

# ParishNews



**Blessed Sacrament Parish Heavitree Exeter**

**8 December 2019. Second Sunday of Advent. Year A**

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**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](mailto:exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk)

**Parish Office hours**

Tuesday, Wednesday and  
Thursday 10.00am-4.00pm

**Parish Secretary**

Lesley Hooper

**Parish Pastoral Assistant**

Maria Quinn  
[exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk)

**Parish Youth Worker**

Erik Renz  
[exeter-youth-worker@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:exeter-youth-worker@prcdtr.org.uk)

**Safeguarding Reps**

Vince Clark & Lesley Hooper

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**PARISH SCHOOL**

**St Nicholas Catholic**

**Primary School** Ringswell  
Avenue, Exeter EX1 3EG  
01392 445403

[admin@stncls.uk](mailto:admin@stncls.uk)  
[www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk](http://www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk)

**Head Teacher**

Angela Folland

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**CONVENT**

**Mount St Mary Convent,**

Wonford Road, EX2 4PF  
**Telephone** 01392 433301



Throughout the first three weeks of Advent our focus is very clearly on the End of Time, and the Second Coming of the Lord - not on the run up to Christmas (that only comes in the last week). If we view Advent as a Season preparing for Christmas these readings will make little sense - and neither will the figure of John the Baptist who appears today: if it was about the preparation for Christmas, then John the Baptist, preaching after Jesus was born, becomes a confusing figure: his role is to preach to us, as he did of old, and to prepare us for the (second) coming of the Lord. Everything gets more specific today: what is being preached is not an event, but a person: Isaiah promises him, John welcomes him, Paul invites us to imitate him. We have here a thumbnail portrait of the Messiah, useful to refer to when we get to Christmas and he is revealed as a child in a manger!

# Welcome

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*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.*

## Liturgy of the Word for children

*During the 10.45am Mass most Sundays.*

## Refreshments

*Sundays after 10.45am Mass and Wednesdays after 9.30am Mass.*

## Parents and Toddlers

*Monday mornings 9.30–11.30am in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. All welcome especially new faces.*

## Getting married?

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

## Sick parishioners

*Please inform one of the priests or the parish office if you know someone who is in need of a visit.*

## Newsletter

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

## Many thanks

*Sunday Collections  
24 Nov £1508.57  
1 Dec £1219.64*

# Calendar of Events

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<b>Monday</b>	<b>livesimply Sewing Group</b> <i>St Richard Reynolds Centre 6.30pm</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Wednesday Word</b> <i>St Richard Reynolds Centre 2.00pm</i>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Wednesday Word</b> <i>Sacred Heart Church 7.00pm</i>
Sun 8 Dec	<b>Extraordinary Form Mass</b> <i>Blessed Sacrament Church 3.00pm</i>
Tues 10 Dec	<b>Advent Penitential Service</b> <i>Blessed Sacrament Church 7.00pm</i>
Wed 11 Dec	<b>Rosary Group</b> <i>Blessed Sacrament Church 6.30pm</i>
Thurs 12 Dec	<b>Prayer Group</b> <i>St Richard Reynolds Centre 7.00pm</i>
Sat 14 Dec	<b>Night Fever</b> <i>Sacred Heart Church 5.30pm</i>
Sun 15 Dec	<b>Parish Carol Service</b> <i>Blessed Sacrament Church 3.00pm followed by mince pies &amp; mulled wine in the Centre</i>
Tues 17 Dec	<b>St Nicholas Advent Liturgy</b> <i>Sacred Heart Church 7.00pm</i>
Wed 18 Dec	<b>Carols in the pub</b> <i>Horse &amp; Groom, Heavitree Fore St 7.30pm</i>
Thurs 19 Dec	<b>Carols in the ruins</b> <i>St Loyes Ruins, Rifford Road 6.00pm</i>
Sat 21 Dec	<b>Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass</b> <i>Blessed Sacrament Church at 4.00pm following Carols at 3.30pm</i>
Tues 24 Dec	<b>Christmas Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b> <b>Carols and Readings 11.30pm</b> <b>Midnight Mass</b> <i>Blessed Sacrament Church</i>
Wed 25 Dec	<b>Christmas Day Masses</b> <i>Blessed Sacrament Church at 8.45 &amp; 10.45am NO 6.00pm Mass</i>
Wed 1 Jan	<b>New Year's Cheese &amp; Wine</b> <i>Blessed Sacrament Church following Mass at 12.00pm</i>
Sun 5 Jan	<b>Epiphany Praise</b> <i>Blessed Sacrament Church 3.00pm</i>
Thurs 9 Jan	<b>Prayer Group</b> <i>St Richard Reynolds Centre 7.00pm</i>
Sun 12 Jan	<b>Extraordinary Form Mass</b> <i>Blessed Sacrament Church 3.00pm</i>

