

# ParishNews

Blessed Sacrament Parish Heavitree Exeter

3 December 2017 First Sunday of Advent. Psalter Week 1



BE WATCHFUL. BE ALERT

Advent opens with a great cry, and a great promise: 'Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down!' is the cry, of a people who need God. 'The master is coming' is the promise, not to breed fear, but to answer our cry. Advent begins, not with thoughts of the past, with the coming of the Lord we celebrate at Christmas, but with the future, and the promise that He is coming back. And so we are encouraged to treat every day of our lives as the day the Lord will come; we do not do this out of fear for a Master who beats his servants, but out of love of a Master who always treats us with love and mercy. Nevertheless we must always be watchful, because we can grow sleepy and complacent, saying that we can leave this prayer, or that confession, or the other change in the way



We need to take up an ancient lesson, found in different religious traditions and also in the Bible. It is the conviction that 'less is more'... When lived freely and consciously, it is liberating. It is not a lesser life or one lived with less intensity. On the contrary, it is a way of living life to the full. Pope Francis – Laudato Si'

This month, we will focus on the theme of 'living simply'. At the start of Advent, let us reflect on what we really need and how we can try to live 'life to the full' in the sense highlighted by Pope Francis. Throughout this holy season, we are invited to reflect, pray and take global justice actions – for example by using CAFOD's online advent calendar: [cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-Calendar](http://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-Calendar).

## Extraordinary Ministers

Please approach the sanctuary when the bell rings as the celebrant drinks from the chalice. The servers will get into position to receive Holy Communion giving you space to come up. There is no need to wait at the step, just bow and come straight into position. Thank you.

## Exeter's Young Catholic Community

A tremendous grace in our city and parishes. Please keep this important initiative in your prayers and ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide them in all they do for one another and for our community. **The next gathering will be on Wednesday 6 December 7.00–8.30pm in St Richard Reynolds Centre** and we'd

love to see you there! Like our Facebook page to keep updated and if you'd like more info.

**Erik Renz**, our parish youth worker, will be supporting the younger members of the community (11–15). We are planning the first meeting for the beginning of February.



## NIGHTFEVER 2017

This year Nightfever will take place at the Sacred Heart church on Thursday 14 December beginning with Mass at 6.00pm. All are welcome.

### Children's Liturgy of the Word

At 10.30am Mass on Sundays our young children are invited to go to the St Richard Reynolds Centre with their catechists

### Christmas Get Together

On Friday 15th December there will be a Christmas Afternoon Tea in the Richard Reynolds Centre at 2.00pm. Please bring your own scones, cake etc. – we can provide the tea and mulled wine! No cost for this

afternoon of fun and chat! For more details call Jane on 07890 373617.

## **Sisters' Christmas Cards**

The Sisters have been busy making cards (religious Christmas and general). These cards are now for sale at the convent. All proceeds will go towards their orphanage in the Philippines. Please drop by the Convent to buy some

## **Encounter**

The new Diocesan Evangelisation newsletter. Copies are available in the church porch.



## **Feast of St Nicholas**

Bishop Mark celebrating Mass with the school community at 9.15am on Wednesday 6 December. Parishioners are welcome to join them. Please let Ali know if you wish to come: email [paslt@stncs.uk](mailto:paslt@stncs.uk) or by calling 01392 445403 ext. 222.



## **SVP CHRISTMAS PARCELS**

Every Christmas the SVP donates food parcels to the residents of homeless shelters in Exeter. A box is available at the back of the church to collect your food donations and you have until 10 December to contribute any of the items on the list. Please take a copy of the list and add a few items to your weekly shop to donate. Please only donate 'in date' and unopened items. If you wish to give money please consider 'gift aid' which gains an extra 25% from the government if possible. Further information about the progress of our appeal will be made over the coming weeks. For more information please contact Amie Dunphy on 07795 461528.

## **Catholic Women's League**



The next meeting will be held on Monday 4 December at 2.00pm at Mount St Mary Centre, Wonford Road. Please bring items for the Apostleship of the Sea and your £5 deposit for the Epiphany Lunch. We look forward to seeing you there.

