

ParishNews



Blessed Sacrament Parish Heavitree Exeter
2 December 2018. *First Sunday of Advent Year C*

Parish Priest

Fr Jonathan Stewart

Priest in retirement

Fr John Watkins

PARISH OFFICE

The Presbytery,
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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
Primary School**

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Head Teacher

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



YOUR LIBERATION IS NEAR AT HAND

As usual, the great Season of Advent begins, not by talking about Christmas, but about the Second Coming. We've had this theme already for the past two weeks, but there is a slight change of emphasis in the Scripture readings offered for this Sunday: here the tone is positive: it is the 'promise' of what is to come that we contemplate. Even in the Gospel, though it talks of the dreadful signs that mark the end times, we hear of a promise – 'liberation'. For this we should stand erect and hold our heads high. The central theme is that we welcome the coming of a person - Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, and this is what links this Sunday to the coming feast of his birth: we are now preparing to celebrate how he once came: may these preparations also help us to prepare for him when he comes again.

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
18 November **£1157.13**
25 November **£1209.91**

Calendar of Events

Sun 2 Dec	Churches Together in Heavitree Advent Service <i>United Reformed Church, Heavitree 4.00pm</i>
Tues 4 Dec	Advent Penitential Service <i>Blessed Sacrament Church 7.00pm</i>
Wed 5 Dec	1115 Youth Group <i>St Richard Reynolds Centre 6.30pm</i>
Thurs 6 Dec	Feast of St Nicholas <i>Mass at St Nicholas School 9.15am</i>
Fr 7 Dec	St Nicholas Christmas Fayre <i>St Nicholas School 5.30pm</i>
Sat 8 Dec	Readers Reflection & Training <i>Blessed Sacrament Church 11.00am</i>
Sat 8 Dec	Cafod Advent Mass <i>Sacred Heart Church 5.30pm</i>
Sun 9 Dec	Extraordinary Form Mass <i>Blessed Sacrament Church 3.00pm</i>
Thurs 13 Dec	Night Fever <i>Sacred Heart Church. Mass at 6.00pm</i>
Sat 15 Dec	Livesimply meeting <i>St Richard Reynolds Centre 10.00am</i>
Sat 15 Dec	Catholic Women's League Mass <i>Sacred Heart Church 10.00am</i>
Sat 15 Dec	Exeter Foodbank Candlelit Carols <i>Mint Methodist Church Centre 4.00pm</i>
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	Carols <i>Horse & Groom Heavitree 7.30pm</i>
Sat 22 Dec	Simbang Gabi Filipino celebration <i>Blessed Sacrament Church 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 following Mass at 12 noon in the church</i>
Sat 5 Jan	Livesimply sewing group <i>St Richard Reynolds Centre 10.00am</i>
Sun 6 Jan	Epiphany Praise <i>Blessed Sacrament Church 3.00pm</i>
Sat 12 Jan	Eucharistic Ministers training <i>Blessed Sacrament Church 11.00am</i>

Advent 2018

It is now the season of Advent, a time of preparation for the great celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. There are many ways to make Advent a special time. Here are just a few ideas for you:

Churches Together in Heavitree Advent Service

Sunday 2 December at 4.00pm. Heavitree United Reformed Church are pleased to be hosting this joint service to celebrate the beginning of Advent. The short service and readings will be followed by High Tea in the rear room to which all are invited.

Advent Penitential Service

The Advent Penitential Service for the Exeter parishes will be held at Blessed Sacrament Church on Tuesday 4 December at 7.00pm when there will be several priests available to hear confessions.

Cafod Advent Mass

Bishop Mark will be the main celebrant at Sacred Heart Church on Saturday 8 December at 5.30 pm in celebration of the work of Cafod. All welcome.

Night Fever 2019

Thursday 13 December at Sacred Heart Church. Following Mass at 6.00pm we will invite our local community who are passing the church to light a candle in the presence of our Lord in the Eucharist. We especially need people to hold lanterns on South Street and others to pray for our visitors. Everyone is welcome, even if you can only come for a few minutes.

Walk With Me

Advent Reflection Booklets are available in the porch £1 each. Please put money in box marked 'books'. There are also free advent calendars for those children who did not receive one at St Nicholas school.

Advent Day of Recollection

Advent Readings led by Fr Barry Hallett at St Rita's Centre, Honiton, Saturday 15 December 10.30am-4.30pm. Includes Mass and an opportunity for Confession. Cost is £25 including lunch. See poster and booking forms for details. Tel 01404 42635 or email stritas@btinternet.com.

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.

Masses during Advent at Sacred Heart

During Advent Mass at Sacred Heart on Tuesdays 11 and 18 December will be at 7.00pm with confessions being heard from 6.00pm-6.30pm.

St Vincent de Paul Society

"A life that is poor in charity is devoid of true light". *Pope Francis*. In previous years we were in the habit of collecting seasonal foodstuffs for the SVP during December, but this year the Exeter Foodbank has taken over this role. Both are really worthy causes so the SVP would be very grateful for monetary contributions to enable them to help those in need. There will therefore be a retiring collection at all Masses on Sunday 9 December. Any offering gratefully received

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.

