please come and join us for a fun and festive evening where you can enjoy one of our 'proper hot dogs' and a glass of fizz or warming mulled wine while being entertained by St. Peter's Jazz Band and our very own St. Nicholas Choir. There will be our popular Christmas Raffle, stalls, and activities for the children - and Father Christmas himself will be resident in his Grotto. Entry is only £1 per adult (children free). Everyone welcome!

Sisters' Christmas Cards

The Sisters have been busy making cards (religious Christmas and general) with the used cards which you donated. 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

SVP CHRISTMAS PARCELS

Pope Francis: "A life that is poor in charity is devoid of true light"

Every Christmas the St Vincent de Paul Society donates food parcels to the residents of homeless shelters in Exeter at Gabriel House, Howell Road, Bethany House, Esther House and St Petrocks. Staff at the shelters tell us that this gift makes a big difference at this time of the year which can be particularly difficult. Last year we were able to deliver more than 160 parcels and this was made possible only through the generous donations of food by parishioners and by the pupils of St Nicholas School. We are looking to deliver at least that number this year. A box is available at the back of the church to collect your food donations and you have until 10 December to contribute any of the items on the list. Please take a copy of the list and add a few items to your weekly shop to donate. Please only donate 'in date' and unopened items. If you wish to give money please consider 'gift aid' which gains an extra 25% from the government if possible. Further information about the progress of our appeal will be made over the coming weeks. For more information please contact Amie Dunphy on 07795 461528.

Catholic Women's League

The next meeting will be held on Monday 4 December at 2.00pm at Mount St Mary Centre, Wonford Road. Please bring items for the Apostleship of the Sea and your £5 deposit for the Epiphany Lunch. See you there.

Visit to the Diocese of Plymouth by Cardinal Vincent Nichols

To mark the 440th anniversary of the martyrdom of St Cuthbert Mayne, Cardinal Nichols will preach at First Vespers in Plymouth Cathedral at 6.00pm on Tuesday 28 November. He will then celebrate Mass at 12.30pm at Buckfast Abbey on Wednesday 29 November. All welcome.

Thursday Lunch Club

Please give Di Bish a call on 07940 142124 if you could offer some time to help. Everyone is very welcome to join us on November 30 at 10.30am at Mass which will be offered for the deceased and sick members of our club. After Mass, for members, there will be the AGM, followed by a buffet lunch.

Eucharistic Adoration

Mondays 9.30am at Blessed Sacrament.

Tuesdays 8.00–9.00pm at Mount St Mary Convent. All welcome.

Monday 4 Dec Adoration with Taizé chants in the Lady Chapel, Sacred Heart from 7.00-8.00 pm. Singers/musicians/any instruments very welcome. Practice in Church from 6.30 pm.

Charismatic prayer group

Meets in the St Richard Reynolds Centre - 7.15 to 9.00pm on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be on 14 December. All welcome. For more info call Chris and Sue Lee on 01392 432929.

Please pray for...

Christopher McDonagh who has died. A funeral Mass for the repose of his soul will be celebrated at Blessed Sacrament Church on Friday 1 December at 10.30am. May he rest in peace.

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.

ADVENT EVENTS

Advent Crib Blessing

Next Sunday, 3 December, is the first Sunday of Advent. You are invited to bring from home your crib, or a couple of crib figures, to be blessed during Mass.

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 stritas@btinternet.com Booking forms also available in the church porch.

Advent Penitential Service

The Advent Penitential Service for all the Exeter parishes will be held at the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday 6 December at 7.00pm when there will be several priests available to hear confessions

Cafod Advent Mass

Sacred Heart Church Saturday 9 December at 5.30 pm in celebration of the work of Cafod. There will be music and singing at the Mass. All are welcome.

Meaningful Advent Calendar

Looking for an Advent calendar with more meaning? 'The Real Advent Calendar' has been produced which contains Fairtrade chocolate. They can be bought at some supermarkets and from Traidcraft.

Walk With Me Advent Reflection

Booklets are available in the church porch, £1 each. Please put money in box marked 'books'. There are also Advent Calendars for those children who will not receive one at St Nicholas school.

Exeter Bach Society Concert

Christmas Baroque on Saturday at 7.00pm 2 December at Southernhay United Reformed Church.

Our Catholic Schools

Important Message from Bishop Mark

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? If the answer is 'Yes' 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 Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to do a u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Please visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools. Thank you for your cooperation. *Bishop Mark O'Toole.*

Buckfast Quiet Day

'How to be peacemakers, not only at Christmas'. The final of Fr Christopher's series of Quiet days in 2017. Saturday 2 December in the Violet Evelyn Hall at the Southgate Retreat Centre. Refreshments at 10.00am. Day ends at 3.00pm. Mass will be celebrated as part of the day and there will be an opportunity for quiet prayer, group discussions and confession. The cost is £15 to include refreshments and a light lunch.

Diocesan Yearbook 2018

These are now available in the church porch at a cost of £4.00. Please put money in wall box marked 'books'.

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.

Exeter Foodbank

Please also remember EFB at Christmas by donating listed food items into boxes found in local supermarkets. Perhaps also a treat? On average about 100 Exeter children and adults each week need our help. Thank you.

Carols at Tesco's

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

Exeter University singers

Join them for a Christmas Concert at Sacred Heart church on Friday 8 December at 7.30pm. They will sing a huge range of music in a mix of secular and liturgical pieces. A chance to relax, reflect or experience the true Christmas spirit. Refreshments will be served during an intermission.

