

# ParishNews



**Blessed Sacrament Parish Heavitree Exeter**

**30 August 2020** Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year A

---



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

A quick glance at last week's Gospel reveals the interesting development of the story: last week, we heard Peter proclaiming that Jesus was the Messiah, and being given authority as a result. This week, Peter gets it wrong: he is rebuked by the Lord because he does not understand who the Messiah is. The Messiah is the one who will give everything for his people - even his own life. To be a follower of Jesus demands an understanding and acceptance of this fact, and a willingness to take up the cross as Jesus did. Our introduction to this is the prophet Jeremiah - also persecuted for doing and saying what was right. Have a look at the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, where this twinning of Jeremiah and prophecy of persecution also appears.

## **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' 1.3 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>

## *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](mailto:exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk)

## **Catholic Children Society Annual Appeal 2020**

This year's CCSP Annual Appeal falls on the weekend of 29 and 30h August. As Bishop Mark says, this year's Annual Appeal is being launched in a time when great economic hardship has fallen on many families due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With all our fundraising events cancelled, and with an increase in the number of grant applications we are receiving from families struggling as a result of Covid-19, we ask that our parishes '**Stretch out Your Hands**' a little further this year please and whilst we appreciate that this is asking a lot, your donations and prayers really are needed thank you. This year, because of the restrictions in place, we are hoping that our parishioners will be able to donate in alternative ways so that the amount of money raised is not adversely affected by the current pandemic. Indeed, we sincerely hope that this year's Annual Appeal raises more funds than in previous years, as more families are in need of our financial support right now and we only envisage this increasing into 2021. Donations can be made via our Crowdfunding page <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/2020-ccsp-annual-appeal---stretch-out-your-hands> where we receive 100% of every donation as all fees have been waived, and we acknowledge all donations as some parishioners have mentioned a reluctance to donate online. Donations can also be posted to CCSP, St Boniface House, Ashburton, TQ13 7JL or can be transferred by BACS direct into our CCSP bank account sort code – 52-41-60 account number – 06024335. For the full list of ways to support our Annual Appeal this year, please visit our website at [www.ccsplymouth.org.uk](http://www.ccsplymouth.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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto: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. 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** - 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](mailto:Deborah.vanKroonenburg@prcdtr.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 130120**. The Mass will not go over one hour (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.

## Vacancies in the Diocese of Plymouth

**Parish Property Mentors** - Location: Homeworking with travel to parishes and occasional travel to St Boniface House, Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7JL. Salary: 1 post £30K p.a. pro rata (actual £18K p.a.), and 1 post £35K p.a. (actual £21K p.a.) dependant on experience, plus pension scheme (subject to eligibility). Hours: 21 hours per week x 2 posts. Closing Date: Monday 14 Sept. First interviews: via MS Teams on 22 Sept, second interviews in person on 29 Sept at St Boniface House. Parish Property Mentors will provide practical guidance & support to Parishes from initial enquiry through to completion of pre & post contract building activities for repair & maintenance activities and more substantial re-ordering/alteration work for churches, parish halls and presbyteries. Ideal candidates will have great interpersonal and communication skills; ability to manage a wide range of property based technical consultants and an RICS/CIOB professional qualification (or equivalent) and ideally be educated to degree level. Copies of the job description, person specification and application form are obtainable by contacting Cathedral Appointments, Exeter by emailing: [andrei@cathedralappointments.co.uk](mailto:andrei@cathedralappointments.co.uk).

**Caritas Plymouth Project Support Worker** - Location: St Boniface House Salary: £11.39 per hour (£20,730 per annum pro rata) plus pension scheme (subject to eligibility) Hours: 21 hours per week. Closing Date: Monday 7 Sept 2020. First Interviews: via MS Teams on Wednesday 30 Sept, second interviews in person at St Boniface House on Wednesday 7 October. Caritas Plymouth is looking for someone with office and project management skills to join our small, friendly team supporting social action across the Diocese. DBS required. Copies of the job description, person specification and application form are obtainable by contacting Cathedral Appointments, Exeter by emailing [dani@cathedralappointments.co.uk](mailto:dani@cathedralappointments.co.uk).

