

# ParishNews



Blessed Sacrament Parish Heavitree Exeter

17 May 2020. Sixth Sunday of Easter. Year A

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## *I shall ask the Father, and he shall give you another Advocate*



By now we are some distance away from Easter, but the season is still permeated with the Easter message: Christ is risen, we are baptised in him. But today a new dimension of the story comes out: Easter is not complete until the risen Lord has returned to the Father and sent the Holy Spirit. So in the Gospel today we begin two weeks of looking forward to the coming of that 'Spirit of truth' which sets us apart from the world.

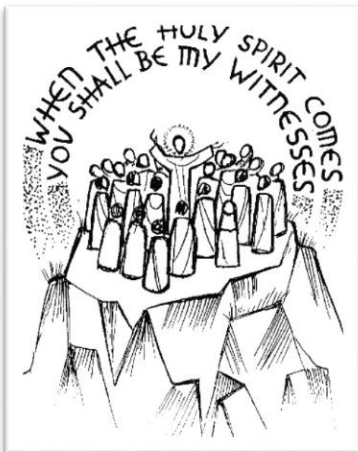
This is a Spirit of power, which flows through the life of the Church, enabling its members to 'proclaim the Christ' and, dwelling in our hearts, to live in the midst of the world's slander and accusations.

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21 May 2020. The Ascension of the Lord

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## *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me*



The feast of The Ascension, which we celebrate this coming Thursday, is not just a feast that happens to fall in Eastertide: it is an integral part of the Easter mystery. Remember the Lord's words at the Last Supper: 'I am going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me.' The Resurrection presumes the Lord's return to the Father. This is therefore a feast of hope: hope in the Lord's return; hope that he will take us with him, when our bodies are raised as his was; hope that we will take our place in heaven, where he sits on the Father's right.

# Praise be to you, my Lord



I've not been very disciplined about taking any exercise these past few weeks, but this morning I got up early and walked along the river to Countess Wear. It was a glorious morning. Looking back towards Topsham I took this picture of the mist rising above the fields in the early sunshine. The words "Praise be to you, O Lord" sprang to mind. They are the opening words of the Canticle of the Sun composed by St Francis of Assisi and the inspiration for Pope Francis' extraordinary encyclical 'Laudato Si'. This week we are celebrating the fifth anniversary of its publication and reminding ourselves of the beauty of Creation and our place and role in it. Many people have commented that as we experience the global coronavirus pandemic, when a huge proportion of humanity has been in lockdown, creation has found the time and space to reassert herself and to show herself off without the overlay of human greed and degradation; the birdsong seems louder, the skies seem clearer, the air seems fresher. Let's at some point this week get out into Creation and give thanks to God for his wonderful masterpiece.

There has been much talk recently about how we are to emerge from 'lockdown'. Particularly interesting for us as a parish is how we will be able to open the church, in the first instance for private prayer and then at a later date for public worship. Cardinal Nichols is sitting on the Government taskforce developing a plan to reopen places of worship and is putting our case forward with some force. He has stated that Catholics have been 'starved' of the eucharist and wish to receive the Lord again as soon as possible. But we know that our safety, and particularly the safety of the most vulnerable will be paramount. As a diocese, and a parish, we will follow the guidelines and regulations set out for us, but we have begun the conversation about how we could safely provide a space for prayer and a return to some sense of normality. God knows how much we all look forward to that!

When it happens it is likely that we will need volunteers from the parish to help; stewarding, guiding, cleaning etc. Please pray about this and ask the Lord to help you respond willingly and generously.

On Thursday this week we celebrate the ASCENSION OF THE LORD. We commemorate the moment when Jesus was lifted from the earth to take his place in heaven alongside his Father. I'm reminded of the times when I have stood on railway platforms waving goodbye and waiting until I'm absolutely sure I can't see the person I love waving back. I'm sure the apostles weren't standing around waving, but they must have sensed something of the same emotions of loss and grief. Jesus promised them he would return and at PENTECOST we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, filling the apostles with confidence and faith.

Let us pray that the same Holy Spirit will give us renewed confidence and faith, and hope too, that we will be renewed and refreshed by his presence. We place ourselves in his hands. Fr Jonathan.

# Prayers please for Alpha online

Our online Alpha course begins on Tuesday evening. We have been delighted with the response we have received. People from our parish as well as parishes further afield have signed up and we are looking forward to welcoming them. The success of the process relies of course on the work of the Holy Spirit, touching people's hearts and minds and drawing them into a relationship with God and the Church. But the process also relies on your prayers. Please offer a prayer, daily if you could remember, that those who are leading and those who join will be transformed by grace and come to know the wonderful relationship that God is offering us all and the life and peace that is his gift alone. Thank you.

