

Parish News



Blessed Sacrament Parish Heavitree Exeter

17 December 2017 *Third Sunday of Advent-Gaudete Sunday Psalter Week 3*



Praise and Worship

If you'd like to join us for an evening of charismatic praise and worship then come to church on Thursday 21 December at 7.15pm. For more information contact Chris and Sue: 01392 432929

Parish Carol Service

Today 17 December at 3.00pm followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. All welcome.

Advent Holy Hour

Friday 22 December at 7.00pm in church.

Churches Together Carols

at St Loyes Ruins tomorrow, Monday 18 December at 6.00pm. Please come along and join with other churches in the area.

Ministry at Christmas

Readers and Extraordinary ministers will find a sign up list in the porch for all Christmas Masses. Please indicate on this if you are available to read or help with the distribution of Holy Communion. There is a booklet of readings available for the readers to take.

Carols at Tesco's

The Sacred Heart CAFOD group will be at the main Tesco's supermarket 6.00–8.00pm on Wednesday 20 December. Please join them and offer your support.

Christmas Mass times

December 24 · 4th Sunday of Advent

Morning Masses at 9.00 and 10.30am

December 24 Christmas Eve

Christmas Vigil Mass at 6.00pm

Vigil of readings and carols at 11.30pm

followed by Midnight Mass

December 25 Christmas Day

Masses at 9.00 and 10.30am

NB There will be no evening Mass

December 26 Feast of St Stephen

Mass at 9.30am. At this Mass our new altar servers will be enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen and receive their medals.

Christmas Prayer Tree

There are tags by our tree for you to write an intention on and tie it to the tree. Many thanks to the Sisters who have made the tags and the parishioner who donated the tree. Any donations will go to the Sisters charity in the Philippines.

Christmas Flowers Collection

Collection for Christmas flowers this Sunday 17 December at all Masses. Thank you in advance for your generosity. If you wish to donate towards the flowers at any other time, there is a box for "Flowers" on the wall boxes.

Christmas Offerings

Envelopes available in the church porch for the traditional offering for the priests.

Filipino Mass

Blessed Sacrament church on Saturday 23 December at 4.30pm.



As we remember the Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem and their subsequent flight to Egypt, let us pray this Advent for those who are homeless and in search for refuge.

CAFOD Advent prayer for refugees

Each day we read about, we see, we hear, people seeking refuge from war, from poverty, from natural disaster, searching for a better life for their families and themselves.

Jesus, we remember that your family also sought refuge. Now, as we prepare for your arrival in Bethlehem let us walk alongside our sisters and brothers created in your image, who also seek refuge.

This Advent let us see in them your face and be joyful, not fearful. Help us rejoice and not lament. Amen.

If possible, let us also support our sisters and brothers through practical action – such as supporting the SVP Christmas parcel appeal, buying a CAFOD World Gift to assist refugees or donating to one of the recent emergency appeals.

Nightfever 2017

Thanks to all who took part and helped, especially our confirmation candidates and the EYCC members. Many people appreciated the welcome and the beautiful atmosphere in Sacred Heart Church.

Diocesan Yearbook 2018

Now available. Price **£4.00**. A great source of diocesan information and news. Please put payment in wall box marked 'Books'.

Charismatic prayer group

The group meets in the St Richard Reynolds Centre from 7.15 to 9.00pm on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be on Thursday 11 January. For more info call Chris and Sue Lee on 01392 432929.

Please pray for...

Mateo Tiacoh who will be baptised this weekend and for his family and Godparents

Please pray for...

Yvonne Cann who has died. Her funeral will take place at Exeter Crematorium next Friday 22nd. May she rest in peace.

St Nick's News

We have now broken up for the Christmas holidays following a few busy weeks. We have welcomed parents, families and friends to our Christmas fayre and to watch the Foundation Stage and KS1 nativities and the lovely KS2 Advent Liturgy that took place at Sacred Heart Church last Tuesday. We had our special Christmas lunch for the whole school last Wednesday followed by a Christmas singalong in the hall and then finished off the week with our whole school Advent Liturgy in the hall and a few class Christmas parties.

Thank you to all parishioners who have supported the school over the year. We hope you all have a very happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you at school events in 2018! Children return to school on Wednesday 3 January and parishioners are welcome to join us for our Epiphany Liturgy at 9.15am on Friday 5 January in the school hall.

Concert in January

The Clifton String Trio (violin - Julie Hill, viola - Emma Welton, cello - Annabel Rooney), with guest speaker Jilly Spencer, will present a programme of music and words at Blessed Sacrament Church on Sunday 28th January 2018 at 3pm. Featuring Gordon Jacob's Six Shakespearian Sketches and works by Mozart, Purcell and Thomas Hardy. Pay what you decide.

Pope's Intention for December

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generation.

