

PARISH NEWS

BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

13 June 2021. Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year B



It is the smallest of the seeds, yet it grows into the biggest shrub of them all.

How does a tree grow? The scientists can give us their answers, but the miracle of life on our earth, in all its dazzling complexity and variety is exactly that - a miracle. God is responsible for the miracle of Nature and growth - how, we don't know, but we accept God's guiding hand as a fact of our faith. This mysterious growth in Nature is used as a parable today, for the life of the Church and the Kingdom of God. Just as a seed, planted and watered, turns by miraculous processes into something different and bigger and beautiful, so the seed of the Gospel will grow into something else, by some means we can never fully understand. And that is the grace of God, encouraging, prompting and helping all men and women of good will to swell the coming Kingdom of our God.

Life in the parish

In the last few weeks it feels as though the parish is coming alive once more. The number of people at Mass has increased, certainly at the weekend, and it has been a joy to celebrate the baptisms of three children and the marriage of one couple in the church. Below are the photos of these celebrations. We wish them all every blessing.

Baptised in faith...

Recently we have celebrated the first baptisms in many weeks at the Blessed Sacrament when first Nkemakonam (Kema) Okoroafor and then Lily and Zoja Kieliszek were welcomed into the family of the church. We wish them and their families every blessing today and always.



Kema and his family



Lily and Zoja and their family



Congratulations

Congratulations to Sarah Scanlon and Matthew Taylor who were married at Blessed Sacrament Church last weekend. The sun shone and their 30 guests were delighted to share this happy moment. We wish them every blessing as they begin life as husband and wife.

Vacancy in the Diocese of Plymouth

Vacancy - **Caritas Project Lead** - Diocese of Plymouth: Fixed Term Contract (15 months). Location: Plymouth. Hours: 28 hours per week Salary Range: £26,000 - £30,00 per annum FTE pro-rata'd to the 28 hours per week plus mobile phone allowance and pension scheme (subject to eligibility).

Caritas Plymouth has a vacancy to lead a new project to develop social action in our Plymouth Parishes. The role will involve mapping current social action and community engagement, identifying gaps and opportunities and testing and learning from pilot projects.

The job description is obtainable from the Human Resources Department on 01364 645383, email recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk.

Applications by application form and covering letter. Closing date 4 July 2021, first interviews w/c 12th July 2021.

For further information: www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk click on Careers under The Diocese tab or contact Deborah Fisher for a chat about the role on 01364 645421.

Lifelines Newspaper

Please find attached a copy of Lifelines, a one-off Christian newspaper for Exeter. Frank Bennet who helped to spearhead this project said “Can I say a big thank you to every one of you for helping to make this project become reality. It has been both a challenge and a pleasure. It just goes to show what we as Christians can do when we work together to tell others just what Jesus has done and is still able to do in the lives of real people.” Royal Mail will be delivering 47,000 copies across Exeter starting this week. Please pray that this Exeter Lifelines edition will make a big impact.

G7 Wave of Hope with Christian Aid



This week our neighbours across the border in Cornwall host the G7 Summit from 11 to 13 June and you can join in with a

world prayer event. You can find the details by clicking [here](#).

As the UK prepares to host this summit Christian Aid are calling on each of us to use our prophetic voices to help shape a more just world. Join people across the UK in a ‘Wave of Hope’ by drawing, tracing, printing or painting a hand and displaying it in your window. For more information and a toolkit of resources click [here](#).

We Cannot Walk Alone

Exeter WAYmakers, the Catholic Exeter, Community Sponsorship Group are pleased to share some ways in which we can pull together, to partner in Refugee Week. The week extends as Destination Devon into the following weekend with Exeter Refugee activities as a City of Sanctuary on the quay See attachment – ‘We cannot walk alone’ and if you would like to speak to someone about any of these please contact Chris Lee M: 07702 435890. Thank you.

Refugee Week Event

Caritas Social Action Network is running a joint webinar with Reset on the Community Sponsorship scheme on 14 June, 6pm – 7.30pm. Community Sponsorship is a refugee resettlement programme with local people at its heart. It enables you to welcome a refugee family to your local area and support them as they rebuild their lives. This webinar is a great opportunity to find out more about community sponsorship, how to get involved and hear from refugees and parishioners who have experienced its transformative impact. The link to register is [here](#).