## **Eucharistic Adoration**

**Mondays** 9.30am at Blessed Sacrament.

**Tuesdays** 8.00–9.00pm at Mount St Mary Convent. Adoration of the

Blessed Sacrament at the Convent on Tuesday evenings will finish this year on 19 December, and resume on 2 January 2018.

**Monday 4 Dec** Adoration with Taizé chants in the Lady Chapel, Sacred Heart from 7.00–8.00 pm.



## **Charismatic prayer group**

Meets in the St Richard Reynolds Centre – 7.15 to 9.00pm on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be on 14 December. All welcome. For more information call Chris and Sue Lee on 01392 432929.

## **Please pray for...**

Baby Heather Mae Nicholas, Christopher McDonagh and Richard Lamb who have all recently died. May they rest in peace.

# **ADVENT EVENTS**

## **The Feast of The Immaculate Conception Friday 8 December**

This is the doctrine (belief) of the Church that the Virgin Mary was conceived without original sin, that twist in our nature that makes our will tend not to

follow what it knows to be right. It was this grace that enabled Mary to give a true and considered “Yes” to the request conveyed by the Angel Gabriel, that she should consent to be the mother of Jesus Christ, the incarnate God.

## **Advent Crib Blessing**

To mark the beginning of Advent and this time of preparation for the birth of Jesus at Christmas we will bless your crib figures at Masses this Sunday.

## **Advent Day of Recollection**

At St Rita's Centre, Honiton with Rev Terry Enright entitled 'What are You Waiting For?' on Saturday 16 December 10.30am till 4.30pm. Refreshments and lunch provided at a cost of £25 per person. For further information contact St Rita's Promotions 01404 42635 [stritas@btinternet.com](mailto:stritas@btinternet.com)

## **Advent Penitential Service**

The Advent Penitential Service for all the Exeter parishes will be held at the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday 6 December at 7.00pm when there will be several priests available to hear confessions

## **Prepare a Way for the Lord**

Churches Together in Heavitree Advent Service today at 4.00pm at St Michael's church. Please come along, all welcome.

## **Park Life Heavitree**

Carols in the park on Saturday 9 December 4.00–5.00pm. All welcome.

**CAFOD** Cafod Advent  
*Just one world*

**Mass** Sacred Heart Church Saturday 9 December at 5.30 pm in celebration of the work of Cafod. All are welcome.

## **Carols at Tesco's**

The Sacred Heart CAFOD group have arranged two evenings of music and carol singing at the main Tesco's supermarket

6.00– 8.00pm on Tuesday 12 December and Wednesday 20 December. Please support or join in with playing or singing.

## **Walk with Me Advent Reflection**

Booklets are available in the church porch, £1 each. Please put money in box marked 'books'. There are also free

Advent Calendars for those children who will not receive one at St Nicholas school.

## **Opportunities for**

### **Reconciliation Holy Ghost,**

**Exmouth** – Saturday 2 December from 9.30 to 11.30am and from 4.30 to 5.30pm

### **Church of the Most Precious Blood**

All–Age Service Wednesday 13 December 6.30pm. Reconciliation Service Saturday 16 December 10.00am

## **Parish Advent Carol Service**

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

## **Advent Holy Hour**

Friday 8 December at 7.00pm in the church. Please come along.

## **Mass in the Extraordinary Form**

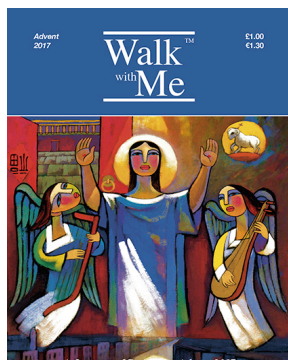
Sunday 10 December 3.00pm in Blessed Sacrament church.

## **Ministry at Christmas**

Readers and Extraordinary ministers will soon 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. Booklets with the reading will also then be available for the readers.

## **Our Catholic Schools**

Do you support catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents new catholic schools from allowing all catholic pupils to attend. The prime minister has acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and had promised previously to abandon it. Now the government may decide to keep this discriminatory policy in place instead of removing it. We need you to tell the government not to discriminate against Catholics and to remove the admissions cap on new faith-based schools. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> to write to the government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new catholic schools.





