

ParishNews



Blessed Sacrament Parish Heavitree Exeter

6 September 2020 Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year A

Love is the answer to every one of the commandments



No man is an island...

How true this is for those who follow Christ: each of us has responsibilities towards each other, based on our 'debt of mutual love'. When we see wickedness and wrongdoing, then because of our privileged position of following the Lord Jesus, we have a duty to speak out. This will not always be easy - remember the prophet Jeremiah last week - but this was the mission of the Lord Jesus himself, and as his followers, it is our mission too. As with everything, love is 'the answer to every one of the commandments.'

The Season of Creation

1 September – 4 October 2020 'The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home' Laudato Si' 1.3 The Season of Creation begins on September 1, the World Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends on October 4, the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi. This year we are celebrating the fifth anniversary of the publication of 'Laudato Si'; On Care for Our Common Home'. Pope Francis has also declared a special Year of Laudato Si', from 24 May 2020 to 24 May 2021. The current pandemic has highlighted the inequalities which exist in our own country and its various communities and also the huge inequalities in the world between rich and poor. We must take opportunities to rebuild in a better way. A greener, more environmentally friendly future is possible. Making care for the poor, the most disadvantaged in our society and in the world a priority is possible. So as the Season of Creation approaches, why not organise a Creation Celebration? Celebrate a special climate themed Mass, share a meal (socially distanced or online) or involve your parish and community in a conversation about how to tackle the climate crisis. There are lots of resources to help with ideas. Just go to the CAFOD or the Diocese of Plymouth website <http://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk>

Cafod Appeal

CAFOD is working to help communities to rebuild, and survive the effects of coronavirus in the long-term within developing countries. Working closely with local partners on the ground in Peru to reach those affected by the Coronavirus, prioritising people living in poverty, those in isolation, and those who are unemployed. CAFOD is working in Niger to reduce the impact of Coronavirus by improving hygiene and informing remote communities methods to repel the virus. India has suffered flooding in Assam due to monsoon rains we are currently providing emergency assistance to those in need. Christine Allen, CAFOD's Director, addressing the recent Beirut disaster said: "CAFOD expresses its deepest sympathies and prayers to the families of the victims, as well as to the people Lebanon." CAFOD's network of local experts and volunteers are on the ground in Beirut helping communities survive. Please donate to CAFOD: www.cafod.org.uk or through our local CAFOD Exeter Catholic Churches Coronavirus Appeal at JustGiving www.justgiving.com/fundraising/CAFODInternationalCoronavirusAppealExeter

GIFT *Growing In Faith Together*

Our monthly Autumn sessions of GIFT have begun this weekend. These 30-minute zoom meetings will help familiarise parents with the 'God calls' resources by focusing on: introducing parents to the structure and format of the resources; exploring the catechesis and faith teaching of the resource and answering any questions parents may have. The material concentrates on coaching parents to teach and support their children in learning about faith. Following the Zoom call, parents will be emailed the resources which can be used with the whole family during the month. GIFT is for all families; if you'd like to join us, please get in touch with Maria (exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.ogr.uk). Future GIFT zoom dates are scheduled for the 3 October, 7 November and 5 December.

Annual Grandparents' Pilgrimage

You are invited to join the annual pilgrimage for Grandparents which will be online this year on Sunday 13 September. Please see the attached News Bulletin from the Catholic Grandparents Association for August 2020 for more information.

Youth Events in the Diocese

September 26 - workshops for young people to discuss the future of our planet and ways we can teach others to look after it. Bookings will be taken in September.

October – a series of 5 sessions, exploring faith, music and creativity for those aged 13-21. We are looking for young people across the diocese to help put together a short film of prayer and reflection. The theme is; My spiritual journey, living through COVID-19. If you are interested in any of these or any future events, please email: youth@prcdtr.org

Online Individually Guided Retreats

The Plymouth Diocesan Ignatian Spirituality Group is offering online individually guided retreats for three, five or six days. Members of the Ignatian Spirituality Group are experienced guides, who have received training in relation to Ignatian spirituality and include priests, deacons or lay people. Dates can be arranged to suit individuals. For further information, please contact the Diocesan Ignatian Spirituality Group diocesan-ignatian-retreats@prcdtr.org.uk or telephone: 01752 769164 or 07823447637. In these uncertain and challenging times, many have rediscovered the delights of the created world, are turning to meditative practices, even finding solace in prayer. Others may feel the need to explore, make sense and reflect on the presence of God in their everyday lives, especially during difficult or painful moments experienced recently.

