



BLESSED SACRAMENT

PARISH NEWS

20 June 2021. 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time. B

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

There is a strangely simple theme to this Sunday: that God has power of the forces of nature, because he created them in the first place. This is what the first reading tells us, and also what the gospel shows us, when Jesus “rebukes the wind”. This tells us something about Jesus (that he is God made man), and also something about our faith. It's also interesting that the disciples react to this miracle



with fear and awe - as if their minds were suddenly opened to a reality they had not realised before. They had chosen to follow the Christ who had called them, but we see their understanding of who he is growing and developing. Perhaps this is of comfort to us, as we see our relationship with the Lord who controls the waters grow and develop, and alerts us to be ready for the surprises that following the Lord can bring.

DAY FOR LIFE

Bishop John Sherrington, the Lead Bishop for Life Issues for the Church in England and Wales, has written to his brother bishops about this year's Day for Life.

We celebrate Day for Life on Sunday 20 June 2021. This day, inaugurated by Saint John Paul II, presents an opportunity to pray for the gift of life from conception to natural death, to raise awareness of the precious gift of life, and to support the work of protecting life in its most vulnerable stages through the annual collection. This assists pro-life organisations who raise awareness, engage in parliamentary work and pastoral outreach.

Global Pandemic

The fragility of life and the reality of death has been brought into sharp focus during the Covid-19 pandemic. In the UK alone, more than 126,000 people have died from Covid-19. Yet in the face of such suffering and death, we have also witnessed the extraordinary dedication of healthcare professionals and their loving care for the sick and dying. We too have each made sacrifices for the greater good during this pandemic. These acts of heroic love are a powerful testimony to the fundamental dignity of the human person and to the respect owed to each life, particularly through proper care and love in the last moments of life.

Assisted Dying

Against this backdrop of loving care, we are now faced with the very real threat of the legalisation of 'assisted suicide' in our country. It is not a question of 'if' this challenge will come, it is now a question of 'when?' There is now a Private Members Bill in the House of Lords on so-called 'Assisted Dying' and it is only a matter of time before the issue is back in the House of Commons. This year's theme for Day for Life focuses on assisted suicide and the respect owed to life. The online resources are produced to inform Catholics about this threat to life and to share with people our response to such a threat: a true compassion as the just response to the immense value of the human person.

Donate

Day for Life adds an authenticity to our witness to the dignity of life and this is enabled by the generosity of people in the pews supporting our work. In 2020, we were unable to hold our annual 'Day for Life' collection due to the pandemic, our funds are very much depleted and the threats to life have never been greater. *Day for Life* is a simple, practical response which pushes back against 'the use and throwaway logic' often at the heart of a culture which seeks to abandon its elderly,

sick and dying when 'they no longer serve our interests.' If you feel you can offer financial support no matter how small, please visit our [Donate](#) page.

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 10:30-12:00. The next course dates for 2021 are: 10/17 July and 9/16 October. Godparents are especially welcome to attend the second Saturday session as the role of Godparents is explored.

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 01392 274724
We are currently taking bookings for the July dates.

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, 21 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

Volunteers needed 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](#)

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.

Pope Francis on Mercy

Mercy overcomes every wall, every barrier, and leads you to always seek the face of the man, of the person. And it is mercy which changes the heart and the life, which can regenerate a person and allow him or her to integrate into society in a new way. But we know one thing: nothing is impossible for God's mercy! Even the most tangled knots are loosened by grace.

Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

Wednesday Word meets online via the Zoom app on Wednesday at 2.00pm and reflects 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 9 and 13 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 Camp Newsletter (which was attached to a previous 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.

Pope Francis tweets...

Our prayers are fulfilled and completed when we intercede for others and take care of their concerns and needs. Prayer does not separate us or isolate us from anyone, as it is love for all.

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

June: Friendship with Jesus

On Saturday 12 June, parents and catechists met to explore friendship: we discussed friendships, qualities we look for in our friends and how we make new friends and treasure old friends. This led us to reflect on our call to have a personal relationship with Jesus and to know him as a friend. We shared ways that we can get to know Jesus better through prayer and reading the bible. Every family was encouraged to have and to read both a children's bible and an adult's bible.

This month our families will explore the next two topics in our 'Jesus Lives' resources: Friendship with Jesus and Zacchaeus. Next month we will explore how we make time for the important relationships in our lives through the story of Mary and Martha.

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

These can be found on the [Blessed Sacrament Website GIFT page](#)

Get in touch

Our next parents zoom session is on Saturday 3 July. If you would like to join us, please get in touch with Maria exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

ST NICK'S NEWS

This half term our Year 6 will go to their residential at Kolve 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@stncs.uk)

Visit the [St Nicholas School website](#) where you can catch up on the latest news and events.

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](#).

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

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](#)

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.

Heavitree Community Builder/Wellbeing Exeter

For Heavitree news and events take a look [here](#). Also check out Heavitree Community Network Facebook page to keep up to date on what is happening in the Heavitree neighbourhood.

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.

FOR ALL THE SAINTS...

22 June St John Fisher Bishop & Martyr (1469 - 1535)



He was born in Beverley, in Yorkshire, in 1469. He studied theology at the University of Cambridge, and had a successful career there, finally becoming chancellor of the University and bishop of Rochester: unusually for the time, he paid a great deal of attention to the welfare of his diocese.

He wrote much against the errors and corruption into which the Church had fallen, and was a friend and supporter of great humanists such as Erasmus of Rotterdam; but he was greatly opposed to Lutheranism,

both in its doctrine and in its ideas of reform. He supported the validity of King Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine of Aragon, and for this he was briefly imprisoned. When the King had divorced Catherine, married Anne Boleyn, and constituted himself the supreme Head of the Church in England, John Fisher refused to assent. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London on a charge of treason, and on 22 June 1535, a month after having been made a Cardinal by the Pope, he was executed. He was so ill and weak that he had to be carried in a chair to the place of execution.

