

ParishNews



Blessed Sacrament Parish Heavitree Exeter
7 February 2021. Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year B

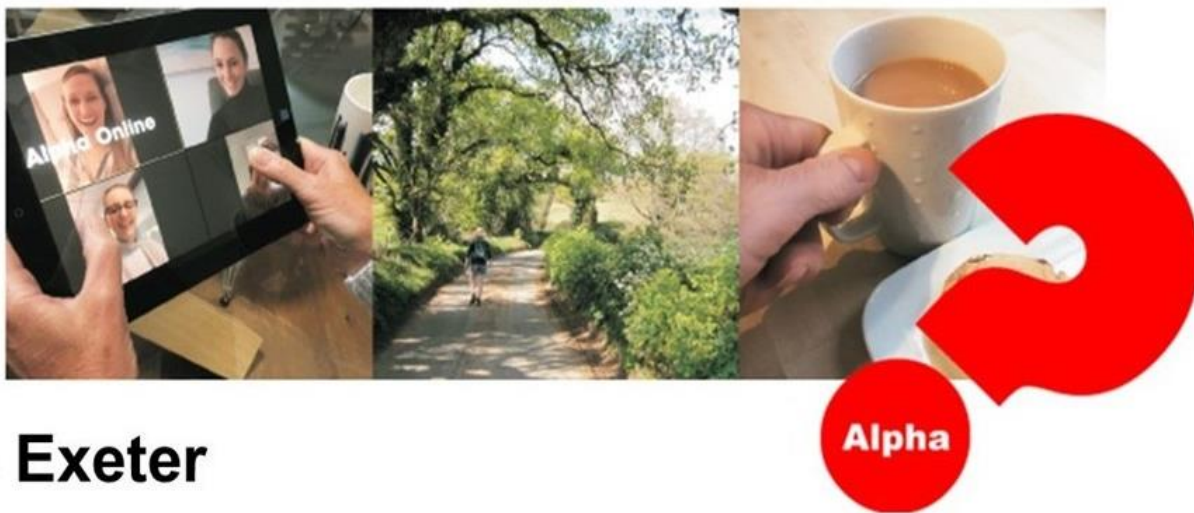


He cured many
who suffered
from diseases
of one kind or
another

This world, as we know, is a fragile and fallible place, in which we encounter hunger, disease, sickness and death. Jesus proclaims, by his actions of healing, that there is another world, the Kingdom of God, which will be free from all such anxieties and afflictions. The story of Paradise and the Garden of Eden painted a picture of a world which was perfect, and free from all problems. Jesus came into the world precisely to offer us a return to Eden, if we follow him. Each of his miracles is also, in some sense, a parable or teaching, pointing out to us something of the lost happiness and perfection which he is restoring. This vision of Paradise is not Utopian or delusory, not just a vain hope to comfort us with, but the true manifestation of God's love for us. Jesus could not cure every disease or sickness in the world then: but his miracles of healing are a sign that one day, when the Kingdom comes, sickness and disease will be wiped away for ever.

Explore Alpha online

Thursday
4th February
7:30 pm



Catholic Exeter

To register please click [here](#).

CAFOD

This Lent, CAFOD invites you and the whole Catholic community of England and Wales to join the Big Walk for Water virtual event. Help give the boot to water poverty across the world by walking a 5-mile route on Saturday 20 February at 2.00pm. Could you Walk for Water as a personal Lenten challenge by walking 10,000 steps a day, every day, for 40 days? Find out more at [//cafod.org.uk/walk](https://cafod.org.uk/walk)

Walk for Water

Craig and Michelle Ayles are undertaking a 40 day sponsored 'Walk for Water' to raise money for CAFOD. They will walk 10,000 steps a day to raise as much money as possible. To donate go to their Just Giving page <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/craig-and-michelle>

Live streaming from Blessed Sacrament

We are now live streaming to YouTube. Search YouTube for Blessed Sacrament Exeter and you will find our channel. This will mean that those who don't use Facebook will be able to access the live stream Masses more easily. When you get to our channel please subscribe. Masses live streamed this week:

Sunday 7 February 10.45am

Tuesday 9 February 6.30pm

Wednesday 10 February 9.30am

Thursday 11 February 9.30am

Friday 12 February 6.30pm

Saturday 13 February 9.30am



Many of you are making the most of the live Masses broadcast from Blessed Sacrament over the last few weeks. We are hoping that soon we will be able to do the same from Sacred Heart so that we can celebrate our community from both our

parish churches. Blessed Sacrament were really fortunate to be granted a sum of money from the National Lottery Community Fund [#NationalLottery](#) to help install the live stream equipment. This is helping to build community and to support people in isolation within our city. Thank you National Lottery!