## Annual Grandparents' Pilgrimage

You are invited to join the annual pilgrimage for Grandparents which will be online this year on Sunday 13 September. Please see the attached News Bulletin from the Catholic Grandparents Association for August 2020 for more information.

## Your Offering

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 generous support of the parish at this difficult time.

## Pope Francis on Mercy...

In short, we are called to show mercy because mercy has been first shown to us. Pardoning offences becomes the clearest expression of merciful love, and for us Christians it is an imperative from which we cannot excuse ourselves.

## Pope's September Intention

Respect for the planet's resources. We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered but shared in a just and respectful manner. See also <https://thepopevideo.org/>

## The Pope tweets...

Let's not forget the victims of the coronavirus. So much suffering, so many people who lost their lives; and so many volunteers, doctors, nurses, sisters, priests, who also lost their lives. Let us remember the families who have suffered because of this.

## Stewarding at Mass

If you would like to join the team please contact the parish office 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.

## Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

Wednesday Word will resume again on Wednesday 2 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](mailto:exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk)

## Act of Spiritual Communion

**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.**

## 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](http://www.youtube.com/c/BlessedSacramentExeter)

## Exeter Prays

Join with others to pray for our city, land and nations on Sunday 30 August 8.00 to 8.40pm  
[www.southwestawake.com](http://www.southwestawake.com)

## May they rest in peace...

Please pray for those who have died recently especially Michael Sullivan and Kimberley Arnold. Michael's funeral will be celebrated at Blessed Sacrament. May they rest in peace.

## 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](http://www.devonartistnetwork.co.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.

# For all the Saints...



## *30 August St Margaret Clitheroe* (1556 - 1586)

Margaret Middleton was born in York around 1553, lived there all her life, and died there on 25 March 1586. At 15, she married a butcher, John Clitherow, and three years later became a Catholic. Her brother-in-law William was a Catholic and after ordination as a priest became a Carthusian; he may well have influenced Margaret's decision to become a Catholic. Imprisoned for her non-attendance at church, she taught herself to read and later ran a small school for her own and her neighbours' children. Her husband remained Protestant, but allowed her to hide priests in their house. It is said

that she used to visit the Knavesmire (the Tyburn of the North) to pray for those who had been martyred there. She saw that her children were all educated in the faith through the services of a young man who had been imprisoned for his faith in York Castle. She knew this prison well having been detained there several times for non-attendance at Church of England services. In 1586 the secret hiding places in her home were discovered, and Margaret was put on trial. In order to prevent her children and servants from being questioned she refused to plead, for which the punishment was being laid on sharp stones and then crushed to death. Her body was secretly buried by the authorities but was later discovered by friends, who buried her privately elsewhere; though the place of her burial has not yet been found. Her daughter Anne was imprisoned for four years for refusing to attend a Church of England service, and finally became a nun at St Ursula's, Louvain. Her sons Henry and William became priests.

## *31 August St Aidan*

Aidan, a native of Ireland, was a monk on Iona. When the Christian King Oswald returned from exile on Iona to his kingdom of Northumbria, he invited the monks of Iona to provide missionaries to instruct his people in Christianity. After initial difficulties, Aidan was consecrated bishop and sent with a group of Irish monks to begin this task. He established a monastery on the island of Lindisfarne which became the centre of a major missionary effort in the North of England. The monastery also became a valuable centre of learning and an important training ground for the education of English boys who would continue the work of evangelisation. From Lindisfarne Aidan journeyed throughout Northumberland, usually on foot, and working closely with King Oswald who found him to be a wise adviser and a good personal friend. After Oswald's death in 642, Aidan continued this work under his successor, Oswin, but when Oswin himself was killed nine years later, Aidan did not long survive him and died two weeks later in 651. According to Bede, Aidan was a man of great gentleness and moderation, outstanding for his energetic missionary work. His influence on the North of England was enormous, and his wise promotion of Christian education among the native English laid the solid foundation for the spread of the Gospel in the centuries which followed his death.

## *3 September St Gregory the Great, Pope* (540 - 604)

He was born in Rome and followed the career of public service that was usual for the son of an aristocratic family, finally becoming Prefect of the City of Rome, a post he held for some years.

