



BLESSED SACRAMENT

PARISH NEWS

27 June 2021. 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time. B

Little girl, I tell you to get up!

Today we are invited to marvel at one of the most dramatic and amazing of the Lord's miracles the raising back to life of the daughter of Jairus. The story is told with a level of emotional realism: the calm faith but dreadful fear of Jairus, the servants who bring the news of his daughter's death, the calm reassurance of Jesus and even the laughter of the servant who mock Jesus, all these make this a story that can engage us and speak to us. And what it says is something profound: all the miracles of the Lord proclaim the Kingdom of God, the world the way God wants it to be. God does not want us to die: death is not part of God's plan for us. This is reinforced by the unfamiliar first reading from the book of Wisdom, which opens our listening to God's Word today with the dramatic phrase: Death was not God's doing. God created us to live forever, and the raising of Jairus' daughter to life is a vivid and outstanding proclamation of this truth.



Baptism Preparation Courses 2021

Are you looking to have your child baptised in the near future? We look forward to 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.

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](#)

CITY Community Trust - Creating Connections

City Community Trust are coordinating a Creating Connections project which aims to tackle social isolation and bring together the Exeter community through activities that support health and wellbeing. The project currently involves telephone befriending, a pen pals scheme, online activities and in-person social events (tbc for summer 2021). Individuals can sign up to activities and professionals can refer by phone or via the forms on our website. The pen pal project is to tackle loneliness amongst older people, whereby letters are exchanged between the older and younger generation on a biweekly basis. There is more information on our website: [here](#) If you know of anyone who would benefit from our services, please do pass on some information or feel free to get in touch. Louise Coleman Lead Project Officer Tel: 07783 755540 Exeter City Community Trust, St James Park, EX4 6PX

Exeter Catholic Youth Community (ECYC)

We will be holding an online Kahoot! Quiz on 15 July. If you would like to attend, please get in touch with Erik Renz at exeter-youth-worker@prcdtr.org.uk. We will also be looking to hold in person events again in August, restrictions permitting.

Youth Events in the Diocese

Care for Creation 3 July 10.00am – 4.00pm St Rita's Honiton

Social justice. What does this mean? What is our responsibility and what could we do? This day event is for young adults aged 12 – 20. It is a chance to explore social justice topics around care for creation. You will have the opportunity to broaden your knowledge and express your views on a variety of topics, taking the chance to reflect on what is happening around you and what action you could take.

Parents/guardians are also invited to attend. They will be invited to attend their own workshops, offering them the chance to explore the same issues and how they can support young people in their campaigns. We are asking for a contribution of £10 per person to help cover costs of speakers and lunch. If you would like to attend, please follow [this link](#).

Jesus walks with us: 10 July 10.00am – 4.00pm St Rita's Honiton

By Design Theatre, Rise Theatre and the team from Stay Awake, amongst others are coming together to run a conference for young people aged 10 – 16. You will have the chance to explore the story of the encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus through the arts. There will be a number of workshops on offer including art, craft, drama and dance. Those attending will have the opportunity to attend more than one workshop during the day. We are asking for £10 contribution to cover the costs of speakers and the lunch provided. To book a place complete the form which you can find at [this link](#). For further youth events information contact Saskia Hogbin youth@prcdtr.org.uk

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

In the first place, mercy is a gift of God the Father who is revealed in the Son. God's mercy gives rise to joyful gratitude for the hope which opens up before us in the mystery of Christ's blood. Mercy nourishes and strengthens solidarity toward others as a necessary response to God's gracious love, 'which has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit' (Rom 5:5)

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.

Pope Francis tweets...

Even at the darkest moments, as in these months of pandemic, the Lord continues to send angels to console our loneliness and to remind us: "I am with you always".

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

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.

ST NICK'S NEWS

For more information about joining St Nicholas School from Nursery to year 6 please contact Mrs Brocksom (abrocksom@stnics.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.

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.

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.

FOR ALL THE SAINTS...

29 June St Peter & St Paul Apostles



St Peter

“I do so love St Peter,” says a friend of mine. “Whenever he opens his mouth, he puts his foot in it”. She is right, of course. Whatever else St Peter may be, he is not the model of a wise and noble hero. He walks on the water – but then panics and starts to sink. He makes the first profession of faith – and moments later blunders into error and is called Satan by the Lord. He refuses to be washed, and then, when the purpose is explained to him, demands to be washed all over. And, of course, he betrays his master soon after having been warned that he will and having sworn not to. If Peter is the rock on which the Church is built, what a fissured and friable rock it is! How much better, we think, to have chosen the Sons of Thunder, for their energy; or Judas Iscariot, for his financial acumen; or John, because he was loved the best.

The choosing of Peter teaches us a lesson. The Church’s foundation-stone and its first leader is not all-wise, all-knowing, good, heroic, and beautiful. He is a very ordinary man who makes about as many mistakes as we would in his place, and kicks himself for them just as thoroughly afterwards. If St Peter had been a hero, we could easily have despaired of ever becoming like him. If St Peter had been great, and noble, and good, we could have told ourselves that the Church is for the saints, despaired,

sat down, and not bothered. But the Church is not just for saints: it is for confused, impetuous, cowardly people like us – or St Peter. The rock crumbles, the ropes are frayed, the wood is rotten – but, although that improbable building, the Church, is made of such inferior materials, it grows (on the whole) faster than it collapses, and it is grace that holds it together.