Can you help to fill a container for The Gambia?

Whipton Barton School has been redeveloped and is hoping that their excess furniture will find their home in The Gambia rather than in a landfill. They are packing containers ready to leave on the 15 February and then again later in the summer. They want to fill every last bit of space with hard to come by resources and day to day essentials that we take for granted in school and everyday life. Do you know of anyone who:

- might be able to knit some hand puppets or has items suitable for a nursery school?
- has connections to any sports clubs or organisations that might have some old kit?
- could spare £1 in their weekly shopping allowance to buy some hard to come by stationery items such as blu-tac, sellotape, paperclips etc?

If you can help, please get in touch with Exeter Catholic parishioner Kathleen Ebdon at kebdon@whiptonbarton.org. Or you can phone Whipton Barton School on 01392 466072 and ask for Miss Amy Hardinge. Thank you for your support for this worthwhile cause.

GIFT Growing in Faith Together

February update

We met with parents via zoom on Saturday 6 February to discuss one of our next God Calls Resources: David. This resource helps families to focus on two themes:

- When we have God on our side, nothing can defeat us.
- There are seed of hidden talents in all of us that are just waiting for God's love and our faith to bring into blossom.

Families will also explore 'God Calls Esther' over the upcoming month.

WHAT IS GIFT? GIFT is for all families of faith: for families who have already made their Holy Communion or for families with children who are looking forward to receiving this sacrament; 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.

BEDTIME CHATS

All of the Bedtime Chats can be found on the Blessed Sacrament Website GIFT page:

<https://www.blessedsacrament.org.uk/parish-life/gift/>

GET IN TOUCH

Our next parents zoom session is on Saturday 6 March. If you would like to join us, please get in touch with Maria exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

Into your hands, O Lord...

we commend the souls of your servants Patricia Watkins, Penny Barrington, Bertha Ryan, Colin Green and Mary Ellis who have died. May they rest in peace. Please keep them all and their families and friends in your prayers this week

Retrouvaille – a lifeline for married couples

Covid 19—is a very challenging time for many marriages. So much uncertainty around, health, income, employment, vulnerable family members, children, housing. Different ways of seeing things, coping with change and managing fears can be a source of conflict and stress. It can be difficult to talk, to listen, to support and comfort when there is so much uncertainty. Being together all the time, brings even more challenges. You just can't cope, would be better apart you wonder. Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples, it brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriageand you don't need to leave home, it comes to you! For confidential information about Retrouvaille, or to register for the next programme, a Virtual weekend from 25 to 28 February call or text 0788 7296983 or 0797 3380443 or email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com – or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Exeter Foodbank – Food Shortages

Can you help by donating any of the following from the February priority items list:

sponge puddings, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, coffee, sugar, washing up liquid and household cleaner spray. Please ONLY donate items from the list. Thank you for your understanding.

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 online at exeter.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/

Stay Awake 2021

This is the third year for our home-grown all age event and takes place on Saturday 27 February online, via Zoom. Running from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm with inspiring / encouraging talks, praise, worship and fellowship, in the comfort of your own home! Includes a session for kids from 1.00 to 1.30pm (Reception to Yr 9). Stay Awake allows us to go deeper with Jesus and build Christian discipleship. This is a free event! Booking is open via the webpage see www.stayawakejc.com for more info and to receive the Zoom link for entry.

Check out the new Facebook and Instagram Pages – be sure to like/follow to keep updated with all things Stay Awake, and to see some fun content! Links below and we look forward to seeing you online! Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stayawakejc19/>

Instagram: [instagram.com/stayawakejc19](https://www.instagram.com/stayawakejc19)

Email: stayawakejc19@gmail.com

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2022

Bishop Mark plans to be the spiritual leader of a gently paced pilgrimage to the Holy Land in early March 2022. It will include a full programme of visits to the Holy Sites and staying in excellent Christian accommodation in the hills of Samaria and Judea and closing with three nights at the Sea of Galilee. Places are limited to a total of 30, on a first come first served basis. For further detail and to register your interest please contact Della Shenton on della@5gr.org.

Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

Wednesday Word meets online via the Zoom app on Wednesday at 2.00pm 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

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.

Message from the Archbishops: [A People who Hope in Christ](#)

Baptism Preparation Courses 2021

Are you looking to have your child baptised next year? We look forward to spiritually supporting you in preparation for this important sacrament and welcoming you and your family into our parish family. Courses are delivered via zoom over two consecutive Saturday mornings from 10:00-11:15. The next course dates for 2021 are:

17/24 April, 10/17 July, and 9/16 October

Please get in touch with Fr Jonathan to let him know you would like to prepare to have your child baptised. You will then be directed to Lesley Hooper who organises registration for the course. Exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk or 07712 216724 (during lockdown only)



Big Exeter Sleep-Out

Due to the COVID lock-down, we have had to make this year's Big Exeter Sleep-Out a virtual fundraising event. Although we are apart, we wanted to find a way to bring our supporters together in a safe way. For one night, on Friday 5 March, we are asking you to Sleep-Out: At Home for the night and raise vital funds for the most vulnerable men and woman in your area. Please stick to your family or support bubbles. For more information and to share this event with your colleagues, please find us on

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/events/631862997528891> Or sign up for free here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/big-exeter-sleep-out-at-home-tickets-133073752175>

Established 2022



**BELONG
CONTRIBUTE
THRIVE** 🏠

YMCA Exeter are delighted to finally let everyone into their secret! Exeter has a huge housing crisis and it's affecting our young people. The last year alone has seen the council housing need increase by a further 24% with over 350 local young people waiting for 1-bed accommodation.

We firmly believe that God has been guiding us

over the last three years as we have explored housing options. We are so excited to tell you that we've just begun work on a groundbreaking initiative to tackle the problem head on - to provide affordable and secure accommodation to local, young people. Thanks to significant investment from Homes England and Exeter City Council, we have been able to buy an abandoned warehouse in the heart of the city centre and we are transforming it into 26 self-contained studio apartments. The newly named, 'Sidwell Studios' is being specifically built to create a fantastic community feel within the city, whilst regenerating the area and providing an asset to the locality and real, affordable housing options for local young people. One Bible verse that has constantly come to mind as we've developed this project is Proverbs 24:3-4: *"By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures."*

We firmly believe that the young people are the rare and beautiful treasures that will fill the rooms of Sidwell Studios. And we believe that God is calling us to help establish young people – many of whom have experienced constant upheaval - into a secure environment from which they can flourish into all that God has planned for them. For that reason we're going to be focusing a lot on the idea of being 'Established' over the coming year. In fact we love the idea so much that we've developed a new campaign that we'd love you to partner with us in: Established [2022] We've already received funding to cover 85% of the costs to transform the old warehouse in the city centre, we're just £525,000 short. Will you partner with us and help Establish a generation of potential by making a donation today? Get involved now by: Making a donation Joining our Established [2022] Whatsapp Prayer Group



To find out more about the project or to arrange a call for more information then email bethan.spencer@ymcaexeter.org.uk or call us on 01392 410530.

Artists impression of Sidwell Studios on Acland Road in Exeter City Centre

Support for Children and Young People

Laptops and tablets are available from the DfE to support children who do not already have access to a device for remote learning. Parents, carers, and pupils can contact their school who can request one on their behalf.

The Government has also said it is going to provide extra funding to support schools to provide food parcels or meals to children who are eligible for free school meals. Where schools cannot offer food parcels or use local solutions, a national voucher scheme will be in place so that eligible children, who meet the qualification criteria due to low income, can access free school meals while they are remotely learning from home. Further details on the national voucher scheme can be found by clicking [this link](#)

In Devon, schools are working with their catering providers so that meals continue to be available to any eligible pupils attending school – including all infants and those receiving benefits-related free school meals – as well as eligible pupils who are now learning from home.

Parish Audit

The deadline for has been extended so it isn't too late to complete and return the Parish Audit. We would encourage all parishioners to take this opportunity to let us know what you think about the parish and where you think that we are going. The form is attached to the newsletter and can be either downloaded, printed and posted back to the parish office or completed electronically and returned by email to exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk Thank you.

Let Us Pray

PRAY 4 EXETER First Tuesday of every month 10.00–11.00am on Zoom.

Contact ctaxexeter@gmail.com for the link. Join others to pray for our city, region, and nation.