# Advent 2019

## Advent Penitential Service

The Advent Penitential Service, for all the Exeter parishes, will be held at the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday 10 December at 7.00pm when there will be several priests available to hear confessions.

## Cafod Carols

The annual singing of Carols to raise funds for CAFOD will take place on Thursday 12 and Friday 20 December from 6.00 to 8.00pm. Singers and musicians are very welcome to please join others at Tesco, Exeter Vale, Russell Road, Digby EX2 7EZ for an enjoyable evening. (For further details: contact Gerry Hinton 07970 042641)

## Nightfever

Nightfever will be held on the evening of Saturday December 14 at the Sacred Heart Church. Join us for the Vigil Mass at 5.30pm before we invite our local community to light a candle in the presence of our Lord. We especially need people to hold lanterns on South Street and others to pray for our visitors. Please consider bringing a friend. Everyone welcome even if you can only come for a few minutes.

## Advent Day Retreat

'Advent - a time for looking back and looking forward' with Fr Brian Kenwick at St Rita's Centre, Honiton, on Saturday 14 December 10.00am-3.30pm. Includes Benediction and evening prayer and an opportunity for Confession. Cost is £25 which includes lunch. See poster and booking forms for details. Bookings are also accepted by phone or email. Tel 01404 42635 or email [stritas@btinternet.com](mailto:stritas@btinternet.com)

## Carols in the Park

14 December at Heavitree Pleasure Ground from 4.00 - 5.00pm organised by Parklife.

## Bambinelli Sunday

Sunday 15 December is Bambinelli Sunday. You are invited to bring the Christ Child figure from your home crib (or your whole crib if it is small) to be blessed during all Masses. This is a tradition which Pope Francis keeps in St Peter's Square in Rome on the third Sunday of Advent; a wonderful way for us to prepare spiritually for the coming of Jesus.

## Parish Carol Service

Sunday 15 December at 3.00pm in the church followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. All welcome.

## Carols in the pub

Horse & Groom, Fore Street Heavitree at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18 December.

## Carols in the ruins

St Loyes ruins, Rifford Road on Thursday 19 December at 6.00pm. Please come along.

## Simbang Gabi

This traditional Filipino Mass will take place at Blessed Sacrament Church on Saturday 21 December. Starting with carols at 3.30pm followed by Mass at 4.00pm. An invitation is extended to all parishioners to come to this Mass.

## City Community Church

At St Michaels Academy from 4.30pm - 6.00pm on Sunday 22 December

## Candlelight Carol Service

At Heavitree URC at 6.00pm on 22 Dec

## Christmas Mass times

### Christmas Eve

6.00pm Vigil Mass  
11.30pm Carols & Readings  
Midnight Mass

### Christmas Day

8.45 and 10.45 am NO evening Mass

## Exeter Foodbank

Our Christmas tree is now in the church and this year you will find that there are already tags on it. These all include written on them items the Foodbank has prioritised. You are invited to take a tag and purchase that item and return it to the church and place it under the tree. In exchange you can take a prayer tag and write your intention on it and put it on the tree. Many will benefit from your generosity this Advent.