Diocesan Job Vacancy

The diocese is looking to appoint two part time Safeguarding Administrators who will work with the Safeguarding Co-ordinator and other Safeguarding staff delivering effective measures to ensure that young and vulnerable people within the Diocese are kept safe. For more info about the roles please see the poster in the church porch or contact the Safeguarding Co-ordinator on 01364 645430. A copy of the job description etc. are obtainable from Jan Holton in the HR Department on 01364 645383 or email

recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk Application form and covering letter to arrive by Tuesday 2 January 2018 and interviews will be on Thursday 11 January 2018 at St. Boniface House.

Christmas Cards

At this time of year we like to send cards to wish other parishioners a happy Christmas. You may not get to see everyone that you write a card for so a box has been placed in the church porch where you can leave cards for others to collect. Please also remember to look to see if any have been left for you!

Syro Malabar Women's Forum

Will be celebrating Mass with Fr Sunny at Blessed Sacrament on Saturday 5 January followed by a meeting.

APF Red box collection

The total collected from the Red boxes was £342.33. Thank you.

Christmas crib in Heavitree

Please don't forget to take a look at the crib in the window of G. W. Key & Shoe in Heavitree. This is organized by Christians Together in Heavitree.

Weekly Giving Envelopes

The weekly gift aid and planned giving envelopes are available for collection today. Please let us know if there are any changes in your circumstances. Are you

still paying income tax for instance? Also check we have the right address details for you. If you are new to the Parish or perhaps not considered gift aiding your donations there is opportunity today to consider it. You can always call the Parish office for more information. Thank you.
Anne Burdon Parish Treasurer

Preparing for Christmas

Anyone who keeps Advent carefully will get nearer to the truth about Christmas, and have a happier Christmas than one who simply attends church on Christmas day. Nine days of prayer from 17 – 25 December, waiting and meditating on the incarnation, focus our lives on Christmas itself. In Russia there is a custom of fasting and silence on Christmas Eve until the first star appears (the star which shone over Bethlehem).

Preparing for Baptism

Next preparation course for parents is on Saturday 3 February at 10.30 am in the Richard Reynolds Centre. Please book your place with the Parish Office.

Diary Dates

Friday 22 December – Holy Hour 7pm

Sunday 31 December – Holy Hour 7pm

New Year's Day 1 January – Mass at 12.00noon followed by Cheese & Wine party in St Richard Reynolds Centre

Sunday 7 January – Epiphany Praise at 3.00pm followed by refreshments.

Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve falls on the Fourth Sunday of Advent this year, the Liturgy Office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales says that you cannot fulfil both the Sunday and Christmas obligations in just one Mass. So, if you attend an evening Mass for Christmas on the Sunday, you will need to go to a different Mass earlier in the day, or on Saturday evening for the fourth Sunday of Advent Mass!

Masses

Sunday 17 December
3rd Sunday of Advent

Gaudete Sunday

9.00am Harry Arpino RIP

10.30am

Andre Raymond Mein RIP

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

Monday 18 December

7.30am Convent

Tuesday 19 December

7.00pm

Wednesday 20 December

9.30am

4.00pm RD&E Hospital

Thursday 21 December

9.30am

Friday 22 December

7.30am Convent

9.30am *Sr Patrick's Intention*

Saturday 23 December

9.30am

Dorothy & Albert Elson RIP

Sunday 24 December

4th Sunday of Advent

Expectant Mothers

9.00am *People of the Parish*

10.30am

For Christmas Mass

**Times please see the
front of this newsletter.**

Confessions

After 9.30am Mass
on Saturday morning
and by appointment.

The Word

This Sunday 17 Dec

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11

Psalm Response

My soul rejoices in my God

Second Reading

Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel *John 1:6-8.19-28*

Next Sunday 24Dec

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11

Psalm Response

My soul rejoices in my God

Second Reading

Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel *John 1:6-8.19-28*

Welcome

We hope you have a happy and peaceful time with us here in Exeter. Please ask one of the Welcomers or contact the parish office if we can help in any way.

Thank you

Collection Sunday
10 December **£1,237.76**

Getting married?

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

Newsletter

Deadline for newsletter items 4.00pm Wednesday.
By phone or email.

Contact us

Parish Priest

Fr Jonathan Stewart

Priest in retirement

Fr John Watkins

PARISH OFFICE

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

Telephone

01392 274724

Email exeter-heavitree
@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Office hours

Tuesday, Wednesday and
Thursday 10.00am–4.00pm

Parish Secretary

Lesley Hooper

Safeguarding Reps

Vince Clark &
Lesley Hooper

PARISH SCHOOL

**St Nicholas Catholic
Primary School**

Ringswell Avenue,
Exeter EX1 3EG

Telephone

01392 445403

Email admin@stncls.uk

Website

www.st-nicholas-
exeter.devon.sch.uk

Head Teacher

Angela Folland

CONVENT

Mount St Mary Convent,
Wonford Road,

Exeter EX2 4PF

Telephone 01392 433301

*Blessed Sacrament Parish is
part of the Roman Catholic
Diocese of Plymouth.*