Dial-a-Mass

The Middlesbrough Diocese in conjunction with the Knights of St Columba began Dial-a-Mass for the benefit of those who do not have the internet or computer. The Mass is recorded and put on telephone, at 12 midday on Sunday and will stay until 11.59 the following Sunday. For the cost of a local call the person can listen to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The number to call is **01642 130120**. The Mass will not go over one hour (approximately 45 minutes). Many people who have used this service have said how good it is and how it helped them, they felt less left out as they do not use computers and less isolated from the faith and the catholic community.

Smart Loving Marriage Event

Dear Brides & Grooms, Married, Betrothed & Couples considering marriage! You have been in our prayers especially this year. We are so sorry for all those who have had their wedding plans disrupted by the pandemic and hope that your disappointment will be offset by the joy you have in your marriage. We thought it was time for some good news so we are pleased to tell you that we will be having an **Online Diocesan Marriage Event** on September 12. We had expected Francine & Byron Pirola - who provide Catholic Marriage Resources (SmartLoving) for engaged and also married couples all over the world - to be in the UK this Autumn. This will not be possible but they have kindly agreed to do a special online event for our Diocese. There will be two blocks of input - the first for married or engaged couples and the second for those who support marriage or prepare or mentor couples, or who would like to do so - or those who want to support marriage in any way at all. I hope you will join us (and recommend others to do so). If you know the SmartLoving website you will remember that these are very good presenters! So come and meet the couple who have been involved in so many marriages and who share so much of theirs with us all. The date to save is **Saturday September 12 09.00 - 13.00** - on your iPad, laptop or phone. Come for part or all of the event. No travel is involved but bring your own drinks! Please let me know if you would like to take part. With best wishes to you and all your family, Deborah & Tim van Kroonenburg Deborah.vanKroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk

Sunday Mass Blessed Sacrament on YouTube

Available each week at www.youtube.com/c/BlessedSacramentExeter

Vacancies in the Diocese of Plymouth

Parish Property Mentors - Location: Homeworking with travel to parishes and occasional travel to St Boniface House, Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7JL. Salary: 1 post £30K p.a. pro rata (actual £18K p.a.), and 1 post £35K p.a. (actual £21K p.a.) dependant on experience, plus pension scheme (subject to eligibility). Hours: 21 hours per week x 2 posts. Closing Date: Monday 14 Sept. First interviews: via MS Teams on 22 Sept, second interviews in person on 29 Sept at St Boniface House. Parish Property Mentors will provide practical guidance & support to Parishes from initial enquiry through to completion of pre & post contract building activities for repair & maintenance activities and more substantial re-ordering/alteration work for churches, parish halls and presbyteries. Ideal candidates will have great interpersonal and communication skills; ability to manage a wide range of property based technical consultants and an RICS/CIOB professional qualification (or equivalent) and ideally be educated to degree level. Copies of the job description, person specification and application form are obtainable by contacting Cathedral Appointments, Exeter by emailing: andrei@cathedralappointments.co.uk.

Caritas Plymouth Project Support Worker - Location: St Boniface House Salary: £11.39 per hour (£20,730 per annum pro rata) plus pension scheme (subject to eligibility) Hours: 21 hours per week. Closing Date: Monday 7 Sept 2020. First Interviews: via MS Teams on Wednesday 30 Sept, second interviews in person at St Boniface House on Wednesday 7 October. Caritas Plymouth is looking for someone with office and project management skills to join our small, friendly team supporting social action across the Diocese. DBS required. Copies of the job description, person specification and application form are obtainable by contacting Cathedral Appointments, Exeter by emailing dani@cathedralappointments.co.uk.

Your Offering

WE are enormously grateful for your continued generosity to the parish, particularly at this time when fewer people are coming to church on a regular basis. Please place your cash offering or planned giving envelopes in one of the two baskets at the church doors. These will be collected at the end of each Mass. 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. We are making plans for contactless giving at the church.

Pope Francis on Mercy...

People may laugh at you because you believe in the gentle and unassuming power of mercy. But do not be afraid. Think of the motto of these days: 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy'. (*Mt 5:7*)

Pope's September Intention

Respect for the planet's resources. We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered but shared in a just and respectful manner. See also <https://thepopevideo.org/>

The Pope tweets...

Today we hear the voice of creation admonishing us to return to our rightful place in the natural created order – to remember that we are part of this interconnected web of life, not its masters

Stewarding at Mass

If you would like to join the team please contact the parish office and we will get you on the rota. Please can we ask that all stewards arrive at least half an hour before the beginning of Mass so that we can open the doors of the church in readiness for our congregation. Thank you.

Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

Wednesday Word resumed on Wednesday 2 September. We meet online via the Zoom app and reflect together on the Gospel for the coming Sunday. In this very simple way we grow in our understanding of scripture and about the God Who Speaks. You don't have to be a scripture scholar to join! It's open to anyone who feels they would like to increase their faith. And please don't be anxious if you have never used Zoom, we will help you to get set up. If you would like to join and receive email notifications, please email Maria: exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Confessions

Following Mass on Saturday mornings. Please wait in the pews at the front of the church (socially distanced) as they will have to be cleaned afterwards. I will hear confessions in the sacristy maintaining a 2m distance. Please remember that the Penitential Rite at the beginning of Mass includes an absolution prayed by the priest for the forgiveness of our sins.

Fr Jonathan

May they rest in peace...

Please pray for those who have died recently especially Kimberley Arnold whose funeral service will take place on Friday 11 September at Exeter Crematorium. May she rest in peace.

Joined in Matrimony...

Please pray for Jenni Hodgins and Bradley Toghill who will be married at Blessed Sacrament Church on Saturday 5 September. We wish them every blessing as they go forward into life as husband and wife. Please pray for all couples who are preparing to marry, especially those for whom this has been a most challenging time, often having to cancel and remake plans.

Devon Artist Network

A vibrant showcase of art and craft across Devon from 12 to 27 September. There will be open studios in 114 venues by 200 artists. For more information www.devonartistnetwork.co.uk

Face Masks/Coverings

It is now mandatory to cover our faces when we come to church. Please see it rather as an act of charity towards your neighbour than a rule. We are going to maintain the 2m distancing in church which the government recommends wherever possible. This will mean that the capacity inside the church will not change. Therefore, if you do come and cannot get in, please be generous in your response. Certain people are exempt from wearing masks and a list of these exemptions can be found on the Gov.uk website.

The Parish livesimply Sewing Group have been making face masks and some are available at church. The group are asking for a donation for the parish.

Young People

Congratulations to our young people who have sat exams or had marks given for their work this year under difficult circumstances. We wish them good luck when they return to school, college or start a new chapter of their lives away from home as they go to or return to Universities throughout the country. Please remember them in prayers too. God bless all our families.

Smartloving Breakthrough Online Course

All marriages go through periods of stress and disillusionment. Many more families are struggling at this time. It's important for all of us to be proactive in keeping our marriages healthy by healing any hurts we may have accumulated and resolving any resentment. SmartLoving BreakThrough is an online course that teaches participants how conflict arises, and how to take simple steps to heal the wounds and restore hope.

- **Learn how arguments happen:** manage them better or avoid them altogether
- **Understand your internal drivers:** and how your spouse is triggering you
- **Process the pain of past injuries:** making you stronger and less reactive
- **Restore hope for your relationship's future:** with practical strategies

Private | Confidential | Effective. Couples can do it together but it can still help a marriage if only one person undertakes it. It can be done immediately, and in as long a time as necessary. They are offering a 50% off discount until September 30. For more information and to book contact info@marriagerc.org

Redemptorist Weekly Attachments

Sunday Message: is focused on giving a practical application to the Sunday Gospel. Each week, an original exposition of the Gospel is provided, along with a short reflection encouraging the reader to relate it to their life; learning points, suggestions for action and original prayer material are also included.

Look: is a Sunday sheet for children between 4-9 years old providing Gospel-focused activities and games for younger children. Each week the Gospel story is explained in age appropriate language. A prayer and a variety of activities that will engage the children are included to help each child get to know the person of Jesus. *Look* links faith to the everyday lives of children.

ICHTHUS: Children who have celebrated their First Holy Communion often find a children's sheet too juvenile, while an adult sheet is not ideal. *Ichthus* is a weekly Mass leaflet ideal for those aged 8 years plus. It contains the text of the readings and Gospel in age appropriate language, additional teaching elements and prayers to help the children fully participate in the Mass.