## Ministry at Christmas

Ministers of the Word and Holy Communion 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.

## 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). Good luck with that!

## 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 organised by Christians Together in Heavitree.

## Christmas Offerings

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

## Prayer Group

The next meeting of the Prayer Group is on Thursday 12 December at 7.15pm in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. All welcome.

## Parish Rosary Group

Would you like to gather to pray the rosary together? We will next be meeting on Wednesday 11 December at 6.30pm in the church. We would love to see you there.

## Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)

CCSP are selling packs of Christmas cards designed by children across the Diocese. Packs of 12 cards, featuring 3 copies of each of the 4 winning designs are available in the church porch to purchase for £5.00. Please place money in the wall box marked 'Books'.

## Catholic Women's League

On Tuesday 10 December Father Jonathan will give 'Reflections on Advent' for the CWL members at Mount St. Mary's Convent, Wonford Road at 1.30 pm.

## Cafod News

Pyramid box collection amounted to £235.80. Thank you

**World Gifts** - The True Spirit of Christmas Giving: Cafod Christmas gifts booklet available in the church porch

## Pope Francis' Intention for December

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritise the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering

## Diocesan Yearbook 2020

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'.

## Extraordinary Form Mass

At Blessed Sacrament Church on Sunday 8 December at 3.00pm.

# GIFT Family Catechesis

If you have children in primary school, the GIFT is for you. This is a radically different approach to growing in faith which we hope will lead to a greater understanding of the sacraments and your part in the life of the Church. **It is for all primary school age families regardless of whether your children have or have not received First Holy Communion.** Please take an information leaflet and a leaflet giving the dates of the sessions which begin on 25 January 2020.

## Preparing for Baptism

If you are expecting a baby or wish to have a baby baptised in the near future, please contact the Parish office to book a place on one of our courses. We look forward to supporting you and your family in your faith journey together. Our Baptism course runs over 3 consecutive Saturday mornings from 10.30-12.00. We are offering three courses in 2020: March 14, 21, 28 July 11, 18, 25 and November 14, 21, 28

## Rest in Peace...

Please pray for **Michael Loughran** who has died. Michael's funeral will be celebrated at Blessed Sacrament on Friday 13 December at 2.00pm. There will be no morning Mass in the church on that day.

## *livesimply*

**Sewing Group** Meets every Monday.

The group is asking for donations of fabric suitable for making boys shorts. Dark colours and cotton fabric would be preferred and really appreciated.

**Food Bank most wanted list:**

Apple sauce, canned beans, canned chicken, canned fish (tuna and salmon), canned meat (SPAM and ham), canned vegetables, cooking oils (olive and canola), crackers, dried herbs & spices, fruit (canned or dried), granola bars, instant mashed potatoes, nuts,

pasta, peanut butter, rice, long life or powdered milk, soup, stew and chilli (canned), whole grain cereal.

## Wednesday Word

'Wednesday Word' is a resource which allows us to prayerfully prepare for Mass on Sunday by reading and reflecting on the upcoming Sunday Gospel in a friendly and supportive group setting. Come along to an open group each week to ready yourself for Sunday Mass and to deepen and feed your faith. *The last Wednesday Word this year will be held on Wednesday 11 December (Richard Reynolds Centre) and on Friday 13 December (Sacred Heart Church). It will recommence on Wednesday 8 January (RRC) and on Friday 10 January (SH).*

## Mass Intentions

Please be reassured that if you have asked for a Mass to be said for a particular intention it will be said. Intentions are included in the newsletter each week. The names included in the intercessions on Sunday are of those who have died recently and whose funerals are to be celebrated.

## Stamps for Hospice

The Sisters trim used postage stamps for the Hospice who can get a lot of money from selling the stamps. At this time of year we may receive more post from friends and relatives so please remember to cut off the stamps and bring them and put them in the box in the church porch. Thank you.

