

ParishNews



Blessed Sacrament Parish Heavitree Exeter
16 December 2018. *Third Sunday of Advent Year C*

Parish Priest

Fr Jonathan Stewart

Priest in retirement

Fr John Watkins

PARISH OFFICE

The Presbytery,
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Exeter EX1 2QJ

Telephone

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@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

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Primary School

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Head Teacher

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CONVENT

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

This Sunday is called 'Gaudete' Sunday, 'Rejoice' Sunday. This comes from the readings we hear today, and it underlines an important point.

In the Gospel, we hear John the Baptist telling different groups what to do - they must repent, and change their lives. We might think of this as a rather joyless thing - something which is hard and unrewarding. The message of this Sunday is that repentance and changing our lives to welcome Jesus is something richly joyful.

When we are planning to welcome anyone we love to our homes, we set about cleaning and preparing for their visit with enthusiasm - nothing is too much trouble for someone we care for greatly. Even scrubbing the bath or polishing the furniture can be a happy and joyful thing!

The message of this Sunday is that preparing to welcome the Lord - even though it may involve hard work - is something utterly joyful, because of our love for Him, and His love for us.



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.

Liturgy of the Word for children

During the 10.30am Mass most Sundays.

Refreshments

Sundays after 10.30am Mass and Wednesdays after 9.30am Mass.

Parents and Toddlers

Monday mornings 9.30–11.30am in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. All welcome especially new faces.

Getting married?

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

Sick parishioners

Please inform one of the priests or the parish office if you know someone who is in need of a visit.

Newsletter

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

Many thanks

Sunday Collections
2 December **£1161.57**
9 December **£1449.60**

Calendar of Events

Sun 16 Dec	Parish Carol Service <i>Blessed Sacrament Church 3.00pm</i>
Mon 17 Dec	Carol Service <i>St Loyes ruins 6.00pm</i>
Tues 18 Dec	St Nicholas school Advent service <i>Sacred heart Church 7.00pm</i>
Tues 18 Dec	Carols <i>Horse & Groom Heavitree 7.30pm</i>
Sat 22 Dec	Simbang Gabi Filipino celebration <i>Blessed Sacrament Church 4.00pm</i> <i>following carols at 3.00pm</i>
Mon 31 Dec	Holy Hour for the New Year <i>Blessed Sacrament Church 6.00pm</i>
Tues 1 Jan	New Year Cheese & Wine Party <i>St Richard Reynolds Centre 12.30pm</i> <i>following Mass at 12 noon in the church</i>
Thurs 3 Jan	Thursday Lunch Club <i>St Richard Reynolds Centre 12.00pm</i>
Sun 6 Jan	Epiphany Praise <i>Blessed Sacrament Church 3.00pm</i>
Mon 7 Jan	Live simply sewing group <i>St Richard Reynolds Centre 6.30pm</i>
Thurs 10 Jan	Prayer Group <i>St Richard Reynolds Centre 7.00pm</i>
Sat 12 Jan	Eucharistic Ministers training <i>Blessed Sacrament Church 11.00am</i>
Sun 13 Jan	White Flower appeal <i>Blessed Sacrament Church all Masses</i>
Mon 14 Jan	Live simply sewing group <i>St Richard Reynolds Centre 6.30pm</i>
Wed 16 Jan	1115 Youth Group <i>St Richard Reynolds Centre 6.30pm</i>
Thurs 17 Jan	Thursday Lunch Club <i>St Richard Reynolds Centre 12.00pm</i>
<i>Fri 18 Jan- to Sun 20 Jan</i>	Gather Conference <i>Livermead Cliff Hotel Torquay</i>
Sat 18 Jan	Baptism preparation course <i>St Richard Reynolds Centre 10.30am</i>
Mon 21 Jan	Live simply sewing group <i>St Richard Reynolds Centre 6.30pm</i>
Thurs 24 Jan	Stronghold Prayer & Praise <i>St Richard Reynolds Centre 7.00pm</i>
Sat 26 Jan	Live simply sewing group <i>St Richard Reynolds Centre 10.00am</i>

Advent 2018

Half way through this season the question really is: how's it going? Have we taken the opportunity to make changes in our lives, have we done any mountain-leveling or valley filling-in? The good news is there's still another week left!

Parish Carol Service

Sunday 16 December at 3.00pm in the church followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. All welcome.

Christmas Prayer Tree

Our Christmas tree is in the church and there are tags for you to write an intention on and tie it to the tree. Many thanks to the Sisters who have made the tags and the parishioner who donated the tree. Any donations will go to the Sisters' children's orphanage in the Philippines.