**blesedsacrament.org.uk** for up to date information and spiritual support.

## Parish finances

Thank you so much to those of you who have set up a standing order for a regular offering to the parish. Thank you to those of you who have been putting your planned giving envelopes through the door of the presbytery. And thank you to those who have increased their giving, especially at this time it is most generous. For more information about how to set up a standing order and/or gift aid your contributions please email the parish office.

## Parish News by Post

Some parishioners will not have email and therefore will not be receiving these weekly updates. If you know of anyone who would like to receive the newsletter by post, please could you let me know their address (with their permission, of course!) and we will print and post the newsletter out to them each week [exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk) or call Lesley on 07712 216724

## Wednesday Word online

Our weekly Wednesday Word continues to successfully run as an online group every Wednesday afternoon at 2.00pm. We now have enough people joining to break into three smaller groups for sharing and discussion. If you would like to join us please contact Maria at [exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk). She can add you to a group and/or support you with learning how to participate using the Zoom video conferencing app. We've had many parishioners successfully join who were new to 'Zoom' so be brave and get in touch! As they say; Nothing ventured, nothing gained!

## GIFT: Growing In Faith Together

GIFT is for all families in our parishes who would like to engage with their faith. Throughout this pandemic when we are not able to meet together, we have prepared some home grown resources for you to access. Maria our Pastoral Assistant has recorded another Fun Faith video, Prayer and Praise: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=8qFJGb4Iszg&feature=youtu.be> If you would like to receive regular updates about GIFT, please email [Exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:Exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk)

## Keep in touch

Please see the parish Facebook page **Blessed Sacrament Exeter** [www.facebook.com/pg/BlessedSacramentExeter/posts/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/BlessedSacramentExeter/posts/) and the parish website

## CAFOD Emergency Appeal

CAFOD has launched a coronavirus emergency appeal. Coronavirus (Covid-19) has now spread worldwide, with confirmed cases in many countries where CAFOD works. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries are likely to be devastating. While we are not able to hold collections in our church, you can donate at [cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal](https://cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal) See last week's newsletter for more information about the work of Cafod in these times.

## Laudato Si' Week 5th Anniversary – 16-24 May 2020

This year is the 5th Anniversary of Laudato Si' and despite the current situation, there are still lots of ways we can take action to mark this anniversary, sharing the common prayer and celebrating what we have achieved in our homes, schools and parishes. CAFOD and Caritas Plymouth have produced a summary of resources for anyone interested in exploring further the message of Laudato Si'. A note will



be posted on the Plymouth Diocese website next week. During the week itself we will be sharing reflections and examples of how our Diocese is taking action via our Diocesan Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/plymouthdiocese/>

## Stretch Out Your Hands!

The Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) needs your help now more than ever! In every country and community across the world, the coronavirus pandemic is turning children's lives upside down. We urgently need your help so that we can continue to support vulnerable children and their families throughout the Diocese. We rely entirely on the generosity of our supporters, parishioners, and schools. We have already secured some funding from the Devon Coronavirus Response & Recovery Fund and we have also set up a crowdfunding page. We hope to raise between £3,000 and £6,000 which would enable us to help at least 40 children directly (although more likely 80-100 family members would directly benefit). £6,000 would allow us to purchase for example: 10 children's beds/cots and mattresses - £1,000 10 cookers - £2,000 10 fridge/freezers - £1,500 10 washing machines - £1,500 Please help us to reach our target by donating at <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/catholic-childrens-society-plymouth-1?tk=66698bb1ee6de155fddab240e0ce9c4e7ffea7bf>. The link to our crowdfunding page can also be found via our website [www.ccsplymouth.org.uk](http://www.ccsplymouth.org.uk) where you can also find alternative ways of donating ONLINE via Virgin Money Giving, Charities Aid Foundation or the Big Give. Simply visit [www.ccsplymouth.org.uk](http://www.ccsplymouth.org.uk) and click the DONATE button to find out how.