Pope Francis on Mercy

Knowing your enthusiasm for mission, I repeat: mercy always has a youthful face! Because a merciful heart is motivated to move beyond its comfort zone. A merciful heart can go out and meet others; it is ready to embrace everyone. A merciful heart is able to be a place of refuge for those who are without a home or have lost their home; it is able to build a home and a family for those forced to emigrate; it knows the meaning of tenderness and compassion. A merciful heart can share its bread with the hungry and welcome refugees and migrants. To say the word 'mercy' along with you is to speak of opportunity, future, commitment, trust, openness, openness, hospitality, compassion and dreams.

Volunteers need for Exeter Vaccination Centre

Could you spare 4 hours to volunteer at the Exeter vaccination centre at Greendale? There is a significant shortage of volunteers at the moment to help with welcoming and directing clients through the vaccination centre. Volunteers of all ages are welcome, and the work is well organised with Covid-safety measures in place. Even helping out with one 4-hour shift once a month would be a valuable contribution to the national vaccination effort. For more information [click here](#)

Justice and Peace Annual Conference

July 2021. Caritas Plymouth is offering to sponsor two participants who will report back to the Diocese. The theme is on the Environment. This is open to people 18-35. If two friends wish to apply to attend together that is a possibility. The full details are on the website: [click here](#).

Cana Week for Married Couples

A marriage retreat at Sclerder Abbey, Looe, Cornwall from 25 -31 July.
For more details see www.chemin-neuf.org.uk

Marriage Encounter Experiences

The next dates for either married or engaged couples are: Engaged Encounter (marriage preparation) - 19 and 26 June online video conference experience. Marriage Encounter 10 and 11 July non-residential weekend, Savio House, Macclesfield (Covid permitting). For further information or to book please go to: <https://engaged-encounter.org.uk> or <https://wwme.org.uk>

Called and Gifted, UK | Discovering your Spiritual Gifts

Each of us is created uniquely by God, in our time and place, for a purpose. When we understand and allow ourselves to be aligned with that purpose we are energised and fulfilled; and God's love and provision is able to flow more freely exactly where it is needed, through our spiritual gifts (charisms). Called and Gifted is the discernment process that helps us unlock our story, understand our gifts (charisms) and discover our unique mission. Called and Gifted has a rich history stemming from the Catherine of Siena Institute and the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. Called and Gifted, UK is a spiritual journey that helps you understand God's calling and identify your unique charisms to share with others. For more information go to www.calledandgifted.org.uk

Do you care about building a better world? This is an important year to act!

In response to Pope Francis' call to *Rebuild Our Common Home*, join CAFOD this year in taking action. As host to two major international meetings - the G7 in June in Cornwall & the UN 'COP26' climate talks in November - the UK has a vital role to play on the global stage this year. Join CAFOD to add your voice to call on the government to rebuild better following the pandemic by: Tackling the climate crisis, holding business accountable, ending unjust debts.

We invite you to join us at our Exeter Deanery meeting about CAFOD's campaign & our plans to build a better world. Hear from CAFOD's inspirational new Campaigns Engagement Manager, Andrea Speranza, about the campaign & how to set up virtual meetings with your local MP, to speak up for the poorest of our sisters and brothers and the whole of creation. You do not need to be an expert on the issues, you just need to care about building a better world.

Join us on zoom: Monday, 21st June, 6.30-8pm. *(If you can't make the meeting we can share the recording with you to watch later).* To register please email: plymouth@cafod.org.uk

The Guild of St Boniface

The Annual General Meeting of the Guild of St Boniface will take place on Tuesday 29 June at Bishop's House in Plymouth. Bishop Mark has kindly invited all members of the Guild to a celebration of Mass in his private chapel at 4.30pm on that day followed by refreshments. The Guild of St Boniface was founded in 1923 and named after the patron of the Diocese. It exists to pray for God's blessing on the ministry, mission and wellbeing of our Bishop and to offer financial support for his ministry in this Diocese and beyond. In his turn, the bishop celebrates Mass four times a year for all the members. Bishop Mark appointed Fr Colin as Warden of the Guild in 2019. Membership of the Guild is open to everyone over 18 on completion of an application form and enclosing either the Annual or Life subscription. A membership form and standing order form can be requested from the Secretary/ Treasurer, Susanne Kowal by email: susanne.kowal@gmail.com.

