

# ParishNews



**Blessed Sacrament Parish Heavitree Exeter**

**2 August 2020 Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year A**

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## ***They all ate as much as they wanted***

Divine providence is a wonderful thing: God is so generous with his creation (it is human greed that denies some their rightful share). The Kingdom of God is the time and place when this vision will be fully realised, when all who wish may 'come to the water', when all who are hungry may 'eat as much as they want', when what is left over is still enough

for all the twelve tribes of Israel. Our contemplation of the kingdom of God, through the parables and miracles of Jesus, should stir us up to build this kingdom here and now. The miracle of Divine providence is allowed to work when human greed and selfishness give way to the power of the Spirit working within us, and we share all we have with those in need. Our hearts are set on the kingdom of God, where there is corn and wine and milk in abundance.

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**9 August 2020 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year A**

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## ***Tell me to come to you across the water***

How does God reveal himself to us? Most of the time, in precisely the way we do not expect! This is what happened to Elijah: we expect God – all-powerful, almighty – to appear in the dramatic effects of nature; but no, God is in a gentle breeze. Similarly in the Gospel reading today: the disciples do not expect Jesus to come towards them walking on the lake – but he does. And when God is revealed in the unexpected, he gives courage and strength: Elijah was afraid when he

went to Horeb, but was strengthened by his encounter with God to continue his mission; in the same way the disciples are given courage and faith by the Lord who walks to them on the waters and calls for Peter to do the same.

## Face Masks/Coverings

It has become mandatory to cover our faces when we shop. It's also strongly recommended that we cover our faces in enclosed public spaces. Whilst the church may not necessarily be described as enclosed we recommend that you wear a mask when you come. Please see it rather as an act of charity towards your neighbour than a rule. We are going to maintain the 2m distancing in church which the government recommends wherever possible. This will mean that the capacity inside the church will not change. Therefore, if you do come and cannot get in, please be generous in your response.

If you don't have a mask and would like the parish livesimply sewing group to make you one, just let us know by email to the parish office [exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk) or call Coral on 07745 922636 or Frances on 01392 209542. They are asking for a small donation for the church which is very generous of them.

## CAFOD International Coronavirus Emergency Appeal

For many of our brothers and sisters across the globe the choice is stark. Die of coronavirus or die of starvation. CAFOD has joined forces with the UK Disasters Emergencies Committee to help millions of people whose lives are at risk as coronavirus spreads across refugee camps and countries suffering conflict. Families, who have been forced to flee their homes in places including Syria, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, now face another deadly threat as coronavirus takes hold in new areas. CAFOD Director, Christine Allen, said: "In the UK our struggle against coronavirus has entered the next phase, but in many of the world's poorest communities, the fight has only just begun. Families who have fled conflict, and are living in crowded camps or makeshift shelters, are especially vulnerable. "We need your support to reach these communities and help people to cope as best they can when an outbreak of the virus strikes. Watch this short video of how CAFOD supporters are keeping hopes alive in Sierra Leone <https://vimeo.com/418056858> To donate to the appeal via the Exeter Catholic Parishes justgiving page and for more information please visit

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/CAFODInternationalCoronavirusAppealExeter> .

Or use CAFOD's Summer of Hope fundraising ideas with your families and friends to transform lockdown and raise money for the appeal: <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/School-fundraising/Summer-of-Hope> You can also make donations by phone 0303 303 3030 or send cheques made payable to CAFOD to *CAFOD Coronavirus Appeal, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB*

## Essential Grants Programme for Children and Families.

The Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) (covering Devon, Cornwall and parts of Dorset) has funds available for essential grants to families living in the Diocese of Plymouth who are struggling as a result of Covid-19. The charity can provide essential items that parents and carers could otherwise not afford for their children such as basic essential items like cookers, fridge/freezers, washing machines or cots and beds for children to sleep in. The fund is open to families of all faiths and none. The application process is straightforward and you can find more details on the website: <https://www.ccsplymouth.org.uk/what-we-do/grant-giving/> or you can call 01364 645420 to find out more.

## NO paper copies of Parish News

Some of you will have been able to celebrate Mass in the church recently. In line with Covid regulations, paper copies of the newsletter will not be available at the church. If you know anyone who would like to have a newsletter sent by email or post please contact the parish office with their details (once you have their permission to share them).