## Masses of Thanks for Care Workers

Every Thursday at 7.00pm, a bishop will celebrate Mass in one of the cathedrals for the care workers. Do please join in, if you can, on the live streaming. Follow where the Mass takes place on each different Thursday, and use that time before 8pm to offer your prayers of thanksgiving for these generous, courageous people, for their support – their encouragement – that God will sustain them in this great work that they're doing. Link: Streamed Live Catholic Masses for the Sick and their Families, NHS Front-Line workers and those working in Social Care: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/masses-for-the-sick-and-their-families-nhs-front-line-workers-and-those-working-in-social-care/>

## Lourdes Intentions

Although Lourdes is closed to pilgrims, there are constant prayers, Masses, rosaries, candles lit etc., offered for the sick and the world by the chaplains there. Petitions and intentions can be sent by post directly to the Sanctuary at Lourdes, should anyone wish. If anyone would like to send petitions, without noting each request, just the name of the person, they can do that - otherwise if they would like to give me their name to Sheelah Gardner Thorpe she will send one letter with names only to include all petitions. Please send any names via the parish office [exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk) and they will be passed to Sheelah.

## What has happened to the Sunday Obligation?

The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is suspended at the moment.

## Message from the Diocesan Safeguarding Office

I don't have to tell you that we are undergoing a national crisis at the moment, which as well as bringing all the problems of the current pandemic, also creates increased safeguarding risk in many areas. These include domestic abuse, mental health issues, the vulnerable being scammed to mention but a few. If you have any safeguarding concerns either personally or for any other person then do not hesitate to contact the Safeguarding Office who remain open and available to assist. To contact us either email me direct on [robert.brown@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:robert.brown@prcdtr.org.uk) or ring me on 01364 645431 which will be transferred to my mobile. Robert Brown Safeguarding Coordinator Diocese of Plymouth.

## Pope Francis on mercy...

Each of us is responsible for his/her neighbour: we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers wherever they live. Concern for fostering good relationships with others and the ability to overcome prejudice and fear are essential ingredients for fostering good relationships with others and the ability to

overcome prejudice and fear are essential ingredients for promoting the culture of encounter, in which we are not only prepared to give, but also to receive from others. Hospitality, in fact, grows from both giving and receiving.

## Pope's May Intention

We pray that deacons, faithful to their service of the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire church. See also <https://thepopevideo.org>



## Urafiki News

People in Yala are starving so Urafiki has increased its feeding activities. Food is distributed using our student volunteers – so we can be confident that it gets to the people who need it most. It costs about £4 per week to feed a family. By late June we hope that there will food available from the harvest- in the meantime it's up to us. 100% of whatever is raised will go to the team in Kenya. Nothing is deducted here. The money goes straight to Yala to purchase much needed food. Thank you for whatever you are able to donate through [www.urafiki.org.uk](http://www.urafiki.org.uk) or contact Imelda Wightman at [imelda.wightman@gmail.com](mailto:imelda.wightman@gmail.com)

## Mass intentions

Fr Jonathan is celebrating Mass each day and if you would like a Mass said for a particular intention, for someone who is ill or a loved one who has died, in thanksgiving for an answer to prayer or perhaps something personal please contact Lesley by email [exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk) or on 07712 216724 who will be able to help you find a date. It is traditional to make an offering at the same time. This is simply what you can afford and would like to give. To comply with GDPR rules we must have the permission of the person named if it is to be made public unless they are deceased.

## SOS - let us know if you need help

Please let us know via the parish email or the parish phone number 01392 274724 if there is any way we can provide practical support for you and your families in the coming days and weeks. We have a team of volunteers who can be contacted if you, or someone you know are in self-isolation and need food, medication or a friendly chat.

## Month of May – Praying the Rosary

May is the month traditionally dedicated to Our Blessed Mother, Mary. It has been traditional in the Church to pray to Rosary particularly in this month. We fly to her patronage and love at this time of the pandemic and ask her intercession. The Rosary can be prayed individually or as a family. What a wonderful time to turn to Our Lady as a family and pray for our community and our world.

## Prayers of Hope every Sunday

During the Coronavirus crisis thousands of Christians across Britain are praying together at 7.00pm every Sunday evening. We encourage you to join your prayers for all those in need.

## Getting in Touch with Patients in the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital

The Chaplaincy Team are very aware that, with visiting restrictions, it is much harder to get messages of love and prayer through to friends and other parishioners in hospital. So, please leave a message on 01392 402024 and one of the Chaplaincy team will aim to write your message onto a card and deliver it to the patient. Simply say your name and contact number, the full name of the patient (and the ward they are on, if you know it) and a message you wish to be written in the card.

## The Pope tweets...

May God have mercy on us and put an end to this tragedy, this pandemic, as well as the pandemics of hunger, war, and children without an education. This we ask as brothers and sisters, everyone together.

## Exeter Prays

On Sunday 17 May at 8.00pm live.[rediscoverchurch.com](http://rediscoverchurch.com) This will tie into the Thy Kingdom Come Week (<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>) and two weeks later there will be a much wider TKC prayer time on Pentecost Sunday.