He was the only bishop to oppose Henry VIII's actions, on the grounds that they were a repudiation of papal authority, but even so he avoided direct confrontation with the other bishops, not holding himself up as a hero or boasting of his coming martyrdom: *I condemn no other man's conscience: their conscience may save them, and mine must save me.* We should remember, in all the controversies in which we engage, to treat our opponents as if they were acting in good faith, even if they seem to us to be acting out of spite or self-interest.

22 June St Thomas More (1477 - 1535)



He was born in London, the son of a judge, and himself became an eminent lawyer. He married twice, and had four children. He was a humanist and a reformer, and his book, *Utopia*, depicting a society regulated by the natural virtues, is still read today. Thomas More was a close friend of King Henry VIII. As a judge, he was famous for his incorruptibility and impartiality, and he was made Lord Chancellor – the highest legal position in England – in 1529.

When Henry VIII demanded a divorce from Catherine of Aragon, Thomas More opposed him. He resigned the chancellorship in 1532 and retired from public life; but he could not retire from his reputation, and so it was demanded that he take an oath to support the Act of Succession, which effectively repudiated papal religious authority. He refused, and was imprisoned in the Tower of London. After the execution of John Fisher, he was tried on the charge of high treason for denying the King's supreme headship of the Church, found guilty, and sentenced to death.

He went to his execution, on 6 July 1535, with a clear conscience and a light heart; he told the spectators that he was still “the king's good servant – but God's first,” and carefully adjusted his beard before he was beheaded. He wrote a number of devotional works, some of the best of them while in prison awaiting trial. He fought his fight without acrimony, telling his judges that he wished that “we may yet hereafter in Heaven merrily all meet together to everlasting salvation.

Parish Prayer of Renewal

Almighty God, source of power and life,
pour out the grace of your Holy Spirit upon our parish.
Renew our hope, that your light may shine in the darkness.
Renew our courage, that we may confidently proclaim your Good News.
Renew our joy, that we may sing a new song to you.
Renew our gratitude, that we may rejoice in your gifts.
Renew our wonder, that we may appreciate the beauty of your creation.
Renew our love, that we may experience yours.
Renew our faith, that we may walk in your ways.
Renew our hearts, that we may build your kingdom on earth.
Make us a community built on the foundation of your
love to be a sign of your presence in the world.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We have all experienced many changes in the last year and a half, our lives have been turned upside down by the pandemic. For some life will never be the same. So this is a perfect opportunity for us as a community to examine the way want to be renewed. In the next few weeks and months we will be engaging in a process of renewal, examining our communal life and asking important questions about who we are and what we are called to do as disciples of the Lord. Bishop Mark's document *A Precious Place of God's Grace* is asking the same questions and encouraging us as a diocese to be courageous.

To begin this process I have composed a Parish Prayer of Renewal (above). Prayer is the first and most important thing we should do; turning to the Lord and asking the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us, to transform us and show us how to truly live. I ask you to make a personal commitment to pray this as often as you can, daily, if possible. Pray it on your own and with your family, pray it with others you meet from the parish, pray it on the bus or in the bath, let's make it our prayer for our parish. And let's open ourselves to what God wants for us and let's not be surprised but rather rejoice in his power to renew us all. Fr Jonathan.

Mass Times

Sunday 20 June

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Day for Life

8.45am

10.45am

6.00pm People of the Parish

Tuesday 22 June 9.30am

St John Fisher Bishop & Martyr

& St Thomas More Martyr

Eunice Davies RIP

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

Sunday 27 June

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am People of the Parish

10.45am Krzysztof Jasinski RIP

6.00pm

Tuesday 22 June 6.30pm

St Peter & St Paul Apostles

Wednesday 23 June 9.30am

Thursday 24 June 9.30am

Friday 25 June 6.30pm

Saturday 26 June 9.30am

St Thomas Apostle

The Word

Sunday 20 June

First Reading Job 3:1.8-11

Here your proud waves shall break.

Psalm Response

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.

Sunday 27 June

First Reading Wisdom 1:13-15;2:23-24

It was the devil's envy that brought death into the world.

Psalm Response

I will praise you, Lord,
you have rescued me.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 8:7.9-13-15

In giving relief to others, balance what happens to be your surplus against their present need.

Gospel Mark 5:21-53

Little girl, I tell you get up.

Blessed Sacrament Live

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

Deadline for newsletter items

10.00am Thursday.

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

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

exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk

Open Tuesday, Wednesday and

Thursday 10.00am–4.00pm

Parish Secretary

Lesley Hooper

Parish Pastoral Assistant

Maria Quinn

exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Youth Worker

Erik Renz

exeter-youth-worker@prcdtr.org.uk

Safeguarding Rep

Lesley Hooper

Please contact the Parish office if you have any concerns about the welfare of a child or a vulnerable adult.

St Nicholas 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

Your Offering

We are 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

To receive the Parish News, by email or post, please phone or email the Parish Office and we will arrange to get a copy sent to you or someone you know who might like to receive it (with their permission).

Dial-a-Mass

For those without the internet or a computer the Mass is recorded and put on the telephone at 12 midday on Sundays and will stay until 11.59am the following Sunday. For the cost of a local call they can listen to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Dial 01642 130120

Getting married?

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

The Bishops' Conference

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

Churches Together

Exeter: ctax.btck.co.uk/Comingup

Devon: News is available here.

England: News is available here.