## Into your hands, Lord...

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Paul Hughes and Joan Ash. Joan was a long time member of the Catholic Women's League.

## The Bishops Conference

Bishops clarify the Catholic position on vaccination – details attached. Regular updates from the Bishops' Conference can be found at [ccn@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:ccn@cbcew.org.uk)

## Dial-a-Mass

The Middlesbrough Diocese in conjunction with the Knights of St Columba began Dial-a-Mass for the benefit of those who do not have the internet or computer. The Mass is recorded and put on telephone, at 12 midday on Sunday and will stay until 11.59 the following Sunday. For the cost of a local call the person can listen to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The number to call is: **01642 130 120**. The Mass will not go over one hour (it tends to be approximately 45 minutes). Many people who have used this service have said how good it is and how it helped them, they felt less left out as they do not use computers and less isolated from the faith and the catholic community.

## The Young Vincentians Groups

Would like to share their links so that you can log on to see what they are currently doing:

Mini Vinnies: <https://www.svp.org.uk/mini-vinnies>

Youth SVP: <https://www.svp.org.uk/youth-svp>

B-Attitude: <https://www.svp.org.uk/b-attitude>.

They are also launching their new Young Vincentians Instagram account this month which will be a very useful way of capturing more fully the voice of the young person. Instagram [www.instagram.com/svpyoungvincentians/](http://www.instagram.com/svpyoungvincentians/)

## Youth Events in the Diocese

**September 26** - There will be workshops for young people to discuss the future of our planet and ways we can teach others to look after it. Workshops will be offered through ZOOM. We plan to share a prayer service at St Peters, Crownhill later that day. Bookings will be taken in September. In **October** there will be a series of 5 sessions, exploring Faith, Music and Creativity. One Hope Project will lead 3 of the discussions. These are aimed at young people aged 13-21. Lastly, we are looking for young people across the diocese to help put together a short film of prayer and reflection. We are looking for people to sing as well as share thoughts, reflections and read prayers. The theme will be; My spiritual journey, living through COVID-

## Wednesday Word Summer Break

Wednesday Word will not meet in the month of August and will resume again on Wednesday 2nd September. If you would like to join Wednesday Word and receive email notifications, please email Maria: [exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk)

## Pope Francis on Mercy...

Whoever welcomes Jesus, learns to love as Jesus does. So He asks us if we want a full life: Do you want a complete life? Start by letting yourself be open and attentive! Because happiness is sown and blossoms in mercy. That is His answer, His offer, His challenge, His adventure: mercy.

## Pope's August Intention

The Maritime World: We pray for all who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families. <https://thepopevideo.org>

**The Pope tweets...** Friendship is one of life's gifts and a grace from God. Faithful friends, who stand at our side in times of difficulty, are a reflection of the Lord's love, His gentle and consoling presence in our lives.

## Loss, Separation and Trauma

In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic the latest Art of Dying Well podcast explores loss, separation and trauma. As the lockdown eases we talk to three experts, including Professor Stephen Regel, Clinical Lead at the Centre for Trauma, Resilience and Growth, part of the Nottinghamshire NHS Trust. <https://www.artofdyingwell.org/podcasts/>

## The Collection

During the celebrations of Mass in the coming weeks, we are not able to pass the bags to collect your weekly offering. Instead, please place your cash offering or planned giving envelopes in one of the two baskets which will be available at the church doors. These will be collected at the end of each Mass. And don't forget that the most efficient way for you to give is by standing order. Forms are available by emailing the parish office. Arrangements are made directly with your bank. And please remember to GiftAid your contribution if you are a UK taxpayer. There are also plans for contactless giving at the church – watch this space! Many thanks.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession

Some of you may be worrying a little that you have not been able to get to the Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation for a while. It is possible to celebrate the sacrament in a distanced way so if you would like to please contact the parish office to make an appointment.

The Church, in her wisdom, dealt with this matter a long time ago through what is known as *Perfect Act of Contrition* which will remove *all our sins*. Perfect contrition is true and real sorrow for our sins, and comes about when we realise the immense love God has for us. We humbly approach this grace resolving not to sin again. Any serious sin can then be mentioned when you next go to see the priest in the sacrament.