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 18 December and Wednesday 19 December. Please support or join in with playing or singing.

Churches Together in Heavitree

Carols at St Loyes Ruins Monday 17

December at 6.00pm. Please come along.

Carols are also being sung at the Horse & Groom in Heavitree at 7.30pm on Tuesday 18 December.

Simbang Gabi

This traditional Filipino Mass will take place at Blessed Sacrament Church on Saturday 22 December at 4.00pm. An invitation is extended to all parishioners to come and celebrate with us.

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. Readers please take a booklet of readings.

Catholic Children's Society 2019 Calendar

Catholic Children's Society's fundraising calendar **Windows across the Diocese** are available in the church porch and cost £5.00. Proceeds to the society's funds.

Collection for church flowers

It is traditional that there are no flowers in the church during Advent. The flowers will adorn the church once more at Christmas. There will be a collection for Christmas flowers this Sunday 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.

Preparing for Christmas

Anyone who keeps Advent carefully will get nearer to the truth about Christmas, and have a happier Christmas than one who simply attends church on Christmas day. Nine days of prayer from 17 – 25 December, waiting and meditating on the incarnation, focus our lives on Christmas itself. In Russia there is a custom of fasting and silence on Christmas Eve until the first star appears (the star which shone over Bethlehem). Good luck with that!

Christmas Offerings

Envelopes are in the church porch for the traditional offering for the priests.

Christmas crib in Heavitree

Please don't forget to take a look at the crib in the window of G. W. Key & Shoe in Heavitree. This is organized by Christians Together in Heavitree.

New Year's Day 1 January

Mass at 12.00 noon followed by Cheese & Crackers & Wine/ shared lunch in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. All welcome.

Epiphany Praise

On Sunday 6 January we celebrate the lovely feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, when the three visitors from the east brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. To celebrate we will gather in church at 3.00pm to sing the praises of the Lord led by the Stronghold music group. Refreshments afterwards in St Richard Reynolds Centre.

Diocesan Yearbook 2019

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'.

Share our love: give them hope

Please take time to visit our nativity over the Christmas period. The collection will be donated to 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.

Gather 2019

January 18-20 at the Livermead Cliff Hotel, Torquay. A weekend conference which brings together people from across the Diocese of Plymouth and beyond for a time of friendship, shared faith and formation. Flyers which include a booking form are available in the church porch. We'd love to see you there. If you'd like to know more about the conference just ask Fr Jonathan.

Baptism Preparation Course

The next baptism preparation course for parents will take place in the Richard Reynolds Centre on Saturday 19 January at 10.30 am. If you are expecting a baby or wish to have a baby baptized in the near future please contact the Parish office to book a place on the course.

Weekly Giving Envelopes

The weekly gift aid and planned giving envelopes are available for collection today. If you miss collecting yours today then please contact the Parish office. Do remember to let us know if there are any changes in your circumstances. Are you still paying income tax for instance? If you have moved recently do let us know your correct contact details. Our Parish Finance Committee would be grateful if you could please think about the possibility of setting up a standing order for your weekly giving. There are forms available today to assist with this. They are also available from the Parish office. If you are new to the Parish and perhaps not considered gift aiding your donations there is opportunity today to consider it. You can always call the Parish office for more information. Thank you. *Anne Burdon Parish Treasurer.*

Gift Aid Tax Claim

The Parish has received £6,700.52 being the tax claim to 31 March 2018. Many thanks to all our gift aiders for making this possible.

2019 International Mass at Sacred Heart

An International Mass will take place on Sunday **27 January 2019 at 11.00am** at the Sacred Heart Church, followed by a meal at the Cardinal Newman Centre. Everyone welcome from Exeter parishes.

Welcome...

Leonardo Beltrame and Isabella Mills who will be baptised on Sunday 23 December at Blessed Sacrament. Please offer a prayer for them, their parents and their Godparents. We will also welcome Raphael Krijnen who was baptised earlier this year in Germany.

St Nick's News

We have had a busy few weeks preparing for Christmas and last week parents enjoyed our nativity plays. We are looking forward to the Key Stage 2 Advent Liturgy at Sacred Heart Church on Tuesday 18 December at 7pm and invite parishioners to travel around the world with us as we explore the different ways children around the world celebrate this festive and holy season. Mince pies will be served after.