## Teaching in Africa

Deacon Kelvin Russell is going to SW Kenya to teach at a school with VMM in January 2020. He is asking for sponsorship to help with his trip. There is a form in the church porch or you can go to: [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/kelvin-russell](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/kelvin-russell) Kelvin will also be giving a short talk about his trip at all Masses on Sunday 8 December.

## Smart Loving Breakthrough

When marriages are conflicted, the whole family suffers. It's stressful for the parents and distressing for the children. Smart Loving Break Through is an online course designed to help individual spouses process their emotions and understand what is driving the conflict in their marriage.

Grounded in contemporary psychology and framed by Catholic spirituality, the 3 hour course is available anywhere, anytime. More information is available online (and a 50% discount): [smartloving.org/breakthrough/](http://smartloving.org/breakthrough/)

## Baptised in faith...

We welcome into the Church Lily May Longari and Luke Marnham who will be baptised into our parish community. Please offer a prayer for them, their parents and Godparents.

## Magazines for hospital

A big thank you to everyone who has given magazines for the hospital, it has been very much appreciated by both staff and patients. As there has been a great response and not to overwhelm the hospital they will in future be collected on the last Sunday of the month starting from 26 January. Thank you.

## Medjugorje Irish Centre

### Pilgrimages

April - Oct 2020 7 Night Stay and Airport Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €266 per person sharing. Book any flight - any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. Call us for further info and book the dates that suit you. Tel. 020 3239 8662 or email [reservations@med-irishcentre.com](mailto:reservations@med-irishcentre.com).

## Diocesan Job Vacancy

The Diocese of Plymouth is recruiting for the following permanent position of Grant Fundraising Officer - 20 hours per week

Salary: £30,000 per annum plus car allowance, mobile phone allowance and pension scheme (subject to eligibility). Closing date: Monday 9 December 2019 interviews: Monday 16 December. For further information please follow the link: [www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk](http://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk) and click on Careers under The Diocese tab or see the Church noticeboard.

## "Love and Mercy: Faustina"

A docudrama on Divine Mercy and the mission of Sr. Faustina Kowalska. Dramatically recreated scenes between Saint Faustina and her confessor Father Michał Sopoćko traces the story of the origins of the image and how the devotion to Divine Mercy was born and spread throughout the world. Shot in the U.S, Poland and Lithuania, the film is a compelling hybrid of dramatization and documentary-style storytelling that will leave viewers in awe of this spectacular account of divine friendship. It can be viewed at the Odeon in Exeter on Tuesday 10 December at 8.00pm. It is advisable to book as it sold out last time it was shown.

## Weekly Giving Envelopes

The weekly gift aid and planned giving envelopes are available for collection today. If you miss collecting yours today then please contact the Parish office. Do remember to let us know if there are any changes in your circumstances. Are you still paying income tax for instance? If you have moved recently do let us know your correct contact details. If you are new to the Parish and 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.

## New Year's Day 1 January

Mass at 12.00 noon followed by Cheese & Crackers & Wine/ shared lunch in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. All welcome.

# Epiphany Praise

On Sunday 5 January we celebrate the lovely feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, when the three visitors from the east brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. To celebrate we will gather in church at 3.00pm to sing the praises of the Lord led by the Stronghold music group. Refreshments afterwards in St Richard Reynolds Centre.

# St Nick's News

St Nicholas School Christmas Presentation: Do you know how to celebrate Christmas tradition in a way that is sustainable and environmentally friendly? You are invited to journey with Key Stage 2 children as we explore how to celebrate our Christmas traditions whilst taking care of the earth on Tuesday 17 December at 7.00pm at the Sacred Heart Church.

In the last week of term the children enjoy a Christmas lunch, followed by a festive singalong in the school hall.

A reminder to parents who are applying for Reception places for September 2020 that applications to Devon County Council must be made by the 15 January. If you are applying to St Nicholas School you must also complete a supplementary application form (obtainable on the school website or by calling the school) which must be returned to the school by the same date.