PRAY FOR EXETER STREET PASTORS The monthly prayer meeting for Exeter Street Pastors and those they work with is continuing on Zoom. The second Monday of each month 7.30–9.00pm on Zoom. Email for the link: ctaxexeter@gmail.com if you would like to support Exeter Street Pastors in prayer.

A Precious Place of God's Grace

This recent document published by Bishop Mark and the Bishop's Council is being widely discussed throughout the diocese. Bishop Mark is inviting us to respond, in writing, to the issues raised so that decisions can be taken only after the widest consultation amongst the people. You're welcome to send responses to the Parish Office. The document is available on the diocesan website ([click here](#)) Please do take this opportunity to have your say about the future of the diocese. Important decisions will have to be taken soon regarding the structure of the diocese, the provision of the sacraments and the work of the clergy. We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead and guide those who have the responsibility of governance of the People of God in the Diocese of Plymouth.

Weekly Giving Envelopes

The weekly gift aid and planned giving envelopes are available for collection. If you have envelopes to collect please call Lesley on 07712 216724 and a day and time can be arranged for you to collect your box. An easier way to give is by standing order and the forms can be obtained from the parish office to enable you to set this up, 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 let us know your correct contact details. If you are new to the Parish and perhaps not considered gift aiding your donations or would like more information how to make regular planned giving using the envelopes or by standing order from your bank call the Parish Office. Thank you.

Pope's February Intention

Violence against women. We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

See also: <https://thepopevideo.org/>

Pope Francis on Mercy

The mercy of God is His loving concern for each one of us. He feels responsible; that is, He desires our well being and He wants to see us happy, full of joy, and peaceful. This is the path which the merciful love of Christians must also travel. As the Father loves, so do His children. Just as He is merciful, so we are called to be merciful to each other.

The Pope tweets...

The Lord does not call us to be soloists, but to be part of a choir that can sometimes miss a note or two, but must always try to sing in unison.

Bible in a year

Fr Mike Schmitz, a chaplain and a professor at the University of Minnesota, has recorded 365 daily podcasts of the Bible. The podcasts provide commentary, reflection and prayer along the way. Bible in a Year Podcast follows a reading plan inspired by the Great Adventure Bible Timeline, a ground-breaking approach to understanding salvation history developed by renowned Catholic Bible scholar Jeff Cavis. By listening to Bible in a Year, you are not only listening to an excellent podcast that will help you read and understand the Bible – you are showing the world that this matters. <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration>

Consultation to Stop Home Abortions

The Department of Health is holding a public consultation on whether to continue the practice of allowing abortion providers to send abortion pills to women so that they can perform their own abortion at home. We need as many pro-life people as possible to complete the Department of Health's questionnaire in order to help stop dangerous DIY abortions becoming permanent. SPUC has prepared a briefing which gives a step-by-step guide to completing the consultation questionnaire. Please go to <https://www.spuc.org.uk/Get-Involved/Campaigns/England-DIY-Abortion-Consultation> The consultation ends on 26th February 2021

Right To Life UK

A new parliamentary motion (EDM 1340) is calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. The evidence that babies can feel pain in the womb, and during many abortions, highlights the humanity of the unborn child and provides another important reason to introduce legislation to protect the unborn child from abortion. Right To Life UK have set up an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple to contact your MP, and ask them to sign this motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. It only takes 30 seconds using this easy-to-use tool. This tool can be accessed by visiting the link below:

www.righttolife.org.uk/FetalPainMotion

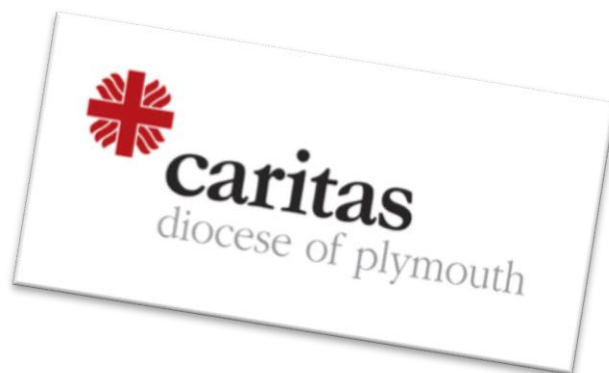
Ave Maria Crisis Pregnancy Support

Ave Maria Crisis Pregnancy Support has launched in the Plymouth Diocese to offer a listening ear and support to those with an unexpected pregnancy, or to those worried about coping with another baby, or those who have been confronted with a diagnosis of potential fatal foetal abnormality, as well as to women suffering after a miscarriage or experiencing regret or remorse after an abortion or any other similar situation. Their support line is open 7 days per week between 7.30pm – 9.30pm Tel: 01752 916076

Caritas Plymouth

Caritas – support for individuals

Caritas Plymouth has updated their list of grants that people might find useful if they are struggling. This will be shared this via their website. Please click [here](#) for the link.