Sunday Homily: This is a short homily on the Sunday readings that will help readers to see with fresh eyes scripture that might have become too familiar to them over time, losing its power. Written in everyday language that helps those reading it to apply lessons and truths to their lives. At this challenging time of isolation and cancellation of services / Masses continuing to follow the lectionary and remain connected to the Church year will, we hope, support people in their faith. <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/lost-for-words-catholic-edition>

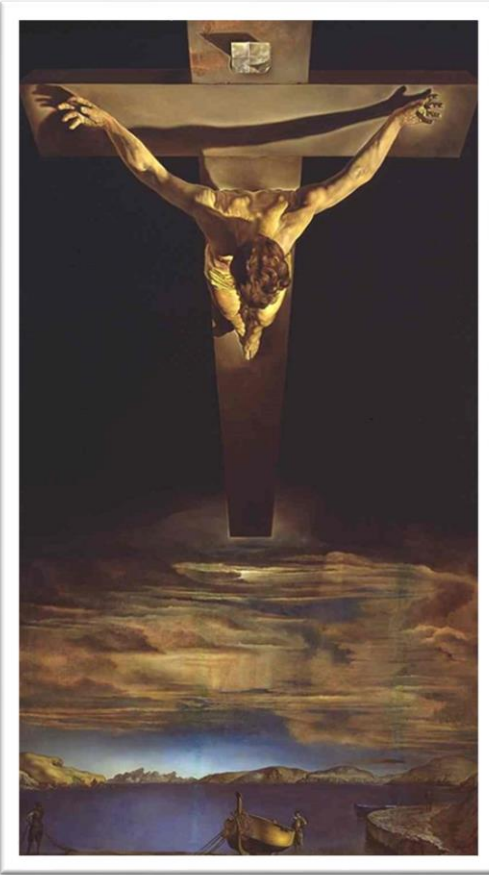
Education Sunday

Education Sunday 13 September is the special time of year when our Catholic community celebrate and support our Catholic schools. Coinciding with the start of the academic term it is an opportunity for us to give thanks for the important work our schools perform. Catholic schools couldn't exist without the support of the Catholic community. This has been the case for the last 170 years. There will be an opportunity to give a donation on this day. This collection is vital in enabling our schools to continue to thrive

Catholic Chaplaincies

A website has been set up to help young people find their Catholic chaplaincy when they arrive at college or university this autumn <http://www.catholicsatuniversity.org.uk>

For all the Saints...



14 September

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

What are these Christians about, exalting an instrument of torture? Firstly, we rejoice that something so terrible should have been transformed into a means of redemption for the whole human race. Secondly, we remind ourselves of the fact that Christianity is not an abstract and spiritual religion. It springs from God's direct intervention in the affairs of the world, a real historical event involving real people and, in the end, a real execution on a real cross. We may theorise and theologise all we like; but all our theorisings and theologisings are nothing without the history on which they are based. Take away that history – take away the Cross – and Christianity is nonsense.

15 September Our Lady of Sorrows

"And you yourself a sword will pierce" Lk 2:35

The devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows flourished in the Middle Ages, and the hymn Stabat Mater was composed for it. Although it is officially celebrated today, the day after the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, popular devotion in many parts of the Mediterranean celebrates it with processions on the Friday before Holy Week.



16 September St Cornelius

Cornelius was made bishop of the church in Rome (Pope) in the year 251. He fought against the Novatian schismatics, those who thought that 'lapsed' Christians should be exiled from the Church, and established his authority with the aid of Cyprian. During the persecutions of Emperor Gallus Cornelius was sent into exile, and he died at Civitavecchia in June 253. He is buried in Rome.

Mass Times

Sunday 6 September

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am *Harold Holding RIP*

6.00pm

Tuesday 8 September

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6.30pm

Wednesday 9 September

9.30am *Mo Flavin RIP*

Thursday 10 September

9.30am *Thanksgiving for prayers answered*

Friday 11 September

6.30pm *Kimberley Arnold RIP*

Saturday 12 September

9.30am

Sunday 13 September

Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am

10.45am *People of the Parish*

6.00pm

Tuesday 15 September

Our Lady of Sorrows

6.30pm *Ben Davies RIP*

Wednesday 16 September

St Cornelius, Pope

9.30am *Walter Leach RIP*

Thursday 17 September

9.30am

Friday 18 September

6.30pm *Ann & Colin Dudley in Thanksgiving*
Golden wedding anniversary

Saturday 19 September

9.30am

The Word

Sunday 6 September

FIRST READING Ezekiel 33:7-9

If you do not speak to the wicked man, I will hold you responsible for his death.

PSALM *O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.*

SECOND READING Romans 13:8-10

Love is the answer to every one of the commandments.

GOSPEL Matthew 18:15-20

If he listens to you, you have won back your brother.

Sunday 13 September

FIRST READING Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

PSALM *The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.*

SECOND READING Romans 14:7-9

Alive or dead we belong to the Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

I do not tell you to forgive seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Confessions

Following 9.30am Mass on Saturday morning. *Please be seated (socially distanced) in the front pews on the left of the church. The church will need to be cleaned following confessions.*

Attachments

Sunday Message & Sunday Homily

LOOK for young children

ICHTHUS for older children

Regular information