

# ParishNews



**Blessed Sacrament Parish** Heavitree Exeter

**8 November 2020** Thirty Second Ordinary time. Remembrance Day. Year A

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**The bridegroom is here!  
Go out and meet him.**

'Watch early for wisdom': wise words, and ones that the foolish bridesmaids of the Gospel should have taken to heart. This is the ultimate in 'putting off till tomorrow...', since the reading is about the end of time, when the Son of Man will come again. Then there will be no tomorrow. If a thing is worth doing, it's worth doing today. Quite often we contemplate the end of time with anxiety and fear: this is not what God wants. Look at the Psalm, where we hear of desperate longing, a thirst for the Lord, that cannot wait. We should not just wait for the Lord with patient endurance, but with impatient longing: what could we desire more than the coming of the Lord, the rising of the dead and an eternity of joy and glory?

# Lockdown 2 What it means for us

The first thing of course is that we cannot celebrate Mass with a congregation for the next month. The bishops of England and Wales as well as other faith leaders in the country lobbied the government hard to enable us to celebrate, especially considering the lengths we have gone to to make the church a safe space, but to no avail. So we are back to individual prayer – at least we can open for that – and I will celebrate Mass regularly in the church on my own (well not on my own as I know you will join me in prayer).

As citizens of the country we follow the rules. Even if we find it challenging at times we will play our part in helping the nation to overcome and recover from the pandemic. Prayer is a powerful force for good, so I would urge to continue to pray at home, especially if you are vulnerable. The Domestic Church has always been at the heart of our understanding of the Church community. At this time, the Church At Home really can come into its own. Why not set up a prayer station at home; a candle, a bible, some flowers and a crucifix placed together on a sideboard or a desk can help focus our minds and remind us to always turn to the Lord.

On November 25 we will have the livestreaming equipment installed in the church. In the meantime I will endeavour to live stream a Mass most days on Facebook. I'll let you know the times and days on Facebook. I hope you will be able to join me.

In the meantime keep safe. The virus has not gone away and we need to be vigilant. Pray for me as I continue to pray for you all. God bless you. *Fr Jonathn.*

## **OPENING TIMES FOR INDIVIDUAL PRAYER**

Beginning on Wednesday 11 November: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday mornings 9.30–10.30am. The social distancing restrictions apply and you will have to wear a face covering whilst you are in church. The stewards will be on duty to assist you and ensure everyone is safe as well as taking your details as you enter. Please be considerate to others who may want to come to pray.

## Youth Events in the Diocese of Plymouth

You can view our creation service on the Diocese YouTube page [youtu.be/bNVJYg4IQYM](https://youtu.be/bNVJYg4IQYM) It's beautiful to hear what young members love about our world and our young adults reflecting on our duty as Stewards of the earth. If you know a young person that would like to take part in the next online service in December please contact [youth@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:youth@prcdtr.org.uk) Thank you

The Plymouth Diocese will be performing a virtual nativity this year and the youth in the parishes and friends of those in the parish (do not have to be Catholic), ages 11-21, are invited to join in. There will be a series of workshops held over Zoom by a drama teacher on November 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 7.30-8.45pm. We need commitment for all dates and those involved will create and film a nativity that will be shared via the diocese YouTube channel and Facebook page. If your children or their friends would like to get involved with some drama lessons (no cost) and be a part of the diocese nativity this year, please get in touch with Erik Renz at [exeter-youth-worker@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:exeter-youth-worker@prcdtr.org.uk) for more information. Young people under 18 will need to complete a form giving them authority to join in the sessions. To get the form and the link to log in please can they or the parent email me at [youth@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:youth@prcdtr.org.uk)

## South West Big Christmas Carols Online

December 5 & 6. Professionally produced carols from a range of participants including well-known Christian singers (Matt Redman, Lucy Grimble, London Community Gospel Choir, Wildwood Kin and a Cathedral Children's Choir TBC). Interspersed with testimonies of people's experience of the hope of the gospel, with J John TBC. Large nativity featuring multiple schools from across the southwest - a narration of the nativity acted out and captured on camera. Possibly the largest nativity in the southwest. Live presenters topping and tailing the night. More info: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6khLD6Nh44>