*An Act of Contrition*

**My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.**

**In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His name, my God, have mercy.**

## Foodbank News

Priority items are –500g/1kg Rice, Sugar, Tinned/long life custard, Tinned fruit, Sponge puddings. As we cannot collect donations at the church please use the donating points in supermarkets. You can also make a financial donation [www.trusselltrust.org/make-a-donation/](http://www.trusselltrust.org/make-a-donation/)

## GIFT: Growing In Faith Together

GIFT is for all families who are keen to learn about and explore their Catholic faith. Our GIFT sessions will be recommencing monthly, beginning in September, via zoom meetings with parents. Following these meetings, electronic family resources will be sent out for you to engage with in your families. Our first zoom meeting is on 5th September. If you and your family would like to join GIFT and you would like to receive links to the zoom meetings, please email Maria: [exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk)

## Bedtime Chats: a GIFT Resource

Visit the GIFT page on the parish web site: [www.blessedsacrament.org.uk/](http://www.blessedsacrament.org.uk/)

## Making an Act of Spiritual Communion

We are once again able to receive Jesus in Holy Communion when we come to Mass, but for many reasons it may not be possible for everyone. Committing this prayer to memory and saying it every day could help us express our heartfelt desire to be close to Jesus always.

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

## Sunday Mass Blessed Sacrament YouTube channel

Even though we are able to gather for Mass Fr Jonathan will continue to record a Sunday Mass and post it online at [www.youtube.com/c/BlessedSacramentExeter](http://www.youtube.com/c/BlessedSacramentExeter) This will be done for Sunday 2 August **but there will not be a recording for Sunday 9 August.**

We have had a favourable quote to install equipment to enable us to live-stream from the church. We are hoping the work will commence in the next few weeks. This will be a permanent way to offer the celebration of Mass for those who are unable to come to church.

## YMCA News

As the Covid-19 pandemic sees a rise in the fear of long-term mental health impact on children and young people the YMCA is calling on parents and carers to not face this alone. YMCA Exeter is now offering a free wellbeing service for 5-18 year olds experiencing low level mental health difficulties, including low-mood, anxiety, stress, phobias, sleep problems and OCD. To speak to someone on our CWP team or to ask questions about the service we offer please contact us by calling 01392 410530 or emailing [wellbeing@ymcaexeter.org.uk](mailto:wellbeing@ymcaexeter.org.uk)

YMCA Exeter are also running an online survey for 16-24 year olds, to hear about their experiences of lockdown and how it's affected their lives in the areas of employment, education, mental health and family life. The views and experiences of young people will help us shape how our projects might look, and how we adapt our services in a more socially-distanced world. Can you share the link for the survey with them: <https://bit.ly/ymcasurvey20>

## Homelessness- How can we help?

Meeting a homeless person on the streets, especially if they have nowhere to go that night, can be quite shocking and worrying. To think that an individual will be cold, wet and vulnerable can invoke a host of emotions. Decision-making around how we act for that person, however, needs to remain clear, needs to keep the homeless person at the heart of any decision, but also needs to keep you safe from harm. People experiencing homelessness are among the most vulnerable to COVID-19. Any support needs to minimise the risk of infection. Caritas Plymouth has produced an updated guide for supporting people who are homeless, in partnership with St Petrocs, Cornwall. The guide can be found on the Diocesan website [www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Homelessness-advice.pdf](http://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Homelessness-advice.pdf) It provides contact numbers for local and district authorities where those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness can access support.