# Diocesan Yearbook 2018

The new Diocesan Year book is now available in the church porch at a cost of **£4.00** each. It is a great source of diocesan information and news. Please put your payment in the wall box marked 'Books'.

## Exeter Cathedral Choir Concerts.

Tickets for the two Exeter Cathedral Choir Christmas Concerts, at 7.00pm on 9 and 14 December, are now on sale. There is also a performance of Handel's Messiah at 2.30pm on Sunday 10 December. For more Details: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/news-events/whats-on/>

Please remember **Exeter Foodbank** at Christmas by donating listed food items into boxes found in local supermarkets – and perhaps a treat? On average about 100 Exeter children and adults each week need our help.

How about trying the **EFB Reverse Advent Calendar**. Each door on our Reverse Advent Calendar contains a food-related generosity challenge, which is designed to help you raise awareness of food poverty, support the foodbank and reach out to people in your day-to-day environment. A copy of the calendar can be downloaded from our website: <https://goo.gl/N2hP3J>. You might like to print and pin-up a copy to help keep you on track. If you'd like us to post you a copy, please contact the foodbank office on 07818 226524 or [atinfo@exeterfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:atinfo@exeterfoodbank.org.uk). We'd also love to share your stories and photos to help others see the difference you're making where

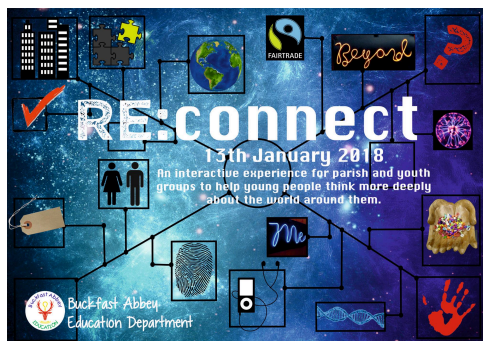
you are. Join our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/adventstories](http://www.facebook.com/groups/adventstories), tweet @ExeterFB #efbadvent or email them to us

## Sick Parishioners

Please let a priest or the parish office know details of parishioners who would like a visit or Holy Communion at home.

## Exeter University Singers

Christmas Concert at Sacred Heart church on Friday 8 December at 7.30pm. A huge mix of secular and liturgical pieces. A chance to relax, reflect or experience the true Christmas spirit. Refreshments will be served during an intermission.



At Buckfast Abbey – an exciting interactive experience for young people. RE:connect is an amazing thing to do – but very difficult to describe! Enter the Network to explore the interconnectivity of the world through hands on and thought provoking activities, exercises and reflections. Specially designed to help young people think more deeply about themselves and the world around them. £5.00 per person (leaders free) which includes RE:connect, RE:imagine (café style

follow up session) and exhibitions. Saturday 13 January 2018 various time slots available. Please email [education@buckfast.org.uk](mailto:education@buckfast.org.uk) or call 01364 645517 to book.

## **A message from the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)**

To the parishioners of Blessed Sacrament, Exeter. Thank you so much for the collection of £455.70 for the 2017 annual appeal 'Make Love Your Aim' on 27 August. Your love, kindness and generosity will bring stability to families in a time of crisis and make a big difference to many children's lives.

With much appreciation Shelagh Fearnley Chair if the Board of Trustees.

Copies of the Society's newsletter are available in the church porch.

## **The Pope Tweets...**

The love of Christ is like a "spiritual GPS" that guides us unerringly towards God and towards the heart of our neighbour.

