

ParishNews



Blessed Sacrament Parish Heavitree Exeter
23 August 2020 Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year A



You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

There is a very simple theme to this Sunday's readings: it is the principle of authority in the community of the Church: we are introduced to the idea that God gives authority to someone in the first reading, where Shebna is dismissed by God and replaced. This is a prelude to the Gospel story of Peter being given authority: not because he is powerful or wise in the world's sense, but because he was able to profess his faith in the one sent by the Father. This is the principle of all authority in the Church: it is to spring only from God and our faith in God, professed by our way of life and rooted only in Christ, for 'to him all authority, in heaven and on earth, has been given.'

The Season of Creation

1 September – 4 October 2020

'The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home' Laudato Si' 13

The Season of Creation begins on September 1, the World Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends on October 4, the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi. This year we are celebrating the fifth anniversary of the publication of 'Laudato Si'; On Care For Our Common Home'. Pope Francis has also declared a special Year of Laudato Si', from 24 May 2020 to 24 May 2021.

The current pandemic has highlighted the inequalities which exist in our own country and its various communities and also the huge inequalities in the world between rich and poor. We must take opportunities to rebuild in a better way. A greener, more environmentally friendly future is possible. Making care for the poor, the most disadvantaged in our society and in the world a priority is possible.

So as the Season of Creation approaches, why not organise a Creation Celebration? Celebrate a special climate themed Mass, share a meal (socially distanced or online) or involve your parish and community in a conversation about how to tackle the climate crisis. There are lots of resources to help with ideas. Just go to the CAFOD or the Diocese of Plymouth website
<http://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk>

Online Individually Guided Retreats

The Plymouth Diocesan Ignatian Spirituality Group is offering online individually guided retreats for three, five or six days. Members of the Ignatian Spirituality Group are experienced guides, who have received training in relation to Ignatian spirituality and include priests, deacons or lay people. Dates can be arranged to suit individuals. For further information, please contact the Diocesan Ignatian Spirituality Group diocesan-ignatian-retreats@prcdtr.org.uk or telephone: 01752 769164 or 07823447637. In these uncertain and challenging times, many have rediscovered the delights of the created world, are turning to meditative practices, even finding solace in prayer. Others may feel the need to explore, make sense and reflect on the presence of God in their everyday lives, especially during difficult or painful moments experienced recently.

Exam Results

We pray for all those in our community who have received the results of their A levels and their GCSEs. In the most difficult circumstances we pray for the future of our young people. May they grow to understand God's will for their lives and the great love that he has for them. May the decisions they make today and in the future be for their good and the good of the world.

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 130120**. 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.

GIFT Growing In Faith Together

GIFT is for all families with children and young people who are keen to learn about and explore their Catholic faith. The sessions will be recommencing monthly, beginning in September, via Zoom meetings with parents. Following these meetings, family resources will be sent out for you to engage with in your family. We will be asking you for a small donation to cover the cost of these resources. Our first Zoom meeting is on 5 September 10.30–11.00am. If you would like to join GIFT, or if you are re-engaging with GIFT after the break caused by the pandemic, and you would like to receive links to the Zoom meetings, please email our Parish Pastoral Assistant Maria: exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

May they rest in peace...

Please pray for those who have died recently especially Vivian Bussell, Michael Sullivan and Kimberley Arnold. Vivian's funeral took place at Sacred Heart Church on Thursday and Michael's will be at Blessed Sacrament. May they all rest in peace and rise in glory.

New beginnings

This time of year is a time when many people, especially the young, are making plans for the next chapter of their lives. Those who work in or schools, colleges and universities will be planning how things will work with the restrictions etc. People are anxious about the security of their work, others are adapting to new working conditions. Change can often cause anxiety but it can also be an opportunity for real creativity. Please keep them all in your prayers.

Youth Events in the Diocese

September 26 - workshops for young people to discuss the future of our planet and ways we can teach others to look after it. Bookings will be taken in September.