Pope Francis tweets...

Perseverance is the gift of God by which all His other gifts are maintained. Let us pray that, as individuals and as a Church, we might persevere in doing good and not to lose sight of what counts.

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

The God Who Speaks Through Creation

Following the launch of the Diocesan Environmental Policy, you are invited to join *CARITAS PLYMOUTH* at an online reflection and discussion on how God speaks to us through His creation. This event will be on Saturday 17 July at 10-11.30am via Zoom. Join Bishop Mark O'Toole to reflect on climate change, our Diocesan Environment Policy and the call to be Stewards of Creation. The Guest Speaker Sister Margaret Atkins OSA, a Canoness of St Augustine in the community at Boarbank Hall, Cumbria is a lecturer and author in theology with special interest in the ethics of the environment. To register for this event [click here](#), email caritas@prcdtr.org.uk or call 01364 653421.

Plymouth Diocese Catechetical Summer Camps

This year there are to be a variety of activities, primarily between 9th August and 13th August, with different activities for each year group. The St Petroc's Camp, for school years 10-12, are going to have a residential camp at St Rita's Centre in Honiton. The Senior Camp, as well as a virtual week in August, is planning a short Camp during the Autumn half term, hopefully at Grangehurst House, Buckfast Abbey. There will be more details of this, and all the activities, in due course. The Junior Camp will be running a week of streamed sessions each morning and afternoon. Please see the attached Camp Newsletter for further details and booking details.

Alpha in the autumn

We're planning to run the next Alpha in early autumn, hopefully in person. If you'd like to know more or to be put on a waiting list, please contact us at [this link](#). We'd love to hear from you.

Exeter Catholic Youth Community (ECYC)

The Exeter Catholic Youth Community wanted to make everyone aware of an upcoming event for the diary. June will be a busy month so get in touch with Erik (exeter-youth-worker@prcdtr.org.uk) if you'd like to get involved!

We will hold an event on Thursday 17 June 17 19:15-20:15, which will be another Kahoot! Quiz. This proved very popular and quite interactive last time so we thought we'd gear up for Summer with some fun.

If you haven't attended an event before please reach out to Erik and he will provide consent forms required. We pray you and your families are all doing well and look forward to seeing you soon!

Ask your MP to sign a Parliamentary motion to stop 'DIY' abortion

Carla Lockhart MP has launched a parliamentary motion calling on the Government to end 'DIY' home abortion. It is therefore vital that as many MPs as possible sign Carla Lockhart's motion to send a clear message to the Government that they must end dangerous 'DIY' home abortion services as soon as possible. Right to Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple for you to send an email to your MP asking them to sign the motion. Please click the link below to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds! [Click here](#)

Calling Grandparents

The first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated on Sunday 25 July 2021.

The Catholic Grandparents Association supports grandparents doing 'the very best we can for our children and grandchildren.'

'Grandparents' ... vital contribution to the family, the Church and society was never as important as now. ... We can never fail so long as we keep on doing what we are doing - praying, showing the way and passing on our Faith'. Visit their site for more information on parish resources. <http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org>

GIFT Growing in Faith Together

Our next meeting is on Saturday 12 June when we will explore how we can deepen our friendship with Jesus and what being Jesus' friend means in our daily lives. Families will use the 'Jesus Lives' resources and look at 'Friends of Jesus' and the story of Zacchaeus.

What is GIFT?

GIFT is for all families of faith: for families with children who already receive 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](#).

Get in touch

Our next parents zoom session is on Saturday 3 July. To join us, get in touch with Maria exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

St Nick's News

We are pleased to be back at school after our sunny half term break and looking forward to what the last half term before summer will bring.

Year 6 will go to their residential at Kilve to take part in many outdoor activities such as archery, high ropes, beach walks and mountain biking.

We are planning a COVID friendly sports day where we will be able to use our new running track.