## Sunday Mass Blessed Sacrament YouTube channel

As well as the regular Sunday Mass posted on the YouTube channel we are also posting films which appeal to families and young people. Maria, our pastoral assistant, Erik our parish youth worker, and some of the youngsters in our parish have all made films which they hope will engage you with your faith in a new way. Check them out at [www.youtube.com/c/BlessedSacramentExeter](http://www.youtube.com/c/BlessedSacramentExeter)

## Diocesan YouTube channel

Bishop Mark is live streaming Mass each day at 11.00am and afternoon prayer at 4.30pm on the following channel: [www.youtube.com/channel/UC8KUEwsXFK3VBLEfn4H1tBw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8KUEwsXFK3VBLEfn4H1tBw) [www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk](http://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk)

## Online Masses in Polish

These are the Masses from Jasna Góra: Mass stream: <https://jasnagora.pl/pl/media/na-zywo/kaplica-matki-bozej/> Mass times: <https://jasnagora.pl/pl/dla-pielgrzymow/program-dnia/>

## World Communications Day

Sunday 24 May. For all those who work in the media: may they broadcast with truth and integrity. For the places and events that are forgotten by the news; may they be remembered in our hearts.

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## The Word

### **SUNDAY 24 MAY** *Seventh Sunday of Easter*

#### FIRST READING

Acts 1:12-14

*The apostles all joined in continuous prayer.*

After Jesus was taken up into heaven the apostles went back from the Mount of Olives, as it is called, to Jerusalem, a short distance away, no more than a sabbath walk; and when they reached the city they went to the upper room where they were staying; there were Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of James. All these joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

#### PSALM

Psalms Response

*I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.*

The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
before whom shall I shrink?

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,  
for this I long,  
to live in the house of the Lord,  
all the days of my life,  
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,  
to behold his temple.

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;  
have mercy and answer.

Of you my heart has spoken:

'Seek his face.'

## SECOND READING

1 Peter 4:13-16

*It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ.*

If you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed. It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ, because it means that you have the Spirit of glory, the Spirit of God resting on you. None of you should ever deserve to suffer for being a murderer, a thief, a criminal or an informer; but if anyone of you should suffer for being a Christian, then he is not to be ashamed of it; he should thank God that he has been called one.

## GOSPEL

John 17:1-11

*Father, it is time for you to glorify me.*

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

'Father, the hour has come:

glorify your Son

so that your Son may glorify you;

and, through the power over all mankind that you have given him,

let him give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him.

And eternal life is this:

to know you,

the only true God,

and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

I have glorified you on earth

and finished the work that you gave me to do.

Now, Father, it is time for you to glorify me

with that glory I had with you

before ever the world was.

I have made your name known

to the men you took from the world to give me.

They were yours and you gave them to me,

and they have kept your word.

Now at last they know

that all you have given me comes indeed from you;

for I have given them the teaching you gave to me,

and they have truly accepted this, that I came from you,

and have believed that it was you who sent me.

I pray for them;

I am not praying for the world

but for those you have given me,

because they belong to you:

all I have is yours

and all you have is mine,

and in them I am glorified.

I am not in the world any longer,

but they are in the world,

and I am coming to you.'

## SUNDAY 31 MAY Pentecost Sunday

### FIRST READING

Acts 2:1-11

*They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak.*

## PSALM

Psalm Response

*Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,  
and renew the face of the earth.*

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

*In the one Spirit we were all baptised.*

## GOSPEL

John 20:19-23

*As the Father sent me, so am I sending you: receive the Holy Spirit.*

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## Mass Intentions

SUNDAY 17 May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

*People of the parish*

Monday 18 May – Easter weekday

Tuesday 19 May – Easter weekday

Wednesday 20 May – Easter weekday

Thursday 21 May – The Ascension of the Lord

*Private Intention*

Friday 22 May – St Rita of Casia

Saturday 23 May – Easter weekday

SUNDAY 24 May – Seventh Sunday of Easter

*World Communications Day*

*People of the Parish*

Monday 25 May – St Bede

Tuesday 26 May – St Philip Neri

Wednesday 27 May – St Augustine

Thursday 28 May – Easter weekday

Friday 29 May – St Paul VI, Pope

Saturday 30 May

SUNDAY 31 May – Pentecost Sunday

*People of the Parish*

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## Attachments:

*Look for children*

*Making a Spiritual Communion*

*When a funeral cannot be attended*

*Support Resources from Exeter Foodbank*