October – a series of 5 sessions, exploring faith, music and creativity for those aged 13-21. We are looking for young people across the diocese to help put together a short film of prayer and reflection. The theme is; My spiritual journey, living through COVID-19. If you are interested in any of these or any future events, please email: youth@prcdtr.org

Smart Loving Marriage Event

Dear Brides & Grooms, Married, Betrothed & Couples considering marriage!

You have been in our prayers especially this year. We are so sorry for all those who have had their wedding plans disrupted by the pandemic and hope that your disappointment will be offset by the joy you have in your marriage. We thought it was time for some good news so we are pleased to tell you that we will be having an **Online Diocesan Marriage Event** on September 12, 2020. We had expected Francine & Byron Pirola - who provide Catholic Marriage Resources (SmartLoving) for engaged and also married couples all over the world - to be in the UK this Autumn. This will not be possible but they have kindly agreed to do a special online event for our Diocese.

There will be two blocks of input - the first for married or engaged couples and the second for those who support marriage or prepare or mentor couples, or who would like to do so - or those who want to support marriage in any way at all. I hope you will join us (and recommend others to do so). If you know the SmartLoving website you will remember that these are very good presenters! So come and meet the couple who have been involved in so many marriages and who share so much of theirs with us all. The date to save is **Saturday, September 12, 09.00 - 13.00** (to allow for global time differences) - on your iPad, laptop or phone. Come for part or all of the event. No travel is involved but bring your own drinks! Please let me know if you would like to take part. With best wishes to you and all your family, Deborah & Tim van Kroonenburg Deborah.vanKroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk

Bedtime Chats: a GIFT Resource

Visit the GIFT page on the parish web site: www.blessedsacrament.org.uk/

Face Masks/Coverings

It is now mandatory to cover our faces when we come to church. 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. Certain people are exempt from wearing masks and a list of these exemptions can be found on the Gov.uk website.

The Parish livesimply Sewing Group have been making face masks and some are available at church. The group are asking for a donation for the parish.

The Collection

Please place your cash offering or planned giving envelopes in one of the two baskets at the church doors. These will be collected at the end of each Mass. Please remember 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 if you can, please GiftAid your contribution. We are making plans for contactless giving at the church. Many thanks for your continued support of the parish at this difficult time.

Stewarding at Mass

Thank you to our stewards who continue to do a wonderful job. If you would like to join the team please contact the parish office exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk and we will get you on the rota. **Please can we ask that all stewards arrive at least half an hour before the beginning of Mass so that we can open the doors of the church in readiness for our congregation.**
Thank you.

Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)

Stretch out Your Hands – Putting All Children First - the Annual Appeal of the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) is next weekend. Please visit their website to understand the wonderful work which the Society does to help struggling children and their families, and to view the list of alternative ways you can donate this year. Thank you.

www.ccsplymouth.org.uk

The God Who Speaks

The talks are available at www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk and on Facebook @plymouthdiocese. 1. How Catholics Read the Bible; 2. Christ in the Old Testament; 3. The Fulfilment of the Covenant in the New Testament. Further resources can be found at www.stpaulrepository.com

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).

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/>

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.

Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

Wednesday Word will resume again on Wednesday 2nd September. We meet online via the Zoom app and reflect together on the Gospel for the coming Sunday. In this very simple way we grow in our understanding of scripture and about the God Who Speaks. You don't have to be a scripture scholar to join! It's open to anyone who feels they would like to increase their faith. And please don't be anxious if you have never used Zoom, we will help you to get set up. If you would like to join and receive email notifications, please email Maria: exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

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>

Pope Francis on Mercy...

We must ask the Lord to give us the grace to be merciful to those who do us wrong.

The Pope tweets...

May the Holy Spirit make us grow constantly in knowledge of God so that we might spread His love and His truth in the world

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.

Bishops Conference Information

Regular updates about the situation of the pandemic as well as lots of information about the Church in this country and around the world can be found on the website for the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales cbcew.org.uk

In an article published in The Tablet online, the Lead Bishop for Health and Social Care, Bishop Paul Mason stresses that we must look at those living with dementia in care homes through the lens of love. See attachment for transcript.