## **Make Christmas Day Special**

Could you help make Christmas day special for someone? Every year since 1989 the St Thomas Ecumenical Project have provided a lunch on Christmas day at the AgeUk premises in St Thomas for people in the Exeter area that would otherwise be on their own on Christmas day. We provide transport for our guests to and from the centre, a carol service, a Christmas lunch followed by tea, coffee and mince pies and a chance to be with others. If you would like to support us and are able to help

us at AgeUk and / or with transporting guests either to and or from the AgeUk (pick up is usually between 10.45 and 11.30am and departure between 3.30 and 4.00pm) If you are able to help us please contact Trevor Olding on 07738 58 09 92 or email: [trevorolding@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:trevorolding@blueyonder.co.uk). Thank you



## **TRUE SURVIVOR**

Beyond the Wild presents True Survivor: Hearing the Call 29-31 May 2018. Learn how to survive in the wild and discover how the fire of your faith can survive and flourish in our world. For young men aged 13-18. For more info email: [info@beyondthewild.org](mailto:info@beyondthewild.org) or contact

Fr Dylan James fatherdj@gmail.com  
and see poster in the church porch



## Lourdes

2-8 August 2018 led by Bishop Mark.  
Flying from Exeter. A time of prayer  
and relaxation. Cost £779. For further  
information and to book please see  
the information in church porch.

## Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes

2-8 August 2018 also led by Bishop  
Mark. Flying from Exeter. Cost £495.  
For further information and to book  
please contact Fr Anthony O'Gorman  
tel: 01637 851697 or email:  
anthony.o'gorman@prcdtr.org.uk.



## The World Meeting of Families

Will take place in Dublin from 21- 26  
August 2018. Pope Francis intends to  
be present for the last part of the  
gathering including the Final Mass

on 26  
August.  
This is a  
wonderful  
opportunity  
to attend  
a global  
Church event.



[www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/)

## GATHER 2018

A residential weekend of faith,  
formation and friendship. Come and  
join catechists, parents, clergy and  
friends, and Bishop Mark, and  
strengthen your faith with other  
Catholics.

19-21 January 2018 Livermead Cliff  
Hotel, Torquay. Cost £150 residential,  
£40 non-residential day rate. To  
book your place use the flyer  
provided or download from Facebook  
page Gather Conference. Early

booking is  
essential. We  
hope to see  
you in  
Torquay in  
January.





## **Refreshments after Mass**

Served in the St Richard Reynolds Centre after the 10.30 Mass on Sunday and the 9.30 Mass on Wednesday mornings. Please join us for a cuppa and a chat.

## **YMCA Carol Service**

The YMCA invite you to join them for a lunchtime Christmas Carol Service. In 1931, at the request of the Bishop of Exeter, the YMCA began running services in St Stephen's church on the High Street to save the building from closure. So they are back there this year and all are invited to join them on Thursday 14 December from 1.00 – 2.00pm for carols, readings and refreshments. All are very welcome.

# Masses

**Sunday 3 December**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**9.00am**

Richard & Tom Ware RIP  
**10.30am** People of the  
Parish

**6.00pm** Elizabeth  
Estember

**Monday 4 December**  
**No Convent Mass**

**Tuesday 5 December**  
**7.00pm**

**Wednesday 6**  
**December**  
**9.15am** at St Nicholas  
Sch

**4.00pm** RD&E Hospital

**Thursday 7 December**  
**St Ambrose**  
**9.30am** Clare Leonard RIP

**Friday 8 December**  
**The Immaculate**  
**Conception of the**  
**Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**No Convent Mass**  
**9.30am** Sr Patrick's  
Intention

**Saturday 9 December**  
**9.30am**  
Dorothy & Albert Elson RIP

**Sunday 10 December**  
**2nd Sunday of Advent**  
**9.00am** People of the  
Parish  
**10.30am**  
**6.00pm** Exeter Street  
Pastors

## Confessions

After 9.30am Mass  
on Saturday morning  
and by appointment.

## The Word

**This Sunday 3 Dec**

**First Reading**  
Isaiah 63:16–17;  
64:1.3–8

**Psalms Response**  
God of hosts, bring us  
back; let your face shine  
on us and we shall be  
saved.

**Second Reading**  
1 Corinthians 1:3–9  
**Gospel** Mark 13:33–37

**Next Sunday 10**  
**Dec**

**First Reading**  
Isaiah 40:1–5.9–11  
**Psalms Response**  
Let us see, O Lord, your  
mercy and give us your  
saving help.

**Second Reading**  
2 Peter 3:8–14  
**Gospel** Mark 1:1–8

## 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  
26 November **£1142.23**

## 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.