## Retrouvaille: Stress in Your Marriage?

This has been a very difficult year for many couples. RETROUVAILLE is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This programme has helped 6,000 couples who were experiencing difficulties in their marriage in the past year alone. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about Retrouvaille or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on **12 -1<sup>h</sup> November**, call or text 0788 7296983 or 0797 3380443 - or email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

## Celebrate South West

The South West Celebrate Team have put together a series of online Zoom evenings on Mondays from 7.30 – 8.30pm. To register go to [www.celebrateconference.org/back-to-basics-2020](http://www.celebrateconference.org/back-to-basics-2020). The topics covered are:

16 November: Formation; The Call to Ever Deeper Discipleship with Stronghold

30 November: Mission; Taking Risks and Stepping out in Faith to Pursue God's Mission.

## Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

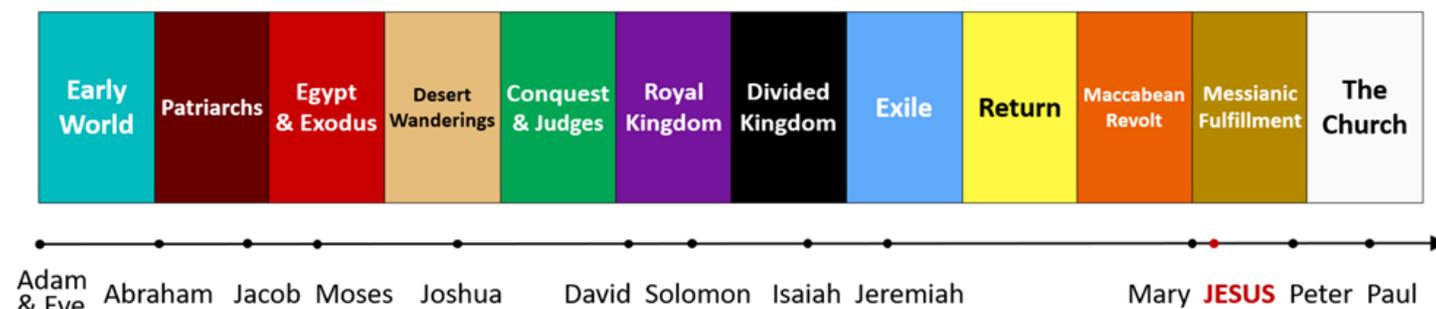
Wednesday Word meets online via the Zoom app and reflect together on the Gospel for the coming Sunday. If you would like to join and receive email notifications, please email: [exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk)

## Exeter Foodbank—Food Shortages

Can you help by donating the following? Potatoes (tinned); microwaveable Sponge Pudding; Squash; Toiletries (shower gel/deodorant/shampoo). Current Collection Points - Sainsbury's (Alphington/Pinhoe/Guildhall); Tesco (Exe Vale); Co-Op (Heavitree/St Thomas); Waitrose (Gladstone Rd) You can also give a donation on line at [exeter.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/](http://exeter.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/)

## The Bible Timeline Course

Please join us for a 7-week course which will help you grasp the Big Picture of the Bible from start to finish, the Old and New Testament, for life! It divides the whole Bible into 12 colour-coded Periods, easy to understand and memorise. The course will be live streamed and free. It will run every Wednesday at 7.00 - 8.30pm for 7 weeks starting on Wed 4 November. For course info see [www.comeandsee.org](http://www.comeandsee.org) to register see <https://comeandsee.org/registration>



## Financial support

We have very kindly been given some money to help people who might be struggling at the moment. It's not a huge amount but it could perhaps cover a few weekly shops for some families or something similar. We know how difficult it can be to ask for help but you may be able to ask on someone's behalf. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Parish Office.