Foodbank News

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/



Confessions

Following Mass on Saturday mornings. Please wait in the pews at the front of the church (socially distanced) as they will have to be cleaned afterwards. I will hear confessions in the sacristy maintaining a 2m distance. Please remember that the Penitential Rite at the beginning of Mass includes an absolution prayed by the priest for the forgiveness of our sins. *Fr Jonathan*

Sunday Mass Blessed Sacrament on YouTube

Available each week at www.youtube.com/c/BlessedSacramentExeter

We have applied for lottery funding to enable us to install equipment which will enable us to live stream the Mass. We are currently waiting to hear from the Lottery Commission.

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/>



The Young Vincentians Groups

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>.

Instagram www.instagram.com/svpyoungvincentians/

YMCA News

For a reminder of the YMCA August news see the attachment.

Devon Artist Network

A vibrant showcase of art and craft across Devon from 12 to 27 September. There will be open studios in 114 venues by 200 artists. For more information www.devonartistnetwork.co.uk

Mary's Meals

The second Mary's Meals Family Hour takes place at 7.00pm on Thursday 27 August on their [YouTube](#) channel. See attachment for more details

Being part of history

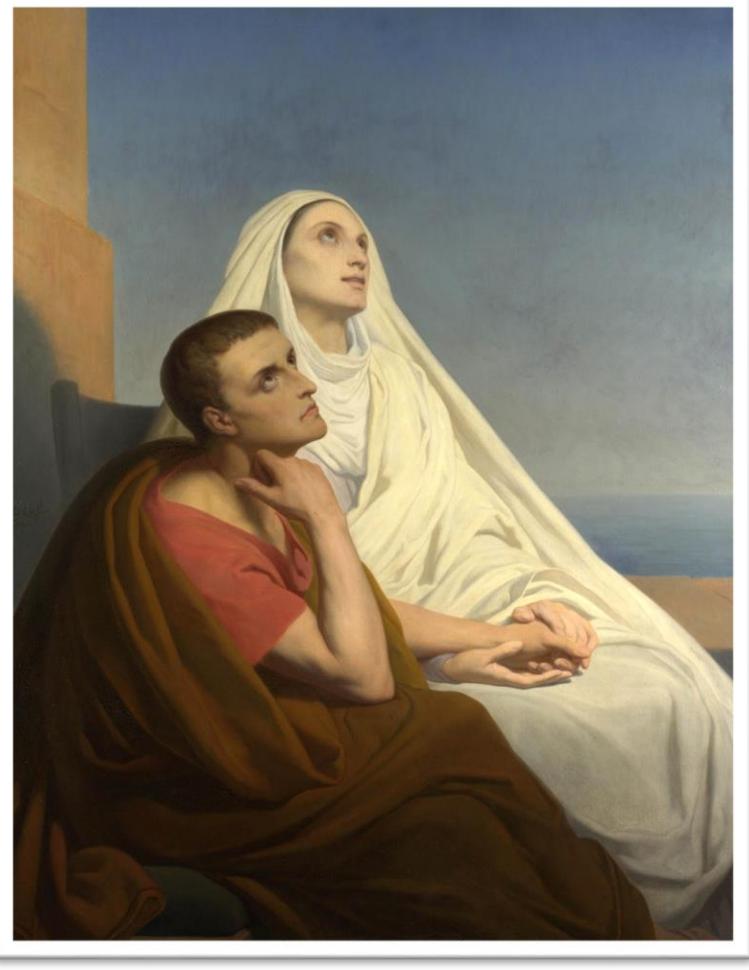
Devon Archives and Local would like your help in contributing to a community archive about experiences in Devon during the Coronavirus emergency. Here is a form for you to use:

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

For all the Saints...

24 August St Bartholomew Apostle

He was born at Cana and brought by the Apostle Philip to meet Jesus. Nothing further is known for certain. Eusebius speaks of him in India, but the Roman Martyrology has him martyred in Armenia, skinned alive according to the Persian custom. Because his relics were enshrined on the island in the Tiber that is principally used as a hospital, he has become a patron saint of the sick. Let us pray for all those known to us who are suffering at this time.



