

Parish News



Blessed Sacrament Parish Heavitree Exeter

7 January 2018 *The Epiphany of the Lord* Psalter Week 1



In the East, this Season of Christmas is called the 'Time of Manifestation', or Showing. Today is the 'Feast of the Manifestation', or the Showing of the Saviour to the whole world, to all nations. In the wise men who travel from the East, we see all the nations other than the people of Israel being welcomed at the New Temple of the New Covenant – the new born child in the manger. Today's Psalm response shows this: "All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord." The same is true of the key word in the second reading: "Revelation". Remember that for the people of Israel this was to be their Messiah, come to restore their fortunes. By this feast, we proclaim God's plan to extend his salvation to men and women of every nation, of every time and every place - including us. In many ways this is our Christmas Feast, when we celebrate the Good News of the Saviour's birth revealed at last to us.

Epiphany Praise

Please join us today, Sunday 7 January, in the church at 3.00pm for our 'Epiphany Praise' followed by refreshments in the St Richard Reynolds Centre.

Epiphany Blessing of Homes

It has been a tradition in the Catholic Church to bless chalk at the Masses for Epiphany and then use the blessed chalk as part of blessing one's home in the New Year. The home blessing can be done as follows: Use the blessed chalk to write: 20 C M B 18 above the doorways (2018 for the year; C, M, B for the 3 Magi - Casper, Melchior and Balthasar and for 'Christus Mansionem Benedicat', Latin for "Christ Bless this House." As you are writing, pray the following prayer: **Lord our God, bless this household. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness and the keeping of your law. We give thanks to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

Share our love: give them hope

Please take time to visit the crib on the sanctuary for one last time today. Your offerings are for the Catholic Children's Society as it works across our diocese spreading God's love and giving families hope in times of crisis. Please give what you can afford, it is greatly appreciated by so many children. Thank you.

Charismatic prayer group

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.



Peace to all people and to all nations on earth! Peace, which the angels proclaimed to the shepherds on Christmas night, is a profound aspiration for everyone, for each individual and all peoples, and especially for those who most keenly suffer its absence. Among these whom I constantly keep in my thoughts and prayers, I would once again mention the over 250 million migrants worldwide, of whom 22.5 million are refugees. In order to find that peace, they are willing to risk their lives on a journey that is often long and perilous, to endure hardships and suffering, and to encounter fences and walls built to keep them far from their goal. In a spirit of compassion, let us embrace all those fleeing from war and hunger, or forced by discrimination, persecution, poverty and environmental degradation to leave their homelands.

(From the message of his Holiness Pope Francis for the celebration of the 51st world day of peace, 1 January 2018)

This month, we will reflect on the theme of 'Migrants and refugees' as part of our *lives simply* journey. In particular, we will look at the international 'Share the Journey' campaign that is supported by Pope Francis and that we hope to join as a parish this year.

Christmas Cards

Remember to look to see if any cards have been left for you in the box in the porch.

Pope's Intention for January

That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.

That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.

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.

Christian Unity

A week of prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated between 18 – 25 January and this years' theme is 'that all may be free'.

Weekly Giving Envelopes

The weekly gift aid and planned giving envelopes are available for collection. If you are new to the Parish or perhaps not considered gift aiding your donations there is opportunity also to consider it. You can always call the Parish office for more information. Thank you. *Anne Burdon Parish Treasurer*

The World Meeting of Families

Dublin 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/

Concert at Blessed Sacrament

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

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

Preparing for Baptism

Next preparation course for parents is on Saturday 3 February at 10.30 am in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. Please book your place with the Parish Office.

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. Last minute bookings are still being taken. We hope to see you there.

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.

RE:connect

At Buckfast Abbey is an amazing thing to do – but very difficult to describe! 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.

St Nick's News

Happy New Year to all parishioners from St Nicholas School. We returned to school this week and celebrated our whole school Epiphany Liturgy on Friday. Our weekly Drop Off Drop In Coffee morning resumes at 8.45am on Wednesday 10th January. Parishioners are welcome to join us for fresh coffee and cakes and a chance to meet friends old and new!

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.

Ladies Keep Fit Classes

The Spring Term will start on Tuesday 9 January morning at 10.00am at the Cardinal Newman Centre. New members are always welcome to come along and try. Contact Maggie Nicholls on 01392 426683 for more information.

Peace Sunday

14 January is the beginning of a year of reflection and action for peace and is a day of prayer for peace between nations, a lasting peace with justice. We also remember all those who work for peace.

Exeter's Young Catholic Community - EYCC

-Next gathering is on Wednesday 10 January in the St Richard Reynolds Centre from 7.00 till 8.30pm. All 16-21 year olds welcome to come along.

Sick Parishioners

If you know of any sick or housebound parishioners who would like to be visited by a priest please let Fr Jonathan, Fr John or the parish office know their details.

Emmaus Road

The next Emmaus Road Day is on January 20 at Weycroft Hall, Axminster. The subject is Freedom from Rejection - discovering Acceptance. Cost £30. To book see: www.emmausroadministries.org.uk

Masses

Sunday 7 January
The Epiphany of the Lord
9.00am

Pat & George Stewart RIP

10.30am

Children's Liturgy catechists

6.00pm *People of the parish*

Monday 8 January
The Baptism of the Lord

No Convent Mass

9.30am

Tuesday 9 January
7.00pm

Wednesday 10 January

9.30am *George Jones RIP*

4.00pm RD&E Hospital

Thursday 11 January
9.30am

Friday 12 January

7.30am Convent

9.30am

Saturday 13 January
9.30am *Ministers of the Word*

Sunday 14 January
2nd Sunday Ordinary time
Peace Day

9.00am *People of the parish*

10.30am

Refreshments team

6.00pm *Street Pastors*

Eucharistic Adoration

Mondays 9.30am at
Blessed Sacrament.

Tuesdays 8.00–9.00pm at
Mount St Mary Convent.

Confessions

After 9.30am Mass on
Saturday morning or by
appointment.

The Word

This Sunday 7 Jan

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms Response

All nations shall fall

prostrate before you, O Lord.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3a.5-6

Gospel *Matthew 2:1-12*

Next Sunday 14 Jan

First Reading

1 Samuel 3:3-10.19

Psalms Response

Here I am Lord!

I come to do your will.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 6:13-15.17-20

Gospel *John 1:35-42*

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

31 December **£1225.94**

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,

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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

St Nicholas Catholic

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Email admin@stnics.uk

Website

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Head Teacher

Angela Folland

CONVENT

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