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Thankfully, we do not encounter leprosy in our culture. It can therefore be difficult to enter into the real depth of today’s readings. We have to understand that leprosy meant exclusion, rejection and the end of “normal” life. For your leprosy to be cured would be like being given a second chance at life. What is the cause of exclusion and rejection in our society – or even in the Church? Who are those who must “live apart”? And how can we put into effect in our day those most touching of the words of Jesus, when asked if he wants to cure the leper: “Of course I want to!”? Contemplating exclusion and rejection in our world can be hard work: Saint Paul guides the way: the Christian path is not to work “for my own advantage, but for the advantage of everybody else”.

**Rediscover Jesus**

**Lent Groups**

Lent will soon be upon us. Given the positive feedback from parishioners who have read the book “Rediscover Jesus”, we are going to run joint parish groups – mornings at Sacred Heart on Wednesdays 21, 28 February and 7, 21 and 28 March at 10.30am in the Lower room, Sacred Heart, and Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm on 20 & 27 February and 6, 13, 20 & 27 March in the St Richard Reynolds Centre, during Lent. The groups will be based on thoughts and reflections, arising from the book. If you have passed your book to someone else, you might like to invite that person to come along with you. We hope to get more books soon. Sign up sheets are available in the church porch to let us know when you will come. You will be asked to indicate if you require a book or not so that we can get additional copies.

**Lourdes Pilgrimage Collection**

On Sunday 11 February there will be a retiring collection to help subsidise some of our pilgrims, especially the sick, and also our youth pilgrims, whose ministry on the pilgrimage is so invaluable.  We are would encourage anyone who would benefit from this pilgrimage, families and our young people to think about joining this pilgrimage. There are subsidies available.

**Sick & Housebound Parishioners**

If you know of anyone who needs a priest to visit please let Fr Jonathan, Fr John or the parish office know.

live***simply***

During the Sundays of Lent there will be a box placed at the back of the church for donations of non-perishable food items for Exeter Food bank. This will commence on the 18 February – the first Sunday of Lent.  Please consider donating food to the needy in Exeter as part of our “Pray / Fast / Give” Lenten intentions.  Thank you.

**St Nick’s News**

We are now taking applications for Nursery places starting in September 2018. Application forms can be obtained from the School Office or the school website and can be submitted along with a copy of your child’s birth certificate and baptism certificate (if applicable). We do offer the extended 30 funded hours per week to eligible parents, go to www.childcarechoices.gov.uk to check.

We would be pleased to give you a tour of the Foundation Stage so that you can see the Nursery in action. Tours can be booked by contacting Ali on 01392 445403 ext. 222 / abrocksom@stncs.uk

The children have all taken part in 'Buddy's Big Workout' this week - an NSPCC initiative to fundraise as part of their 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' programme. The children enthusiastically took part in sponsored activities such as dancing, hula hoops, star jumps, balancing games and running and all had a great time while raising money.

**DROP OFF DROP IN**

You are welcome to our weekly coffee morning at 8.45am on Wednesday mornings. Parishioners are welcome to join us for fresh coffee and cakes and a chance to meet friends old and new!

**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.**

**EYCC**

The next gathering of **Exeter’s Young Catholic Community** will be on Wednesday 7 February in the St Richard Reynolds Centre from 7.00 till 8.30pm.

All 16-21 year olds welcome. Bishop Mark has accepted an invitation to join the group at this meeting which is great news!

**Exeter Catholic Youngsters 11–15**

The Exeter Parishes are set to begin a younger group for Catholics aged 11-15. To make this happen, we would like to engage volunteers from our current community who could lend a hand. We are looking for over 18s to assist with talks, meetings, and activities. If you are interested, please get in touch with Erik Renz, exeter-youth-worker@prcdtr.org.uk

All volunteers will need a DBS check before they can start helping.

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

**Charismatic prayer group**

Next meeting Thursday 8 February in the St Richard Reynolds Centre.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**Monday** 9.30am Blessed Sacrament. **Tuesday** 8.00pm Mount St Mary Convent.

**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.

**Rest in Peace…**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Peter Kelly** who has died.

**Plymouth Diocesan Pilgrimage to 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.

**Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes**

2 – 8 August 2018 led by Bishop Mark. Flying from Exeter. A time of prayer and relaxation. Cost £495. For further information and to book please contact Rev Anthony O’Gorman, tel: 01637 851697 e:mail: anthony.o’gorman@prcdtr.org.uk.