# Understanding the Mass

We will be running six film and discussion sessions from Bishop Robert Barron's 'Word on Fire' series in the New Year to grow in our understanding of the Mass. Come to all six or dip in and out each week; either way, you will feel inspired and spiritually fed. When: January 14, 21, 28 and February 4, 11, 18 Wh

ere: St Richard Reynolds Centre

Time: Mass at 6.30pm film/discussion from 7.00 -8.30pm

# New parishioners

Are you new to Blessed Sacrament parish? If you haven't already done so, please provide us with your contact details. Forms are available in the church porch and from the parish office (electronically) and should be returned to the office once completed. Thank you.

# The General Election

The Catholic Bishops' of England and Wales have issued a statement on the forthcoming General Election which Bishop Mark has asked us to bring to your attention. The statement concentrates on the key issues – not parties or manifestos – offering a series of points that can be put to candidates prior to voting. The Bishops highlight the duty of all citizens – not just Catholics – to help shape politics that are “rooted in the service of human rights and peace”. Find it at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/2019-general-election-statement-and-bishops-plenary/>

# The Immaculate Conception

**Monday 9 December Mass at 9.30am**

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is the doctrine 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 the incarnate God. The doctrine was almost universally believed over the centuries but was only formally defined as a doctrine of the church by Pope Pius IX in 1854. Because it is so old, it is one of the Marian doctrines that Islam share with the Catholic Church, though of

course the theological details are very different.



# Mass Times

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## Sunday 8 December

*2nd Sunday of Advent*

*Bible Sunday*

8.45am *Souls in Purgatory*

10.45am *People of the Parish*

6.00pm *Sr Patrick*

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## Monday 9 December

*Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

No Convent Mass

9.30am

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## Tuesday 10 December

NO Mass

7.00pm Penitential Service

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## Wednesday 11 Dec

9.30am *Souls in Purgatory*

4.00pm RD&E Hospital

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## Thursday 12 December

9.30am

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## Friday 13 December

*St Lucy*

7.30am Convent

**2.00pm** *Funeral Mass*

*Michael Loughran RIP*

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## Saturday 14 December

*St John of the Cross*

9.30am *Souls in Purgatory*

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## Sunday 15 Dec

*3rd Sunday of Advent*

*Gaudete Sunday*

8.45am *Souls in Purgatory*

10.45am *Krzysztof Jasinski  
RIP & Longin Jasinski*

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

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## Monday 16 December

7.30am Convent

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## Tuesday 17 December

No Mass 6.30pm

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## Wednesday 18 Dec

9.30am *Souls in Purgatory*

4.00pm RD&E Hospital

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## Thursday 19 December

9.30am

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## Friday 20 December

7.30am Convent

9.30am

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## Saturday 21 December

9.30am *Souls in Purgatory*

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## Sunday 22 Dec

*4th Sunday of Advent*

*Expectant Mothers*

8.45am *Souls in Purgatory*

10.45am *In celebration of the marriage of James Hope & Claire Salter*

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

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## Confessions

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Saturday 10.00am Church

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## Adoration

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Tuesdays 8.00pm Convent

Lady chapel at Sacred Heart  
7.00pm on 8 January 2020

*Please refer to the notice board on the church door for any alterations.*

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## The Word

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### Sunday 8 December

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

*He judges the wretched with integrity.*

Psalm Response

*In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.*

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-9

*Christ is the saviour of all men.*

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

*Repent, for the kingdom is close at hand.*

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### Sunday 15 December

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-6.10

*God himself is coming to save you.*

Psalm Response

*Come, Lord, and save us.*

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

*Do not lose heart for the Lord's coming will be soon.*

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

*Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?*

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### Sunday 22 December

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

*The maiden is with child.*

Psalm Response

*Let the Lord enter!*

*He is the king of glory.*

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

*Jesus Christ, descendent of David, Son of God.*

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

*Jesus is born of Mary who was betrothed to Joseph, Son of David.*

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