Reception 2019 Applications

Please ensure you have applied to Devon Admissions by Tuesday 15 January 2019 for a Reception 2019 place. It is easiest to do this online at

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-primary-school-place> or you can call 0345 155 1019. You also must submit a supplementary application form to school (obtainable from the office) so that we can correctly apply the oversubscription criteria as needed.

Nursery Places

We have some spaces in our fantastic term time Nursery from January for 3 - 5 year olds. We offer both 15 and 30 hours (extended) funding and additional hours are only £4.06 per hour. We also provide wrap around care from 7.45am to 6pm. We offer high quality provision led by a full time Nursery teacher where children can explore, thrive, develop and grow in a safe, nurturing environment. For more information and / or a tour please contact Ali on 01392 445403 ext. 222 or email abrocksom@stncls.uk.

We break up on Thursday 20 December and children return on the 8 January for the Spring term.

The Pope Tweets...

Loving God means serving our neighbour without reserve, and trying to forgive without limits.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

1-8 August 2019 led by Bishop Mark. Flying from Exeter. A time of prayer and relaxation. Cost £795. For further information and to book please see the information in church porch.

Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes

1-8 August 2019 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.

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine

Fully escorted 3 July 2019. Cost - £649.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight with 10kg hand luggage, all taxes, luxury transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full Irish Breakfast each morning and 4 Course Dinner each evening. All entertainment, excursions/guided tours included. Wheelchair accessible rooms in the hotel. Limited single rooms at supplement of £100. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

New parishioners

Are you new to Blessed Sacrament parish? If so, you are most welcome and we hope you will be very happy here. If you haven't already done so, please provide us with your contact details. Forms are available in the church porch and from the parish office (electronically) and should be returned to the office once completed. This also applies if you have been here for a while but not yet completed a form. It is good for us to know something about you and to be able to keep you updated with things happening in the parish. Thank you.

Thursday Prayer Group

We will resume normal times in January 2019 when we will meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7.00pm in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. Many thanks for your support.

Thanksgiving Masses

As a way of saying thank you to the many people who have helped in the parish in various ministries this year, we will be celebrating Mass for your intentions during the next couple of weeks. So many people do a lot to help make the parish as vibrant and as varied as it is. If you can come along that would be wonderful, but if you can't be there, be assured that we will be praying for you and giving thanks for all you have done for our parish family. May God bless you all.

Weds 26 December 10.30am

Altar Servers

Thursday 27 December 9.30am

Thursday Lunch Club Helpers

Friday 28 December 9.30am

Church Cleaners

Saturday 29 December 9.30am

Parish CAFOD Group

Sunday 30 December 10.30am

Children's Liturgy Catechists

Tuesday 1 January 12.00pm

Flower Arrangers

Wednesday 2 January 9.30am

Catholic Women's League

Sunday 6 January 9.00am

Ministers of the Word

Wednesday 9 January 9.30am

Parish Street Pastors

Saturday 12 January 9.30am

Ministers of Holy Communion

Sunday 13 January 9.00am

Welcomers

Sunday 13 January 6.00pm

Parish Catechists

Sunday 20 January 10.30am

Musicians & Singers

Sunday 20 January 6.00pm

Parish Pastoral Council

Saturday 26 January 9.30am

Parents & Toddlers Group

Sunday 27 January 10.30am

Sunday Refreshments Team

Saturday 2 February 9.30am

Parish Finance Committee

Saturday 9 February 9.30am

Parish livesimply Group

Saturday 16 February 9.30am

Young People of the Parish

livesimply

The livesimply group would like to thank you for your support this year and wish you a very happy Christmas. We are going to continue our work in the New Year. New members and/or ideas are always welcome. To find out more, contact Kathrin on livesimplyexeter@gmail.com or 07726316264.

Sewing & Knitting Group

If you would like to meet up with other parish members and sew or knit (or to learn how to do it), you are welcome to join this group at the St Richard Reynolds Centre whenever you can. Please contact Sharron (07756691940) for more info.

Exeter Foodbank Collection

This Christmas, many families will rely on support from the foodbank. So please give generously over the next few weeks – either here at church or at one of the supermarkets with donation points (Co-operative, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Waitrose). The top priority items for December include tins of vegetables, potatoes, fruit and meat; jams & spreads, granulated sugar, noodle & pasta snacks, squash & cordial, and toiletries.

APF Red box collection

The total collected from the Red boxes was £208.81 Thank you.

1115 Youth Group

The next meeting for the 1115 Group will be held at the St. Richard Reynolds Centre at Blessed Sacrament Church, Heavitree, on Wednesday 16 January from 6.30 to 8.00pm.