Feast of St Nicholas

Parishioners are welcome to join with the school community for Mass at 9.15am on Thursday 6 December to celebrate the feast of St Nicholas.

Christmas Prayer Tree

Our Christmas tree will be in church for the second Sunday of Advent (9 Dec) and there will be 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.

Handel's Messiah

Exeter University Choral Society will be performing Handel's Messiah on Sunday 2 December at the Great Hall. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. All welcome. Tickets can be purchased on the door.

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.

Park Life Heavitree

Carols in the park from 4.00 till 5.00pm on Saturday 15 December in Heavitree Park.

All are welcome.

The Immaculate Conception

Saturday 8 December

This is the doctrine (belief) of the Church; that the Virgin Mary was conceived without *original* sin, that twist in our nature that makes our will tend not to follow what it knows to be right. It was this grace that enabled Mary to give a true and considered "Yes" to the request conveyed by the Angel Gabriel, that she should consent to be the mother of Jesus Christ, the incarnate God.

Simbang Gabi

This traditional Filipino Mass will take place at Blessed Sacrament Church on Saturday 22 December at 3.00pm. An invitation is extended to all parishioners to come and celebrate with us.

CAFOD World Gifts

Please find World Gifts catalogue in the church porch or look on line at worldgifts.cafod.org.uk It includes a range of virtual gifts that make a real difference to communities around the world. Not only are these great gifts to give to friends and family, they are also a way to keep Christ's love for the poorest members of our global family at the heart of Christmas giving.

Exeter University Singers

Friday 7 December at 7.30pm at Sacred

Heart Church. A wonderful candlelit

celebration of choral Christmas music.

Known for its fantastic blend, the concert will include a range of timeless carols and beautiful modern arrangements. During the interval refreshments of mulled wine and mince pies will be served. We look forward to seeing you there!

Day of Reflection in Bristol

At the Catholic Chaplaincy in Bristol on

Saturday 8 December starting at 10.00am.

See poster in the church for more

information and how to book a place.

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 from the parish office and

cost £5.00. Proceeds to the society's funds.

Make Christmas Day Special

Could you help make Christmas day special for someone? 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 (pick up is usually between 10:45 and 11:30 and departure between 3:30 and 4:00), please contact Trevor Olding on 07738 580992 or by email trevorolding@blueyonder.co.uk Thank you if you are able to help.

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. There will be a collection for Christmas flowers on Sunday 16 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.

Into your hands, Lord...

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Teresa Carter** whose funeral Mass will take place at Blessed Sacrament at 10.00am on Wednesday 5 December.

Also please pray for the repose of the soul of **Ann Pala** whose body will be received in to the church at 5.00pm on Thursday 5 December and whose funeral Mass will be at 9.30am on Friday 6 December. May they rest in peace.

CAFOD Pyramid box collection

Money raised from the boxes was £292.12. Thank you.

The 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.

Proclaiming the Word

On Saturday 8 December at 11.00am new and existing readers will meet in the church to consider the vital role of readers in proclaiming the word of God in the liturgy. Please consider taking up this role. You will be supported, trained and helped and encouraged.

Gather 2019

January 18-20 at the Livermead Cliff Hotel, Torquay this is a weekend conference which brings together people from across the Diocese of Plymouth and beyond for a time of friendship, shared faith and formation. It is open to anyone who would like to come (already some of our parishioners have booked). 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.

Parish 2019 Diaries

There are still some **free** diaries left so if you have not already taken one please do before they all go.

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.

Coats Wanted

The Emergency Department at the Royal Devon & Exeter hospital is running a Bring

a Coat, Leave a Coat campaign. Coats can be hung on the coat rail and those in need can take one if they wish to at no charge. If you are visiting the hospital do consider donating a coat you no longer wear.

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.

Stamps for Hospiscare

For many years Sister Guy-Marie collected the stamps left in the box in the church porch, for Hospiscare. The staff were really grateful for this help because it generates much needed money. From January until September this year they raised £1099.00. The lady who helped Sister do this is willing to carry on so please continue to save all your stamps (and postcards) used and unused and put them in the box in the porch so that this can continue. Thank you.

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.

St Nick's News

Was your child born between 1/9/14 and 31/08/15? You can apply for a Devon School Place online at www.devon.gov.uk

/admissionsonline from 15 November 2018 to 15 January 2019. You can also get more information by calling the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019 or email admissions@devon.gov.uk. Even if you have given details to a primary school you must still apply for a place through the Admissions Team.

Christmas Fayre

Friday 7 December 5.30 – 7.30pm

Please join us for our annual festive fundraising evening. There will be a Christmas Bar, food and drink, entertainment, activities for the children, stalls, the St. Nicholas Christmas Raffle... Santa will also be resident in his Grotto for the evening. Entry £1 (Pupils and under 5's free!)

Foundation Governor needed

Please contact Ali, Clerk to Governors (abrocksom@stncls.uk) for more details about this interesting and rewarding role.

