

ParishNews



Blessed Sacrament Parish Heavitree Exeter
15 November 2020 Thirty Third Ordinary time. Year A

You have been faithful in small things; come and join in your master's happiness



We must be very careful that the real point of today's first reading is not washed away in genuine concerns over what one can and cannot say about the responsibilities of spouses. This is not, in fact, a recipe for 'the perfect wife', but an illustration, from one age, of the virtue of fully employing the talents God gives us. Some things are timeless, such as holding out a hand to the poor, while other talents shift and change. The point is that all of us are gifted in varying ways and degrees: none of us should begrudge anyone else their talents, for fear that we overlook our own. We work wisely and well, looking forward to the master's return, when we can hand over to him not just what he gave us, but also the fruits that our labours have gained.

Opening Times for Individual Prayer

Until the end of this lockdown period the church will be open on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday mornings between 9.30 and 10.30am. The social distancing restrictions apply and you will have to wear a face covering whilst you are in church. The stewards will be on duty to assist you and ensure everyone is safe as well as taking your details as you enter, please co-operate with them and be considerate to others who may want to come to pray.

South West Big Christmas Carols Online

December 5 & 6. Professionally produced carols from a range of participants including well-known Christian singers (Matt Redman, Lucy Grumble, London Community Gospel Choir, Wildwood Kin and a Cathedral Children's Choir TBC). Interspersed with testimonies of people's experience of the hope of the gospel, with J John TBC. Large nativity featuring multiple schools from across the southwest - a narration of the nativity acted out and captured on camera. Possibly the largest nativity in the southwest. Live presenters topping and tailing the night.

More info: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6khlD6Nh44>

Celebrate South West

The South West Celebrate Team have put together a series of online Zoom evenings on Mondays from 7.30 – 8.30pm. To register go to www.celebrateconference.org/back-to-basics-2020. The topics covered are:

16 November: Formation; The Call to Ever Deeper Discipleship with Stronghold

30 November: Mission; Taking Risks and Stepping out in Faith to Pursue God's Mission.

Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

Wednesday Word meets online via the Zoom app and reflect together on the Gospel for the coming Sunday. If you would like to join and receive email notifications, please email: exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

Exeter Foodbank—Food Shortages

Can you help by donating any of the following from the November priority items list:

Cereal, Sponge Puddings, Potatoes – Tins, Noodle/Pasta Snacks, Rice Pudding, Biscuits, Jam/Spreads, Pasta Sauce, Toothpaste/Toothbrushes.

Current Collection Points - Sainsbury's (Alphington/Pinhoe/Guildhall); Tesco (Exe Vale); Co-Op (Heavitree/St Thomas); Waitrose (Gladstone Rd)

You can also give a donation on line at exeter.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/

Financial support

We have very kindly been given some money to help people who might be struggling at the moment. It's not a huge amount but it could perhaps cover a few weekly shops for some families or something similar. We know how difficult it can be to ask for help but you may be able to ask on someone's behalf. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Parish Office.

St Nicholas School Admissions

Reception 2021 Admissions

Unfortunately, due to the current lockdown restrictions St Nicholas School are not able to offer tours for prospective parents. We will be adding some virtual content to our website very soon to give more information about our school. Please go to <http://www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk/>

Government help

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

GIFT Growing In Faith Together

WHAT IS IT? GIFT is for families of faith; for families with children who are looking forward to receiving Holy Communion; for families with older children who want to be confirmed in their faith; for families with younger children who want to experience and grow in faith in a simple and enjoyable way.

HOW DOES IT WORK? Our first three GIFT sessions at the beginning of this year were a great success with over 30 families joining together at St Nicholas School on Saturday mornings. Due to the current situation and our inability to meet together we are having to do things in a different way. We have invested in resources which are designed to support parents in sharing their faith and helping their families grow in knowledge and love of God, his creation, Jesus his Son and the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit and his action in the world and our lives. We are offering these resources to any family who may be genuinely interested in and willing to engage in the process. This is not homework for children (!) but a real opportunity for families to share and enjoy their faith at home TOGETHER (which the Church has always described as the Domestic Church).