Welcome the Stranger

8th February 5 – 6.30pm

Caritas Plymouth online event - Welcome the Stranger

Celebrating the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita 8 February 5.00-6.30 pm

All are invited to join Bishop Mark O'Toole of the Diocese of Plymouth and Bishop Declan Lang of the Diocese of Clifton for an evening of prayer and reflection on the issues facing refugees, migrants and those affected by modern slavery. Guest speakers include Nick Hanrahan from the Jesuit Refugee Service and Caroline Virgo from the Clewer initiative. The event will take place via zoom and you can register to attend this free on line event by clicking [here](#) or emailing caritas@prcdtr.org.uk. *We are delighted to let you know that we have now secured agreement for the UK to continue with resettlement activity once our commitments under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme have been fulfilled.*

Caritas Lent Resources

Caritas Plymouth has developed some resources for individual, group and parish reflection during Lent 2021. The resources include podcasts, links to websites and ideas for reflection during Lent, with a focus on Catholic Social Teaching <https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Lenten-2021-Resources.pdf>. We hope that you find this material inspiring.

Catholic Diary A few diaries for 2021 have finally arrived and some are still available. If you would like one please email the parish office with your address and one can be sent to you.

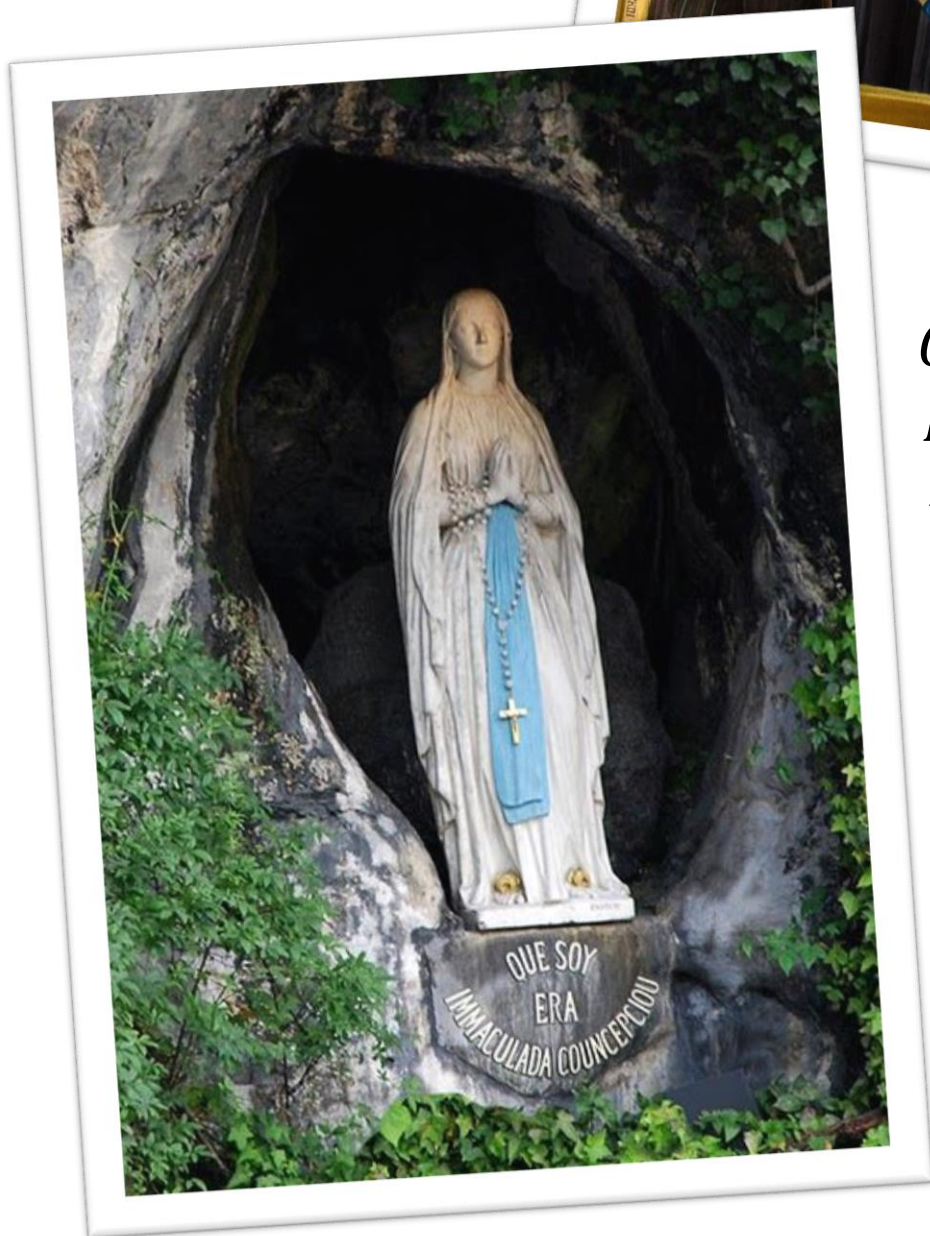
For all the Saints...