**Across Pilgrimage to Lourdes**

St James' Church, Tiverton is organising an Across Pilgrimage to Lourdes this 5 – 14 April. Across makes travel possible for those who find it difficult to do so, offering nursing care and support where needed. We are welcoming applications from helpers, medics and VIPs (those with support needs). All information is available on the website www.across-uk.org.uk. As it is our first Parish trip we have been offered a 10% discount so the full price is £680pp (includes all travel, full board and insurance). To secure your place contact Sally 01884 798405 or email srchapman@hotmail.com

**Society of our Lady of Lourdes** Sick, able-bodied and helper pilgrims are all invited to join the Society of our Lady of Lourdes annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes, from Friday 25 May to Friday 1 June 2018 - flying from Exeter to Tarbes, (Lourdes). Further details from the Society Office: 0208 848 9833; e-mail enquiries@soll-lourdes.com, or Sheelah on 01392 431927.

**We welcome…**

**Camilla da Vincenzo** who was baptised into God’s Church on Saturday. Please pray for her and her parents and Godparents.

**Women’s World Day**

**of Prayer 2018**

This interdenominational movement invites everyone to attend one of over 5,000 services being held on Friday 2 March with the title **“All God’s creation is very good!”** A morning service will be held at Sacred Heart Church at 11.00am and an evening service at St Thomas Baptist Church, Dorset Avenue EX4 1LY at 7.00pm. All are welcome.

**Lent lunches in Heavitree**

During lent simple lunches will be provided after a short prayer service at 12 noon at the following places:

21 February - Heavitree URC

28 February -Blessed Sacrament

7 March - St Lawrence's Church

14 March - Wonford Methodist

21 March - St Michael's Church

All are welcome to attend. Donations will be sent to Exeter Foodbank.

**Lent Talks at Holy Ghost Exmouth**

Explore the basic message of Jesus and how we can respond to it. Free admission and refreshments. For more info contact learkingston@gmail.com /01395 272607

**Diocesan Job Vacancy**

**Caritas Development Officer** (part time) St. Boniface House, Ashburton, Newton Abbot TQ13 7JL. 10 hours per week.

1 Year Fixed Term Contract. Please see poster in church porch for more details and how to apply.

**Please pray for…**

the young people of our parishes who are preparing to be confirmed who are on retreat this weekend with their catechists at St Rita’s in Honiton.

**Shrove Tuesday 13 February**

Mass at 9.30am followed by pancakes in the St Richard Reynolds Centre.

**Ash Wednesday 14 February**

Masses at 9.30am and 7.00pm.

**Masses**

**Sunday 4 February**

**5th Sunday Ordinary time**

**9.00am** *Maryvonne Green RIP*

**10.30am** *People of the parish*

**6.00pm**

**Monday 5 February**

***St Agatha***

**7.30am** Convent

**Tuesday 6 February**

***St Paul Miki & companions***

**7.00pm**

*Pastoral parish Council*

**Wednesday 7 February**

**9.30am**

*Ann & Jack Newman RIP*

**4.00pm** RD&E Hospital

**Thursday 8 February**

***Day of prayer for victims of human trafficking & those who wish to combat it***

**9.30am**

**Friday 9 February**

**No Convent Mass**

**9.30am** *For the housebound of the parish*

**Saturday 10 February**

***St Scholastica***

**9.30am** *Souls in purgatory*

**Sunday 11February**

**6th Sunday Ordinary time**

***Day of prayer for the unemployed and the sick and those who care for them. World day for the sick.***

**9.00am**

**10.30am**

**6.00pm** *People of the parish*

**Confessions**

After 9.30am Mass on Saturday morning or by appointment.

**The Word**

**This Sunday 4 Feb**

**First Reading**

*Job 7:1-4.6-7*

**Psalm Response**

*Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.*

**Second Reading**

*1 Corinthians 9:16-19.22-23*

**Gospel** *Mark 1:29-39*

**Next Sunday 11 Feb**

**First Reading**

*Leviticus 13:1-2.44-46*

**Psalm Response**

*You are my refuge, O Lord;*

*you fill me with the joy of salvation*

**Second Reading**

*1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1*

**Gospel** *Mark 1:40-45*

**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

28 January **£1239.52**

**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@stncs.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.*