MONTHLY MEETING Each month we will meet parents for 30 minutes on ZOOM. We will familiarise you with the 'God calls' resources by focusing on: introducing you to the structure and format of the resources; exploring the catechesis and faith teaching of the resource and answering any questions you may have. The material concentrates on coaching you to teach and support your children in learning about faith. Following the Zoom call, you will be emailed the resources which can be used with the whole family during the month.

If you would like to join us, please get in touch with Maria exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.ogr.uk Future GIFT zoom date is scheduled for the 5 Dec.

Pope's November Intention

Artificial Intelligence. We pray that the process of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind. See also <https://thepopevideo.org/>

Pope's World Day of the Poor Intention

For the Church of God, that it may reflect on how poverty is at the very heart of the gospel. For all who work with the poorest in our society, encouraged by the God of mercy, may they bring hope and dignity to all in need.

The Pope tweets...

The one who prays is never alone. In fact, Jesus welcomes us in His prayer so that we might pray in Him and through Him. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. The Gospel invites us to pray to the Father in Jesus's name.

Exeter Prays

During the last Sunday of each month, Exeter Prays at 8.00 - 8.40pm. Please join in praying for our city, land, and the nations. Online at www.southwestawake.com/

Our Lady of the Rosary Family Catechism

www.olrfamilycatechism.com An entire online video catechism course which provides children and their families with the unique opportunity to learn the timeless truths of the Catholic Faith according to the classic Baltimore Catechism. Voice of the Family (SPUC) offers this excellent resource completely free of charge. The engaging and professional videos cover all 37 lessons of the Baltimore Catechism and provide free activity packs, that catechists or parents can use and adapt according to the abilities of their children, for each lesson. The website includes several introductory & explanatory videos, an information pack, and the possibility of registering for a free account in order to access all videos and materials. You are invited to take advantage of this excellent resource.

Essential Grants Programme for Children and Families

The Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) 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.

<https://www.ccsplymouth.org.uk/what-we-do/grant-giving/> tel: 01364 645420

A great way to share the Christmas Story



The Real Advent Calendar 2020, (now in it's 8th year) is the UK's only Fairtrade Advent calendar which comes with a free 24 page Christmas story activity book. The 2020 Real Advent Calendar is a fun way for parents, grandparents and godparents to share the Christmas story. The new 2020 edition calendar comes with a free 24-page Christmas story activity book designed to be used every day in Advent. This year, the book is illustrated by award winning artist, Martina Peluso. Behind each of the 25 windows there is a festive Fairtrade chocolate made from our new and improved Fairtrade blend.

Meaningful Features: A line of the Christmas story behind each window. Foil sealed for

freshness. Made from quality Fairtrade milk chocolate 35% Cocoa. Palm Oil Free. 25 Festive chocolate shapes. Charitable donation. Recyclable box & tray. Made, designed and produced in the UK The Real Advent Calendar is designed to share and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas so that Christ is not written out of Christmas.

Meaningful Story: The Real Advent calendar was created following surveys which showed that 36% of 5-7 year olds did not know whose birthday is celebrated at Christmas. In the same year 51% of adults said that the birth of Jesus was irrelevant to their Christmas. The Real Advent Calendar is a great way to reverse this tipping point and put Christ back into the hearts of those who no longer know the Christmas story in full. To help with this the Real Advent Calendar comes with a free 24 page Christmas story-activity book. There is a page for every day of Advent and some fun Advent challenges along the way.