Vacancy – Head Teachers

Plymouth Cast are seeking to appoint experienced, inspirational and dynamic Head teachers at: - St Mary's Axminster / St Mary's Swanage / St Augustine's Weymouth and St Margaret Clitherow, Brixham. To request an application form, please email admin@plymouthcast.org.uk. Closing date: 4pm on Monday 27 November Shortlisting Date: Tuesday 28 November Interview Date: 5 or 6 December. See poster in porch for more information.

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

RE:connect

At Buckfast Abbey – an exciting interactive experience for young people. We are extending our innovative project for secondary schools to parish youth groups. 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.
[see <http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/>](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/)

Sick Parishioners

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

POWER TO BE

God has given us a beautiful common home. The riches of the earth, when harnessed in the right way, have the power to change lives for good by providing clean renewable sources of energy. But one in six people live without electricity. Having access to electricity means that children can study after dark, nurses can keep vaccines cold, farmers can irrigate crops, and people can drink purified water. Today we will be asking for your support for the Power to Be campaign. The campaign calls on the UK representative of the World Bank to use her influence to ensure the Bank invests in providing safe, reliable, affordable and renewable energy for poor communities. By simply signing a campaign card we can enable children everywhere to reach their full potential.

Exeter Street Pastors

Pope Francis said "*I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets....*"

Exeter Street Pastors don't usually get bruised or hurt, but occasionally get dirty while looking after people on the streets of Exeter at night. Can you spare one night a month (till 3am), to show the church in action on the streets by giving out flip-flops and water, occasional first aid, clearing up broken bottles, but mostly listening and caring? If you would like to learn more, or follow us some night as an observer, then ask the parish office to put you in contact with one of the Street Pastors in our parish. They are currently recruiting with training starting in February 2018. **Taster sessions are also being held on 16 December, 21 January and 11 February.** Contact them for full details on 07952 456926 or Exeter@streetpastors.org.uk

The Pope Tweets...

At the end of time, when the Lord comes to meet us, our joy will be immense. We live in anticipation of this encounter!

Pope Francis writes to young people about building a better world.

...I would also remind you of the words that Jesus once said to the disciples who asked him: "Teacher where are you staying?" He replied, "Come and see" (*In 1:38*). Jesus looks at you and invites you to go with him. Dear young people, have you noticed this look towards you? Have you heard this voice? Have you felt this urge to undertake this journey? I am sure that, despite the noise and confusion seemingly prevalent in the world, this call continues to resonate in the depths of your heart so as to open it to joy in its fullness. This will be possible to the extent that, even with professional guides, you will learn how to undertake a journey of discernment to discover God's plan in your life. Even when the journey is uncertain and you fall, God, rich in mercy, will extend his hand to pick you up.

In Krakow, at the opening of the last World Youth Day, I asked you several times: "Can we change things?" And you shouted: "yes!". That shout came from your young and youthful hearts, which do not tolerate injustice and cannot bow to a "throw-away culture" nor give in to the globalisation of indifference. Listen to the cry arising from your inner selves! Even when you feel, like the prophet Jeremiah, the inexperience of youth, God encourages you to go where He sends you: "Do not be afraid, because I am with you to deliver you" (*Jer 1:8*).

A better world can be built also as a result of your efforts, your desire to change and your generosity. Do not be afraid to listen to the Spirit who proposes bold choices; do not delay when your conscience asks you to take risks in following the Master. The Church also wishes to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith; even your doubts and your criticism. Make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities and let it be heard by your shepherds of souls. St. Benedict urged the abbots to consult, even the young, before any important decision, because "the Lord often reveals to the younger what is best." (*Rule of St. Benedict, III, 3*).

Such is the case, even in the journey of this Synod. My brother bishops and I want even more to "work with you for your joy" (*2 Cor 1:24*). I entrust you to Mary of Nazareth, a young person like yourselves, whom God beheld lovingly, so she might take your hand and guide you to the joy of fully and generously responding to God's call with the words: "Here I am" (*cf. Lk 1:38*).

With paternal affection,
FRANCIS

Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to young people on the occasion of the presentation of the preparatory document of the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. Vatican 13 January 2017.

Masses

Sunday 26 November
34th Sunday Ordinary Time
*Our Lord Jesus Christ.
King of the Universe*
9.00am For our confirmation candidates
10.30am Repose of the souls of deceased members of Irvine & Charpenay families
6.00pm People of the Parish

Monday 27 November
7.30am Convent

Tuesday 28 November
7.00pm
Sheila Frances Hosker RIP

Wednesday 29 November
9.30am Clare Leonard RIP
4.00pm RD&E Hospital

Thursday 30 November
10.30am
Sick & deceased members of the Thursday Lunch Club

Friday 1 December
7.30am Convent
10.30am Funeral Mass
Christopher McDonagh RIP

Saturday 2 December
9.30am
Thomas & Cherian RIP

Sunday 3 December
First Sunday of Advent
9.00am
Richard & Tom Ware RIP
10.30am People of the Parish
6.00pm

Confessions
After 9.30am Mass
on Saturday morning
and by appointment.

The Word

This Sunday 26 Nov
First Reading
Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17
Psalm Response
*The Lord is my shepherd
there is nothing I shall want*
Second Reading
1 Corinthians 15:20-26. 28
Gospel Matthew 25:31-46

Next Sunday 3 Dec
First Reading
Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8
Psalm Response
*God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and
we shall be saved.*
Second Reading
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel Mark 13:33-37

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
19 November £1204.57

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
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Telephone
01392 274724
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Parish Office hours
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10.00am-4.00pm

Parish Secretary
Lesley Hooper
Safeguarding Reps
Vince Clark & Lesley Hooper

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