Our new outdoor classroom should also be completed by the end of term to offer all children fantastic opportunities to outdoor learning.

For more information about joining ST Nicholas school from Nursery to year 6 please contact Mrs Brocksom

(abrocksom@stncls.uk)

Exeter Foodbank – Food Shortages

Can you help by donating any of the following from the June priority items list which is a non-food focus month: washing up liquid, deodorant, shower gel, hair conditioner and shampoo.

Please **ONLY** donate items from the list. Thank you for your understanding. Collection Points - Sainsbury's

Alphington/Pinhoe/Guildhall); Tesco (Exe Vale); Co-Op (Heavitree/St Thomas); Waitrose (Gladstone Rd) Donate money online at [this link](#).

Please also find attached Exeter Foodbank's latest newsletter. Sophie Halme, EFB Administrator, said,

“We are pleased to share with you some of the ways we have been working to implement changes to our service, all designed to focus on our motto of ‘Restoring Dignity, Reviving Hope’. These include employing an advice worker, finding ways to offer our clients more choice and providing more fresh food. We hope you enjoy reading it and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support”.

Can you help someone at risk of homelessness?

People at risk of being evicted from their home are being urged to seek advice before it is too late. The message comes from Exeter City Council just days after a nationwide ban on rental property evictions carried out by bailiffs came to an end. The ban was brought in to prevent people becoming homeless during the global pandemic. Councillor Ruth Williams, lead councillor for supporting people said “It’s more important than ever for people to make contact with our housing teams before they become homeless”.

Pope’s June Intention

The beauty of marriage. Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience. The Pope Video [here](#)

Bridge Books – Exeter’s Christian Bookshop

George and Mary, owners of Bridge Books look forward to seeing you in the shop whenever possible or email sales@bridgebookshop.co.uk or phone 01392 427171 if you need help to find what you need.

Mass live-streamed

Mass will be streamed live from the church on the [Blessed Sacrament YouTube channel](#). We intend to stream the 10.45am Mass on Sundays and most weekday Masses. Upcoming streams can be found on the channel. If you visit the channel please click the ‘subscribe’ button. The more subscriptions we have the more benefits we get from YouTube which will enable us to be more flexible and creative in our virtual communication with parishioners and beyond. Thank you.

Stewarding at Blessed Sacrament

If you are returning to Mass, and it’s lovely to see you, and you are in a position to offer to steward we would be very grateful. Our team of stewards have done a great job, but it is important that we all take responsibility for supporting the community in this way. So please think carefully, ‘If I’m coming to Mass, I could steward’ and then contact the parish office to be placed on the rota. It is not an arduous job and we will explain the duties and responsibilities to you so you’ll know what is expected of you. Thank you in advance.

Mass Times

10.45am Mass on Sunday and most weekday Masses will be streamed live on the [Parish YouTube channel](#).

Sunday 13 June

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am Jack & Peggy Webber RIP

10.45am People of the Parish

6.00pm Janet Prickett RIP

Tuesday 15 June 6.30pm

Wednesday 16 June 9.30am

Adam Barnes RIP

Thursday 17 June 9.30am

Friday 18 June 6.30pm

Saturday 19 June 9.30am

Sunday 20 June

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am

10.45am

6.00pm People of the Parish

Tuesday 22 June 6.30pm

*St John Fisher Bishop & Martyr
& St Thomas More Martyr*

Wednesday 23 June 9.30am

St Edward King & Martyr

Thursday 24 June 9.30am

Nativity of St John the Baptist

Friday 25 June 6.30pm

Olive & Fred Morgan RIP

Saturday 26 June 9.30am

The Word

Sunday 13 June

First Reading Ezekiel 17:22-24

I make low trees grow.

Psalm

It is good to give you thanks,
O Lord.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing the Lord.

Gospel Mark 4:26-34

It is the smallest of all the seeds; yet it grows into the largest shrub of them all.

Sunday 20 June

First Reading Job 3:1.8-11

Here your proud waves shall break.

Psalm

O give thanks to the Lord,
for his love endures forever.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Now the new creation is here.

Gospel Mark 4:35-41

Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.

**Deadline for newsletter items
10.00am Thursday.**



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