## Government help

There is a free service to find out what help you can get from the government and other organisations. Lots available. Link here: <https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-support>

## Food and vitamin vouchers

If you know someone who is pregnant or has children under 4, and maybe struggling in these times please check out this link for free food and vitamins – Healthy Start: <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/healthy-start-vouchers/do-i-qualify/do-i-qualify/>

## Being part of history

Devon Archives and Local would like your help in contributing to a community archive about experiences in Devon during the Coronavirus emergency. Here is a simple online form to capture your thoughts:

<https://swheritage.org.uk/devon-archives/coronavirus-community-archive/>

## For all the Saints...

### *4 August St John Mary Vianney, Curé of Ars*

He was the son of a peasant farmer, and a slow and unpromising candidate for the priesthood: he was eventually ordained on account of his devoutness rather than any achievement or promise. In 1818 he was sent to be the parish priest of Ars-en-Dombes, an isolated village some distance from Lyon, and remained there for the rest of his life because his parishioners would not let him leave. He was a noted preacher, and a celebrated confessor: such was his fame, and his reputation for insight into his penitents' souls and their futures, that he had to spend up to eighteen hours a day in the confessional, so great was the demand. The tens of thousands of people who came to visit this obscure parish priest turned Ars into a place of pilgrimage.

"The Curé refused to sit for a portrait. When the sculptor Cabuchet surreptitiously tried to capture his features in a ball of wax during the catechism, Vianney sternly bounced him out of the church." (*The Curé d'Ars Today, by G.W.Rutler, 1988*). The French State recognised his eminence by awarding him the medal of the Légion d'Honneur in 1848. The Curé sold it and gave the money to the poor. He died in 1859.

### *8 August St Dominic*

Dominic was born in Castile (part of modern Spain) and became a canon of the cathedral of Osma. He accompanied his bishop (Diego de Azevedo) in a mission of preaching against the Albigensian heresy, which was then strong in southern France. While the official missions lived in formality and splendour, Dominic and Diego lived in extreme poverty, and prepared with great diligence for the debates that they held with their opponents. When the suppression of Albigensianism was undertaken by invasion and war of a particularly savage kind, Dominic continued to try to preach and persuade. In 1216 he founded the Order of Preachers, dedicated to saving souls by preaching and persuasion. Like the Franciscans, founded a few years before, the Dominicans put great importance on poverty, both of the individual and of the community, and of the need to be involved directly in the world while still living some form of monastic life.

At a time when the settled Benedictine monasteries had grown into great and rich institutions, this was a revolutionary and to some a subversive concept. The Friars made a lasting impact on the life of mediaeval Europe, and the Dominicans in particular altered the course of intellectual history by making a well-thought-out and rational response to the new learning that was appearing as long-forgotten thinkers such as Aristotle became known once more in the Christian West. Dominic died at Bologna on 6th August 1221.

### *10 August St Lawrence*

Laurence was one of the seven deacons of the Church of Rome and was executed on 10th August 258, four days after Sixtus II and his companions. By now, few of the facts of his life are known for certain: he was probably a Spaniard from Toledo. A basilica was built over Laurence's tomb fifty years after his death, by the Emperor Constantine, and the anniversary of his martyrdom was kept as a solemn feast – with considerably more solemnity than that of Pope Sixtus II (we do not know why). By the sixth century, it was one of the most important feasts throughout much of western Christendom. His name occurs (with Sixtus's) in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

## *11 August St Clare*

She was born at Assisi and came under the influence of Saint Francis. She left home at the age of 18 and, under Francis's guidance, began a community that grew to become the order of the Poor Clares (she was later joined both by her sister and by her widowed mother). In its radical attachment to poverty the Rule of the order was much more severe than that of any other order of nuns. In 1215 Clare obtained from the Pope the privilege of owning nothing, so that the nuns of the order were to be sustained by alms and nothing else. Such a rule was (like the Franciscan rule) both a challenge to established structures and a risk to those who followed it, and successive Popes tried to modify it. In 1247 Pope Innocent IV promulgated a new Rule that allowed the ownership of communal property: Clare rewrote it. A later attempt at mitigation in 1263 partly succeeded (perhaps because Clare was dead by then): some communities followed the old, strict rule and some followed the new. Clare was a noted contemplative and a caring mother to her nuns. She died at Assisi in 1253.

The drift towards laxity and the desire for strictness are part of the history of every religious order. In the history of most monasteries, for example, one can find both a steady relaxation of the rule and a desire on the part of some members of the community to be more severe and ascetic – possibly even to become hermits. The Maronist Saint Sharbel Makhluf is one example; the Trappist Thomas Merton is another. In our own lives, too, we are always oscillating between being too strict and being too lax. It seems to be a universal tension in the human race.