In the end, it was grace that gave the coward the courage to bear witness when it counted, grace that gave the fool the wisdom he needed to set the infant Church on her way, grace that taught the impetuous man patience and forbearance.

We none of us admire ourselves, however much we would like to; let us not try to admire St Peter either, but admire instead the grace he was given, and pray that, weak as we are, we may be given it too, and may use it.

St Paul

St Paul is not an attractive figure today. We are still knee deep in the overripe fruit of late romanticism: we admire men who feel, not think; who enchant people into following them, not argue them into submission.

There is even, nowadays, a fashion for saying that Paul invented Christianity as we know it, that he set out with the cynical aim of fashioning an enduring institution; and that the real Christianity, the Christianity of Christ, is something quite different from and far nicer than the Christianity we know.

Yes, Paul's mind did shape the early Church. Yes, without him things would have been different. And all the information that we have in the New Testament is entirely consistent with the whole thing being a Pauline conspiracy.

But so what? "Consistent with" is a treacherous phrase. The evidence of my eyes is entirely consistent with there being an invisible lion in my fireplace, because you can't see invisible lions; but I still don't believe there is one. I trust the world, I have faith in it, and invisible lions are not part of that faith. I trust God, I have faith in the Holy Spirit – I say so out loud on Sundays – and I believe that God called Saul because he needed him, and that the renamed Saul did and said what needed to be said and done. Paul is not some cold and remote intellectual – just read the Epistles, and see if that stands up. Paul is always reminding people of his weakness – look, I know what I ought to do, and I keep on doing the opposite – look, I have this thorn in my flesh and God absolutely refuses to take it away. Paul is not all mind – he does have his troubles too. But yes, Paul does have a mind, and that raises problems in an age that doesn't, that uses "clever" as a term of abuse. Remember, though, that we are commanded to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength. Perhaps we cannot love St Paul very much nowadays; but let us at least pray for the grace to love God with our minds, as he did.

3 July St Thomas Apostle



The apostle Thomas is famous for doubting the resurrection of Jesus when his fellow apostles told him about it; but if he is the sceptical apostle, he is also the believing apostle, for having seen and touched a risen man, he made the immediate leap of faith and so became the first apostle to call Jesus God.

Nothing is known about Thomas's later career. A well-known apocryphal document called the *Acts of Thomas* relates his missionary journeys to Persia and India. Although the document as it stands is not historical evidence (it was written to

provide evidence for certain heretical Gnostic teachings), it still bears witness to the likelihood of a tradition that Thomas did go to India. If you are writing something that you intend to use to convince people of a controversial doctrine, you do not invent completely new facts: instead, you weave the existing facts and traditions into something that suits your purpose. Thus the very fact that the heretics used a journey of St Thomas to support their case shows us that, in the third century at least, there would have seemed nothing implausible about such a journey. The journey would have been easy enough – important trade routes lay that way – and if some of the apostles went west, to Rome, the centre of the world, there is no reason why some others should not have chosen to go east, to the edge of the known world.

We will probably never know for certain; but the Christians of Kerala have called themselves for centuries “St Thomas Christians”, and they may very well be right. My friend has two children, a boy and a girl. If she tells the girl not to do something, the girl thinks “good, now I know one more thing about how to be grown-up” and doesn't do it. If she tells the boy not to do something, he thinks “I wonder: why not?” and goes and does it, to see.

When the Church, inspired by Christ and millennia of prayer and reflection, tries to teach us what to do and what not to do, we pay no attention. We have to go and try it out for ourselves and later, made wise by experience, we discover that the teaching was right all along. We are like my friend's small son. We are like St Thomas, who obstinately wouldn't believe what he was told but had to see and touch for himself. St Thomas the Apostle, if you can stop laughing for long enough, pray for us!

Mass Times

Sunday 27 June

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am People of the Parish

10.45am Krzysztof Jasinski RIP

6.00pm

Tuesday 29 June 6.30pm

St Peter & St Paul, Apostles

Special Intention

Wednesday 30 June 9.30am

Annam Cherian RIP

Thursday 1 July 9.30am

Sandy Kent RIP

Friday 2 July 6.30pm

Saturday 3 July 9.30am

St Thomas, Apostle

Sunday 4 July

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am

10.45am People of the Parish

6.00pm Thomas & Mary O'Halloran RIP

Tuesday 6 July 6.30pm

Wednesday 7 July 9.30am

Thursday 8 July 9.30am

Friday 9 July 6.30pm

Bob Bendall RIP

Saturday 10 July 9.30am

Deadline for newsletter items

10.00am Thursday.

The Word

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.

Sunday 4 July

First Reading Ezekiel 2:2-5

The sons are defiant and obstinate and they shall know that there is a prophet among them.

Psalm Response

Our eyes are on the Lord till he show us his mercy

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me.

Gospel Mark 6:1-6

A prophet is despised only in his own country.

Blessed Sacrament Live

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

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.