Saint Scholastica

(480-547)

10 February

She was born in Nursia in about 480, the twin sister of St Benedict. She was dedicated to God from an early age and followed her brother to Cassino, where she died in about 547.



Our Lady of Lourdes

11 February

In 1858 the immaculate Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette Soubirous, near Lourdes in France, in the cavern called "de Massabielle." Through this poor, fourteen-year-old girl, Mary calls on sinners to change their lives. She has inspired in the Church a great love of prayer and good works, especially in the service of the poor and the sick.

A Prayer for times of isolation

God of heaven and earth,
in these times of isolation,
apart from loved ones
distant from friends
away from neighbours
thank you that there is nothing
in all of creation,
not even coronavirus,
that is able to separate us
from your love.

And may your love that never fails
continue to be shared
through the kindness of strangers
looking out for each other,
for neighbours near and far
all recognising our shared vulnerability,
each of us grateful for every breath,
and willing everyone to know the gift
of a full and healthy life.
Keep us all in your care.
Amen.



Mass Times

All Masses streamed live on YouTube

Sunday 7 February

5th Sunday Ordinary time

10.45am *People of the Parish*

Tuesday 9 February

6.30pm

Wednesday 10 February

St Scholastica Virgin

9.30am

Thursday 11 February

Our Lady of Lourdes

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

9.30am

Friday 12 February

6.30pm

Saturday 13 February

9.30am

Sunday 14 February

6th Sunday Ordinary time

10.45am *People of the Parish*

Tuesday 16 February

6.30pm *Joe Leonard RIP & John Denham RIP*

Wednesday 17 February

Ash Wednesday day of fast & abstinence

9.30am

Thursday 18 February

9.30am

Friday 19 February

6.30pm *Pauline Cummins RIP*

Saturday 20 February

9.30am

The Word

Sunday 7 February

FIRST READING

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.

PSALM

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

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

*I should be punished if I did not preach.
the Gospel.*

GOSPEL Mark 1:29-39

*He cured many who suffered from diseases of
one kind or another.*

Sunday 14 February

FIRST READING

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

*The leper must live apart: he must live outside
the camp.*

PSALM

*You are my refuge, O Lord;
You fill me with the joy of salvation.*

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

GOSPEL Mark 1:40-45

The leprosy left him at once and he was cured.



Parish Information

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

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

Exeter Parishes Youth Worker

Erik Renz
exeter-youth-worker@prcdtr.org.uk

Safeguarding Reps

Vince Clark & Lesley Hooper

PARISH SCHOOL

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School
Ringswell Avenue,
Exeter EX1 3EG
01392 445403
admin@stncls.uk
www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk

Executive Head Teacher

Angela Folland

CONVENT

Sisters of the Presentation of Mary
Mount St Mary Convent,
Wonford Road,
EX2 4PF
01392 433301

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

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 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.

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. Please click [here](#)

Churches Together England

The latest Churches Together England news is now available here

[https://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/234746/Home/News/CTe News/CTe News.aspx](https://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/234746/Home/News/CTe%20News/CTe%20News.aspx)

The Bishops' Conference

Regular updates from the Bishops' Conference can be found at ccn@cbcew.org.uk

Getting married?

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