## *14 August St Maximilian Kolbe*

He was born on 8 January 1894 in occupied Poland: he joined the Franciscans in Lwów in 1910, and was ordained eight years later, as his country became free and independent for the first time in over 120 years. He believed that the world was passing through a time of intense spiritual crisis, and that Christians must fight for the world's salvation with all the means of modern communication. He founded a newspaper, and a sodality called the Knights of Mary Immaculate, which spread widely both in Poland and abroad. In 1927 he founded a community, a "city of Mary," at Teresin: centred round the Franciscan friary, it attracted many lay people, and became self-supporting, publishing many periodicals and running its own radio station. In 1930 he went to Japan, studied Buddhism and Shintoism, and through the Japanese edition of his newspaper spread the Christian message in a way that was in harmony with Japanese culture. In Nagasaki, he set up a "Garden of the Immaculate," which survived the atomic bomb. He also travelled to Malabar and to Moscow, but was recalled to Poland in 1936 for reasons of health. When the Germans invaded in 1939, the community at Teresin sheltered thousands of refugees, most of them Jews.

In 1941 he was arrested and sent to the concentration camp at Auschwitz, where he helped and succoured the inmates. In August of that year a prisoner escaped, and in reprisal the authorities were choosing ten people to die by starvation. One of the men had a family, and Maximilian Kolbe offered to take his place. The offer was accepted, and he spent his last days comforting his fellow prisoners. The man he saved was present at his canonisation.

Maximilian Kolbe's martyrdom is the least important thing about him. We are none of us likely to find ourselves in a position to emulate his sacrifice, and speculation as to the heroic way in which we would have behaved in his place is a pernicious waste of time. What is important is that he acted the way he did because of who he was – or, rather, because of who he had become. It is because of who he had become that we revere him as a saint: he would have been a saint (though perhaps not canonized) even if he had not been martyred. And that process of becoming is something we can all emulate. We can all become people for whom doing the right thing is obvious, natural, and easy. It requires no heroism, no special gifts: just perseverance, and prayer.

# Mass Times

## Sunday 2 August

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*Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8.45am

10.45am *Kathleen Warren RIP*

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

## Tuesday 4 August

*St John Mary Vianney, Priest*

NO MASS

## Wednesday 5 August

NO MASS

## Thursday 6 August

*The Transfiguration of the Lord*

NO MASS

## Friday 7 August

NO MASS

## Saturday 8 August

*St Dominic, Priest*

NO MASS

***NB Mass at Sacred Heart Church South Street each day at 10.00am (except Friday).***

## Sunday 9 August

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*Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8.45am *Annam Cheria RIP*

10.45am *People of the Parish*

6.00pm

## Tuesday 11 August

*St Clare, Virgin*

6.30pm

## Wednesday 12 August

9.30am *Aleksander Szytko RIP*

## Thursday 13 August

11.00am *Joan Ash RIP*

## Friday 14 August

*St Maximillian Kolbe, Priest, Martyr*

6.30pm *Valdi Pala RIP*

## Saturday 15 August

9.30am

## Sunday 16 August

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*The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am

6.00pm

# The Word

## Sunday 2 August

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FIRST READING Isaiah 55:1-3

*Come and eat.*

PSALM *You open wide your hand, O Lord, you grant our desires.*

SECOND READING Romans 8:35.37-39

*No created thing can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ.*

GOSPEL Matthew 14:13-21

*They all ate as much as they wanted.*

## Sunday 9 August

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FIRST READING 1 Kings 19:9.11-13

*Stand on the mountain before the Lord.*

PSALM *Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.*

SECOND READING Romans 9:1-5

*O would willingly be condemned if it could help my brothers.*

GOSPEL Matthew 14:22-33

*Tell me to come to you across the water.*

## Sunday 16 August

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FIRST READING Revelation 11:19,12:1-6.10

*A woman adorned with the sun, standing on the moon.*

PSALM *On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.*

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:20-26

*Christ as the first-fruits and then, those who belong to him.*

GOSPEL Luke 1:39-56

*The Almighty has done great things for me, he has exalted up the lowly.*

## Attachments

*Sunday Message & Sunday Homily*

*Look for young children & Ichthus for older children*

*Bishops clarify the Catholic position on vaccination*