Thursday Prayer Group

No meeting on Thursday 13 December

as we will be supporting Night Fever at Sacred Heart Church (begins with Mass at 6.00pm). 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.

Formation Days for Catechists

A course is being offered, free of charge, to help catechists grow in their knowledge of the faith and a sense of personal calling at St. Peter's Parish Room, Crownhill PL5 3AX, 10.30am-1.00pm. The remaining date is **Saturday 19 January 2019**. Please contact Fr John Bielawski on 01752 701660 or turn up on the day.

Catholic Singles

Helps single Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) to meet other single Catholics. For

further information call 0161 941 3498 or visit www.catholicsingles.org.uk

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 5 December from 6.30 to 8.00pm. This will be our final meeting before the New Year. Our first meeting of the New Year will be held on Wednesday 16 January from 6.30 to 8.00pm at the St Richard Reynolds Centre.

livesimply

Many thanks again for supporting the Advent Fayre and buying some of the items made by the sewing and knitting group after Mass. So far, we have raised close to £1000. Part of the money will be used for a larger CAFOD World Gift, and the rest will be donated to support charitable work with vulnerable people in Exeter. More details to follow in the next newsletter. We will also be at the St Nicholas School Christmas Fayre on 7 December. If you haven't got one already, please take a copy of the *Livesimply Guide for Advent and Christmas* that you can find in the church porch.

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. The group will be taking a break in December but will be back in the New Year with new ideas (more details to follow). Please contact Sharron 07756691940 for more info.

Exeter Foodbank Collection

Many thanks for your continuing support to the foodbank. In November we collected around 11 carrier bags worth of food and toiletries. 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. Please note that if you would like to donate Christmas treats such as mince pies, the Foodbank would prefer to receive those by 7 December, and that all food donations need to be alcohol free (including Christmas cake/pudding). The Foodbank have just published their annual Reverse Advent Calendar to inspire a sense of togetherness, community and friendship. A copy of the calendar is displayed at the back of the church. On Saturday 15 December 4.00-5.00pm Exeter Foodbank will be hosting a Candlelit Carols event at the Mint Methodist Church Centre, followed by coffee and mince pies (no collection will be taken).

Livesimply meeting

The next *livesimply* meeting will take place on Saturday 15 December at 10.00am in the St Richard Reynolds Centre, followed by a shared lunch. At this meeting, we will look back at the progress we have made with implementing the parish action plan this year and will look ahead to new activities in 2019. So, if you have thought about joining the group or just want to find out a bit more, please come along. Contact Kathrin on 07726316264 or livesimplyexeter@gmail.com

Christmas Mass Times

CHRISTMAS EVE Monday 24 December

6.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas.

11.30pm Vigil of carols & readings

followed by **Midnight Mass**.

CHRISTMAS DAY Tuesday 25 December
Mass at **9.00am & 10.30am. NO 6.00pm.**

ST STEPHEN Wednesday 27 December
10.30am Mass including enrolment of servers into the Guild of St Stephen.

Mass Times

Sunday 2 December

First Sunday of Advent

9.00am

Tom & Richard Ware RIP

10.30am *People of the Parish*

6.00pm

Dorothy & Albert Elson RIP

Monday 3 December

St Francis Xavier

7.30am Convent

Tuesday 4 December

NO MASS

7.00pm *Advent*

Penitential Service

Wednesday 5 December

10.00am *Funeral Mass*

Teresa Carter RIP

4.00pm RD&E Hospital

Thursday 6 December

St Nicholas

9.30am *Jennie Mason RIP*

Friday 7 December

St Ambrose

7.30am Convent Mass

9.30am *Funeral Mass*

Ann Pala RIP

Saturday 8 December

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9.30am

Sr Patrick thanksgiving

Sunday 9 December

Second Sunday of Advent

9.00am *People of the Parish*

10.30am

6.00pm *Ann Pala RIP*

Monday 10 December

7.30am Convent

Tuesday 11 December

7.00pm

Wednesday 12 December

9.30am *Jean Brown*

4.00pm RD&E Hospital

Thursday 13 December

St Lucy

9.30am

10.00am Adoration

Friday 14 December

St John of the Cross

7.30am Convent

NO MASS

Saturday 15 December

9.30am *Krzysztof Jasinski RIP*

Sunday 16 December

Third Sunday of Advent

Gaudete Sunday

9.00am

10.30am

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

Confessions

Saturday 10.00am Church

Adoration

Mondays 9.30am Church

Tuesdays 8.00pm Convent

(NOT 4 December)

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.

The Word

Sunday 2 December

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David

Psalm Response

*To you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.*

Second Reading

Thessalonians 3:12-42

May the Lord confirm your hearts in holiness when

Christ comes.

Gospel

Luke 21:25-28.34-36

Your liberation is near at hand.

Sunday 9 December

First Reading

Baruch 5:1-9

God means to show your splendour to every nation.

Psalm Response

What marvels the Lord worked for us!

Indeed we were glad.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-6.8-11

Be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

All mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Sunday 16 December

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-18

The Lord will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

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?