# St Nicholas School Admissions

## Reception 2021 Admissions

Unfortunately, due to the current lockdown restrictions St Nicholas School are not able to offer tours for prospective parents. We will be adding some virtual content to our website very soon to give more information about our school. Please go to <http://www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk/>

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## *Growing In Faith Together*

**WHAT IS IT?** GIFT is for families of faith; for families with children who are looking forward to receiving Holy Communion; for families with older children who want to be confirmed in their faith; for families with younger children who want to experience and grow in faith in a simple and enjoyable way.

**HOW DOES IT WORK?** Our first three GIFT sessions at the beginning of this year were a great success with over 30 families joining together at St Nicholas School on Saturday mornings. Due to the current situation and our inability to meet together we are having to do things in a different way. We have invested in resources which are designed to support parents in sharing their faith and helping their families grow in knowledge and love of God, his creation, Jesus his Son and the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit and his action in the world and our lives. We are offering these resources to any family who may be genuinely interested in and willing to engage in the process. This is not homework for children (!) but a real opportunity for families to share and enjoy their faith at home TOGETHER (which the Church has always described as the Domestic Church).

**MONTHLY MEETING** Each month we will meet parents for 30 minutes on ZOOM. We will familiarise you with the 'God calls' resources by focusing on: introducing you to the structure and format of the resources; exploring the catechesis and faith teaching of the resource and answering any questions you may have. The material concentrates on coaching you to teach and support your children in learning about faith. Following the Zoom call, you will be emailed the resources which can be used with the whole family during the month.

If you would like to join us, please get in touch with Maria [exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.ogr.uk](mailto:exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.ogr.uk) Future GIFT zoom date is scheduled for the 5 Dec.

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## Government help

There is a free service to find out what help you can get from the government and other organisations. The link here is: <https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-support>

## Pope Francis on Mercy...

What counts above all else is 'faith working through love' (*Gal 5:6*). Works of love directed to one's neighbour are the most perfect manifestation of the interior grace of the spirit...

## Pope's November Intention

Artificial Intelligence. We pray that the process of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind. See also <https://thepopevideo.org/>

## The Pope tweets...

Prayer for the deceased, raised in the trust that they dwell with God, extends its benefits to us too: it educates us in a true vision of life; it opens us up to true freedom, disposing us to the continuous search for eternal goods.

## Exeter Prays

During the last Sunday of each month, Exeter Prays at 8.00 - 8.40pm. Please join in praying for our city, land, and the nations. Online at [www.southwestawake.com/](http://www.southwestawake.com/)

# The Beginnings of Something Wonderful

“May every parish, every religious community, every monastery, every sanctuary of Europe, take in one family.” *Pope Francis*. CARITAS Plymouth in collaboration with the UK Home Office is a lead sponsor of this scheme, working with Catholic communities to take in families. Our Exeter Parishes are responding to this call with a joint Exeter Refugee Resettlement Project and invite your prayers and time. If you could consider offering time to help this to become a reality now, please get in touch, to know more.

Next Meeting (Zoom) - Monday 9th November at 19.00.

Please contact Chris Lee for more information and the call details, thank you.

Email: [cml\\_lee@hotmail.com](mailto:cml_lee@hotmail.com) Mobile: 07702 435890.

## Catholic Children’s Society (Plymouth)

**Did you know that you can help raise funds for the CCSP when you shop online?**

  Have you registered with AmazonSmile or easyfundraising yet? If you haven't, it's simple and only takes a couple of

minutes to sign up and each time you shop online at over 4,300 participating stores or via Amazon, the Catholic Children’s Society (Plymouth) receives a small donation from the store with no extra cost to you. Please have a look next time you are online by visiting either or both

- [smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/282803-0](https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/282803-0) or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app, and AmazonSmile donates to Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)
- <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ccsplymouth/> - once you have raised your first £5, easyfundraising will match it!

## Essential Grants Programme for Children and Families

The Catholic Children’s Society (Plymouth) has funds available for essential grants to families living in the Diocese of Plymouth who are struggling as a result of Covid-19. The charity can provide essential items that parents and carers could otherwise not afford for their children such as basic essential items like cookers, fridge/ freezers, washing machines or cots and beds for children to sleep in. The fund is open to families of all faiths and none.