The Human Person - Franciscan at Home

Who am I? What is my nature? What has God created me for? Who has God created me for? Would you like to discover insights on a fascinating aspect of our faith? Join us online on Mondays at 7.00pm, for an hour of video presentations, prayer and reflection on The Human Person, a workshop from Franciscan at Home. All welcome. For an invitation link please email deborahvankroo@gmail.com Vicariate for Evangelisation and Catechesis. Starts 16 November at 7.30pm (one hour only)

Youth Events in our Diocese

You can view our creation service on the Diocese YouTube page:

<https://youtu.be/bNVJYg4IQYM>. It's beautiful to hear what young members love about our world and to listen to our young adults reflecting on our duty as Stewards of the earth.

If you know a young person that would like to take part in the next online service in December, please contact youth@prcdtr.org.uk. Thank you.

Local Diocesan Online & Residential Retreats - time to reflect...

We are offering a programme of online individually guided retreats - 3, 5 or 6 days of accompanied prayer in daily life are organised to suit your schedule. In these uncertain and challenging times, many of us may feel the need to explore, make sense and reflect on our experience, especially in relation to the presence or felt absence of God in our everyday lives, during difficult or painful moments undergone recently. Retreats offer an ideal opportunity to do this. We welcome those who may be new to the experience of a retreat, as well as those familiar with it. Members of the group are experienced guides, who have received training in relation to Ignatian spirituality and include priests, deacons or lay people. For further information, the Diocesan Ignatian Spirituality Group can be contacted by email at diocesan-ignatian-retreats@prcdtr.org.uk or telephone: 01752 769164 or 07823447637.

Pope Francis on Mercy...

As we can see in Sacred Scripture, mercy is a keyword that indicates God's action towards us. He does not limit Himself merely to affirming His love, but makes it visible and tangible. Love, after all, can never be just an abstraction. By its very nature, it indicates something concrete: intentions, attitudes, and behaviours that are shown in daily living.

A National Shared Moment of Prayer

In the past week, Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Archbishop Justin Welby have both called on everyone to join a national shared moment of prayer each day at 6.00pm, and to have the vigil of Christ the King as a day of prayer to end the pandemic.

Free digital trial of the Universe Newspaper

Get the digital newspaper you'll have faith in. FREE download every week until January, all the news and features direct to your home computer, smartphone or tablet. All you have to do is go to thecatholicuniverse.com/subscription-trial to register. The printed edition of The Universe is available as normal.

Caritas – support for individuals


As we are into our second full lockdown, Caritas has updated their list of grants that people might find useful if they are struggling. This will be shared this via their website. Here is the link <https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Covid-19-Support-for-Individuals-November-2020-Update.pdf>

How are you... really?

Often the response to this question, and not just these days, is 'I'm FINE'. I've heard it said this stands for: Fed-up, Introverted, Neurotic and Emotional! Tough words to say out loud. This year I have to admit to feeling most of these things, often at the same time and I can imagine you share my experience. Why do we find it so difficult to admit how we are actually feeling? The question is usually asked with a genuine concern for the other's well-being and yet we brush it off, perhaps because we're not sure if the person asking is really interested or because we're afraid that once we start telling them how we really feel we may not be able to stop.

It's never easy to share our feelings with others. We can do it with close friends (although even that doesn't happen sometimes) and family. And yet it is so important.

Imagine today that God is asking you how you are. He won't settle for 'FINE'. Of course he knows already. He tells us we are his precious children. A parent can usually tell exactly how their child is before anything is voiced. But telling God how we feel, how we are is the best way to begin prayer. It's like checking in with a friend before the real conversation. With God we can use the words fed up, introverted, neurotic, emotional... angry, confused, frustrated, lonely, sad, helpless, lost, afraid. He knows. He loves us. Everything will be alright. *Fr Jonathan*

A photograph of a church altar. In the foreground, a white marble altar top holds a lit white candle in a brass candlestick on the left and a large, ornate golden monstrance on the right. The monstrance is highly detailed with a central circular window and radiating golden rays. Behind the altar, a dark blue vase filled with red flowers sits on a white surface. The background features two tall, white marble columns with intricate capitals, set against a wall of dark brown stone tiles. A golden cross is visible on the right column.

O Lord,
hear my
prayer...

ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL GOD,
our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress, in faith
we pray; look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to
the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the
dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the
courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory
to your holy name.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with
you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Opening Prayer from the votive Mass in time of pandemic.

Mass Times

Sunday 15 November

Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Tim
Church open for prayer 9.30–10.30am
World Day of the Poor
People of the Parish

Tuesday 17 November

Funeral Margaret Derrick RIP

Wednesday 18 November

Church open for prayer 9.30–10.30am
Agnes Jordan RIP

Thursday 19 November

Church open for prayer 9.30–10.30am
Sick & deceased members of the Thursday Lunch Club

Friday 20 November

Saturday 21 November

The presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Church open for prayer 9.30–10.30am
Ann Pala RP

Sunday 22 November

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Youth Sunday
Church open for prayer 9.30–10.30am
People of the Parish

Tuesday 24 November

St Andrew Dung-Lac - Priest & Martyr
And Companions - Martyrs
George Stewart RIP

Wednesday 25 November

Church open for prayer 9.30–10.30am
Private Intention

Thursday 26 November

Church open for prayer 9.30–10.30am
Fred Morgan RIP

Friday 27 November

Saturday 28 November

Church open for prayer 9.30–10.30am

The Word

Sunday 15 November

FIRST READING

Proverbs 31:10-13.19-20.30-31
A perfect wife – who can find her?

PSALM

O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

SECOND READING

 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Let not the Day of the Lord overtake you like a thief.

GOSPEL

 Matthew 25:14-30

You have been faithful in small things; come and join in your master's happiness

Sunday 22 November

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-12.15-17

As for you, my sheep, I will judge between sheep and sheep.

PSALM

*The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.*

SECOND READING 1

Corinthians 15:20-26.28

He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, so that God may be all in all.

GOSPEL

 Matthew 25:31-46

*He will take his seat on his throne of glory,
and he will separate men from one another.*



Parish Information

Parish Priest

Fr Jonathan Stewart

Priest in retirement

Fr John Watkins

PARISH OFFICE

The Presbytery,
29 Fore Street, Heavitree
Exeter EX1 2QJ
01392 274724

Email exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Office hours

Tuesday, Wednesday and
Thursday 10.00am–4.00pm

Parish Secretary

Lesley Hooper

Exeter Parishes Pastoral Assistant

Maria Quinn
exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

Exeter Parishes Youth Worker

Erik Renz
exeter-youth-worker@prcdtr.org.uk

Safeguarding Reps

Vince Clark & Lesley Hooper

PARISH SCHOOL

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School
Ringswell Avenue,
Exeter EX1 3EG
01392 445403
admin@stnics.uk
www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk

Executive Head Teacher

Angela Folland

CONVENT

Sisters of the Presentation of Mary
Mount St Mary Convent,
Wonford Road,
EX2 4PF
01392 433301

Your Offering

We are enormously grateful for your continued generosity to the parish. 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.

Parish News by Post & Email

If you know someone who would appreciate keeping in touch in this way to receive the parish news by post, with their permission please give their name and address and to the parish office by phoning or email to exeterheavitree@prcdtr.org.uk and we will arrange to get a copy to them.

If they have an email address please ask them to email the parish office (address above) and they can be added to the circulation list.

The Bishops' Conference

Regular updates from the Bishops' Conference can be found at ccn@cbcew.org.uk

Dial-a-Mass

For the benefit of those who do not have the internet or computer the Mass is recorded and put on the telephone at 12 midday on Sundays and will stay until 11.59 the following Sunday. For the cost of a local call they can listen to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Dial 01642 130120

Churches Together Devon

The latest Churches Together Devon news is now available, here:

<https://mailchi.mp/e163e3bc1ba8/ctd-news-update-october-2020?e=8484c4b7b3>

Getting married?

Congratulations! Please give us six months' notice if you are hoping to marry in the Church.

**Deadline for newsletter items
4.00pm Wednesday.**