Pope's Intention for December

Evangelization: That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

Formation Day for Catechists

Calling all catechists and "would be" catechists who help pass on the faith in any way. The day which was scheduled for Saturday 19 January has now been changed to **Saturday 12 January** at St. Peter's Parish Room, 10.30am-1.00pm. All welcome. Contact Fr John Bielawski on 01752 701660 or turn up on the day.

Make Christmas Day Special

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, full Christmas lunch, tea, coffee, chocolates, mince pies and a good chance to chat. If you would like to support us and are able to help with transporting guests either to and or from the AgeUk premises in St Thomas, please contact Trevor Olding on 07738 580992 or by email trevorolding@blueyonder.co.uk Thank you if you are able to help.

The Word

Sunday 16 December

First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-18

The Lord will dance with shouts of joy

Psalm Response

Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading Philippians 4:4-7

The Lord is very near.

Gospel Luke 3:10-18

What must we do?

Sunday 23 December

First Reading Micah 5:1-4

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel

Psalm Response

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10

Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.

Gospel Luke 1:39-45

Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Sunday 30 December

First Reading Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Samuel is made over to the Lord for the whole of his life.

Psalm Response

They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Second Reading John 3:1-2, 21-24

We are called God's children, and that is what we are.

Gospel Luke 2:41-52

Jesus is found by his parents sitting among the doctors.

Sunday 6 January

First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6

Above you the glory of the Lord appears.

Psalm Response

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Second Reading Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance.

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

We saw his star and have come to do the king homage.

*Rejoice in the Lord
always; again I say,
rejoice. Indeed, the
Lord is near.*

Mass Times

Sunday 16 December

Third Sunday of Advent

Gaudete Sunday

9.00am

10.30am

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

Monday 17 December

7.30am Convent

Tuesday 18 December

NO MASS

Wednesday 19 December

9.30am *Sr Guy Marie RIP*

4.00pm RD&E Hospital

Thursday 20 December

9.30am

10.00am Adoration

Friday 21 December

7.30am Convent Mass

9.30am *Ann Pala RIP*

Saturday 22 December

9.30am

Sunday 23 December

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.00am

10.30am *People of the Parish*

6.00pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Monday 24 December

Christmas Eve

7.30am Convent

6.00pm *Private Intention*

Vigil Mass of Christmas

11.30pm

Vigil of carols & readings

Midnight Mass.

Tuesday 25 December

Christmas Day

9.00am

10.30am

Pat & George Stewart RIP

NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday 26 December

St Stephen

10.30am *Altar Servers*

4.00pm RD&E Hospital

Thursday 27 December

St John Apostle

9.30am *TLC Helpers*

Friday 28 December

The Holy Innocents

NO Convent Mass

9.30am *Church Cleaners*

Saturday 29 December

St Thomas Beckett

9.30am *Parish Cafod Group*

Sunday 30 December

Holy Family of Jesus,

Mary & Joseph

9.00am *Leonard Family*

10.30am

Children's Liturgy Catechists

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

Monday 31 December

7.30am Convent

6.00pm Holy Hour

Tuesday 1 January

Solemnity of Mary,

Mother of God

12 Noon *Flower Arrangers*

NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday 2 January

St Basil the Great

9.30am *CWL*

4.00pm RD&E Hospital

Thursday 3 January

9.30am

Friday 4 January

7.30am Convent Mass

9.30am

Saturday 5 January

9.30am

Sunday 6 January

The Epiphany of the Lord

9.00am *Ministers of the word*

10.30am *People of the Parish*

6.00pm *Olive Morgan RIP*

Monday 7 January

7.30am Convent

Tuesday 8 January

NO MASS

Wednesday 9 January

9.30am *Parish Street pastors*

4.00pm RD&E Hospital

Thursday 10 January

9.30am

Friday 11 January

7.30am Convent Mass

9.30am

Saturday 12 January

9.30am *Eucharistic Ministers*

Sunday 13 January

The baptism of the Lord

9.00am *Welcomers*

10.30am *People of the Parish*

6.00pm *Parish Catechists*

Confessions

Saturday 10.00am Church

Adoration

Mondays 9.30am Church

Tuesdays 8.00pm Convent

First Wednesday each

month Lady chapel at

Sacred Heart 7.00pm

Some Thursdays 10.00am

(after Mass) Blessed

Sacrament Church.

Please refer to the notice board on the church door for any alterations.