<https://www.ccsplymouth.org.uk/what-we-do/grant-giving/> tel: 01364 645420

## Remembrance Day – 8 November

On this day we remember the sacrifice made by so many of our brothers and sisters as they gave their lives that we might live in peace. We remember especially those who fell during the First and Second World Wars and conflicts around the world. Many of us have lost loved ones, family and friends, and today will be a particularly poignant one. Mass will be offered for the repose of their souls and also that peace may reign in the hearts of all men and women. May we strive to be peacemakers in all aspects of our lives, calming fears, making reconciliation a priority and always putting others needs before our own. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

## May they rest in peace...

Please pray for those who have died recently especially Margaret Derrick and Lesley Trist’s sister Judy. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

A close-up photograph of a field of red poppies. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The background is a soft-focus field of more poppies. The text "WE WILL REMEMBER THEM" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters in the lower center of the image.

WE WILL  
REMEMBER  
THEM

# Mass Times

## Sunday 8 November

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*Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Remembrance Day – All victims of war  
Repose of the souls of Catenians and Catholics  
of the Exeter area killed in the 1939/45 War*

## Tuesday 10 November

*St Leo the Great Pope & Doctor  
Deceased members of the Mason, Scarfe &  
Warren families*

## Wednesday 11 November

*St Martin of Tours, Bishop  
A P Antony RIP*

## Thursday 12 November

*St Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr  
The Evans family*

## Friday 13 November

## Saturday 14 November

## Sunday 15 November

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*Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
World Day of the Poor  
People of the Parish*

## Tuesday 17 November

## Wednesday 18 November

## Thursday 19 November

## Friday 20 November

## Saturday 21 November

*The presentation of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary  
Ann Pala RP*

# The Word

## Sunday 8 November

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FIRST READING Wisdom 6:12-16  
*Wisdom is found by those who look for her.*

PSALM *For you my soul is thirsting, O God,  
my God*

### SECOND READING 1

Thessalonians 4:13-18  
*God will bring with him those who have died  
in Jesus.*

### GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13

*The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.*

## Sunday 15 November

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### FIRST READING

Proverbs 31:10-13.19-20.30-31  
*A perfect wife – who can find her?*

### PSALM

*O blessed are those who fear the Lord.*

### SECOND READING Thessalonians 5:1-6

*Let not the Day of the Lord overtake you like  
a thief.*

### GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30

*You have been faithful in small things; come  
and join in your master's happiness*

# Parish Information

## Parish Priest

Fr Jonathan Stewart

## Priest in retirement

Fr John Watkins

## PARISH OFFICE

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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

## Exeter Parishes Pastoral Assistant

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

## Exeter Parishes Youth Worker

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

## *Safeguarding Reps*

Vince Clark & Lesley Hooper

## PARISH SCHOOL

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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)

## Executive Head Teacher

Angela Folland

## CONVENT

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Sisters of the Presentation of Mary

Mount St Mary Convent,

Wonford Road,

EX2 4PF

01392 433301

## Your Offering

We are enormously grateful for your continued generosity to the parish.

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.

## Parish News by Post & Email

If you know someone who would appreciate keeping in touch in this way to receive the parish news by post, with their permission please give their name and address and to the parish office by phoning or email to [exeterheavitree@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:exeterheavitree@prcdtr.org.uk) and we will arrange to get a copy to them.

If they have an email address please ask them to email the parish office (address above) and they can be added to the circulation list.

## The Bishops' Conference

Regular updates from the Bishops' Conference can be found at [ccn@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:ccn@cbcew.org.uk)

## Dial-a-Mass

For the benefit of those who do not have the internet or computer the Mass is recorded and put on the telephone at 12 midday on Sundays and will stay until 11.59 the following Sunday. For the cost of a local call they can listen to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Dial 01642 130120

## Churches Together Devon

The latest Churches Together Devon news is now available, here:

<https://mailchi.mp/e163e3bc1ba8/ctd-news-update-october-2020?e=8484c4b7b3>

## Getting married?

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

**Deadline for newsletter items  
4.00pm Wednesday.**