27 August St Monica

She was born at Thagaste in Africa of a Christian family. She was married young, to Patricius, and among her children was Augustine. He had a brilliant intellect and uncertain morals and his wayward spiritual career saw him at one time a Manichee and then a Neoplatonist. With many tears she prayed unceasingly to God for his conversion and her prayers were answered shortly before she died. She had a deep faith and outstanding virtue and is a wonderful example of a Christian mother.

27 August St Augustine

Augustine was born in Thagaste in Africa of a Berber family. He was brought up a Christian but left the Church early and spent a great deal of time seriously seeking the truth, first in the Manichaean heresy, which he abandoned on seeing how nonsensical it was, and then in Neoplatonism, until at length, through the prayers of his mother and the teaching of

St Ambrose of Milan, he was converted back to Christianity and baptized in 387, shortly before his mother's death. Augustine had a brilliant legal and academic career, but after his conversion he returned home to Africa and led an ascetic life. He was elected Bishop of Hippo and spent 34 years looking after his flock, teaching them, strengthening them in the faith and protecting them strenuously against the errors of the time. He wrote an enormous amount and left a permanent mark on both philosophy and theology. His *Confessions*, as dazzling in style as they are deep in content, are a landmark of world literature. The Second Readings in the Office of Readings contain extracts from many of his sermons and commentaries and also from the *Confessions*.

29 August The Passion of St John the Baptist

Saint John the Baptist has two feasts to himself. One, in August, celebrates his death, and one, in June, celebrates his birth. And this is as it should be, for as Christ himself said, John was the greatest of the sons of men.

The greatest, but also the most tragic. A prophet from before his birth, leaping in the womb to announce the coming of the incarnate God, his task was to proclaim the fulfilment of all prophecies – and thus his own obsolescence. And he did it: with unequalled courage he spread the news that he, the greatest of all men, was the least in the kingdom of heaven. His disciples, and the devil, would have preferred him to fight, to build his sect, to defeat this upstart whom he himself had baptized, to seize his place in history. But he did not – and so, rightly, he has his place, and he has glory in heaven.

We envy the great and the talented, and sometimes we think that they themselves are beyond envy. But when they come across someone with greater gifts, as one day most of them will, they will see for the first time what it means to feel like us. Let us pray that they, like John the Baptist, may pass that test.

Mass Times

Sunday 23 August

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am

6.00pm *Ann Pala RIP*

Tuesday 25 August

6.30pm *Private Intention*

Wednesday 26 August

9.30am

Thursday 27 August

St Monica, Patron of mothers

9.30am *Vivian Bussell RIP*

Friday 28 August

St Augustine, Bishop

6.30pm

Saturday 29 August

The Passion of St John the Baptist

9.30am

Sunday 30 August

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am

10.45am *Werner Bols RIP*

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

Tuesday 1 September

*World Day of Prayer for
the Care of Creation*

6.30pm

Wednesday 2 September

9.30am

Thursday 3 September

St Gregory the Great, Pope

9.30am *Michael Sullivan RIP*

Friday 4 September

6.30pm *Valdi Pala RIP*

Saturday 5 September

9.30am

The Word

Sunday 23 August

FIRST READING *Isaiah 22:19-23*

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

PSALM *Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.*

SECOND READING *Romans 11:33-36*

All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him.

GOSPEL *Matthew 16:13-20*

You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Sunday 30 August

FIRST READING *Jeremiah 20:7-9*

The word of the Lord has meant insult for me.

PSALM *For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.*

SECOND READING *Romans 12:1-2*

Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice.

GOSPEL *Matthew 16:21-27*

If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself.

Confessions

Following 9.30am Mass on Saturday morning. *Please be seated (socially distanced) in the front pews on the left of the church. The church will need to be cleaned following confessions.*

Attachments

Sunday Message & Sunday Homily

LOOK for young children

ICTHUS for older children

Healthcare Bishop argues for more loving attitude to people with dementia in care homes

Mary's Meals

YMCA News