He founded a monastery in Rome and some others in Sicily, then became a monk himself. He was ordained deacon and sent as an envoy to Constantinople, on a mission that lasted five years. He was elected Pope on 3 September 590, the first monk to be elected to this office. He reformed the administration of the Church's estates and devoted the resulting surplus to the assistance of the poor and the ransoming of prisoners. He negotiated treaties with the Lombard tribes who were ravaging northern Italy, and by cultivating good relations with these and other barbarians he was able to keep the Church's position secure in areas where Roman rule had broken down. His works for the propagation of the faith include the sending of Augustine and his monks as missionaries to England in 596, providing them with continuing advice and support and (in 601) sending reinforcements. He wrote extensively on pastoral care, spirituality, and morals, and designated himself "servant of the servants of God." He died on 12 March 604, but as this date always falls within Lent, his feast is celebrated on the date of his election as Pope.

#### *4 September St Cuthbert (634? - 687)*

According to tradition, he was a shepherd boy. Certainly he became a monk, and later prior, at Melrose. After the Synod of Whitby in 664 he became prior of Lindisfarne and gradually won over the community to Roman ecclesiastical customs. He was zealous in preaching the Gospel but most attracted to living the life of a hermit, and in 676 he left the monastery and lived in solitude on the nearby island of Inner Farne. For the last two years of his life he served as bishop of Lindisfarne, but he returned to his island to die, on 20 March 687. His remains were removed from their resting place at Lindisfarne to escape Viking raiders and were eventually enshrined at Durham Cathedral. Because the anniversary of his death always falls within Lent, his feast is celebrated on the anniversary of the enshrinement of his remains at Durham.

#### *8 September The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Even though we cannot trace the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary back any further than the sixth century, the source for the story of the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary is much older. The earliest documented version is found in the Protoevangelium of James, an apocryphal gospel written about A.D. 150. From this, we learn the names of Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, as well as the tradition that the couple was childless until an angel appeared to Anna and told her that she would conceive (many of the same details appear also in the later apocryphal Gospel of the Nativity of Mary). The traditional date of the feast, September 8, falls exactly nine months after the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Perhaps because of its close proximity to the feast of the Assumption of Mary, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is not celebrated today with the same solemnity as the Immaculate Conception. It is, nonetheless, a very important feast, because it prepares the way for the birth of Christ. It is also an unusual feast, because it celebrates a birthday. The feasts of saints are traditionally celebrated on the day of their death, because that is the date on which they entered into eternal life. And, indeed, we also celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary's entrance into Heaven on August 15, the Feast of the Assumption. There are only three people whose birthdays have traditionally been celebrated by Christians. Jesus Christ, at Christmas; Saint John the Baptist; and the Blessed Virgin Mary. And we celebrate all three birthdays for the same reason: all three were born without Original Sin. Christ, because He was conceived by the Holy Spirit; Mary, because she was kept free from the stain of Original Sin by the action of God in His foreknowledge that she would agree to be the mother of Christ; and Saint John, because he was blessed in the womb by the presence of his Savior when Mary, pregnant with Jesus, came to aid her cousin Elizabeth in the final months of Elizabeth's pregnancy (an event we celebrate in the Feast of the Visitation).

# Mass Times

## 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

Saturday 5 September

9.30am

## Sunday 6 September

---

*Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am *Harold Holding RIP*

6.00pm

Tuesday 8 September

*The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

6.30pm

Wednesday 9 September

9.30am *Mo Flavin RIP*

Thursday 10 September

9.30am

Friday 11 September

6.30pm

Saturday 12 September

9.30am

# The Word

## 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.*

## Sunday 6 September

---

FIRST READING Ezekiel 33:7-9

*If you do not speak to the wicked man, I will  
hold you responsible for his death.*

PSALM *O that today you would listen to his  
voice! Harden not your hearts.*

SECOND READING Romans 13:8-10

*Love is the answer to every one of the  
commandments.*

GOSPEL Matthew 18:15-20

*If he listens to you, you have won back your  
brother.*

## 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*

*News Bulletin from the Catholic*

*Grandparents Association for August 2020*

*Regular information*