

PARISH NEWS

BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

6 June 2021. The Body and Blood of Christ. Year B



THIS IS MY BODY THIS IS MY BLOOD

The key to today's readings is the word "Covenant". A Covenant is a solemn and binding agreement between two parties, which establishes the way in which each party will behave towards the other. It establishes rights and duties, and forges a new relationship between two people or groups of people. In the Ancient World, a Covenant was always sealed with a sacrifice and a meal: the sacrifice brought divine blessing on the covenant, and the meal sealed the relationship between the participants. In the Covenant that God forged with his people in the Old Testament, it was expressed very simply: God said, "You will be my people, and I will be your God." God would remain faithful to the people, and they were to remain faithful to God (this is where the commandments come in). This Covenant was sealed in its greatest form on Mount Sinai, as we hear in the first reading. When the Old Covenant had been broken beyond repair, God sent his only Son to establish a New Covenant: the sacrifice and meal of this New Covenant is Calvary and the Last Supper, where Christ is both priest and victim and altar. When we eat and drink this sacred meal at every Mass we are renewed in the New Covenant and the relationship with God, because Calvary and the Upper Room are present once more and the New Covenant is sealed for us anew.

Making Disciples – Speaking the Truth in Love

Attached to this newsletter is latest edition of Evangelium – the main article is the talk by Michael Dopp to the clergy/laity of the diocese on 1 May on 'Missionary Parishes, Missionary Disciples'. The other articles feature work in Catechesis, Youth, Marriage and Family Life.

Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)

The date of this year's CCSP Annual Mass has been changed from Thursday 17 June to Tuesday 13 July. Mass will be celebrated at Buckfast Abbey at 2.00pm and children from the local school will be singing. All are welcome to attend and if you would like to join in please contact the CCSP office on 01364 645420 or email ccs@prcdtr.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: <https://www.calledandgifted.org.uk/> or www.calledandgifted.org.uk

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: www.communitysponsorship.org.uk/events

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](#)

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>

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

Building a better world after the pandemic.

G7 interfaith event

A livestreamed event from Truro Cathedral on 10 June 7.00-8.00pm is part of a series of actions in the run up to the G7 Summit in Cornwall. The event will reflect on the impact of the pandemic, how we rebuild and send a digital message to the presidents and prime ministers ahead of the start of their meeting the next day. Bishop Mark will be speaking at this event along with other Faith leaders. Everyone is welcome to attend. Register to participate on the CAFOD website [here](#).

More information about the G7 Summit and actions we can all take on the [CAFOD website](#).

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.

Justice and Peace Annual Conference

July 2021. Caritas Plymouth is offering to sponsor two participants who will then 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](#).

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.

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

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.

The Alpha Experience



A couple of weeks ago we finished the second Alpha Course hosted by the Exeter parishes.

For those of you who are not familiar with Alpha, it is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith, in a friendly, open and informal environment. Alpha is not so much a course, but an

experience! It creates a space where you can share your thoughts and feelings and explore topics that are often difficult to discuss elsewhere. When we meet in person, Alpha revolves around a shared meal, an engaging video and a stimulating conversation in small groups. During the pandemic, we ran Alpha online and couldn't offer a meal or a cup of coffee, but we had exciting and meaningful conversations each week.

Our Alpha guests came from various geographical locations (some from as far as Lanzarote!) and from all walks of life. Many guests are cradle Catholics, some have recently been received into the Church, some are not Christians. Some came to faith through Alpha, in others the Holy Spirit awakened a hunger for God, for his Word and a need to get closer to and know Him better. Whatever their background they all loved the opportunity to meet and have an open and honest conversation. Alpha gives everyone a deep sense of belonging and fellowship. For the team it is a joy and privilege to see the Holy Spirit at work and witness so many lives being transformed.

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 on Mercy

When we judge we put ourselves in God's place. This is true, but our judgement is a poor judgement: it can never be a true judgement because judgement is what God gives. Why can't our judgement be like that of God? Is it because God is omnipotent and we are not? No, because our judgement lacks mercy. And when God judges, He judges with mercy.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you Sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

Exeter Catholic Youth Community (ECYC)

The Exeter Catholic Youth Community wanted to make everyone aware of some upcoming events 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 be hosting our second debate night on Thursday 10 June 19:15-20:15. The topic will be Holidays: Keep them Christian or Go Commercial. We are hoping for a lively debate again on a lower key topic so if you are interested, let us know. There is a role for everyone so even if you feel shy, you can still come along and support your team with research!

We will also have a subsequent event on Thursday 17 June 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!

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 information about youth events contact Saskia Hogbin youth@prcdtr.org.uk

Pope Francis tweets...

Even if our prayers might ramble and be weakened by a wavering faith, we must never stop putting our trust in Jesus. Supported by Jesus our timid prayers rest on eagles' wings and soar up to heaven.

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 May update

On Saturday 8 May, in readiness to begin our new family resource 'Jesus Lives', parents met to explore and consider who Jesus is to them. Fr Cyriacus spoke to us about the dual nature of Jesus, his humanity and divinity; he presented this to parents in a child friendly way which will support them in catechising their children. Families will now explore the themes 'Who is Jesus' and 'Jesus is born' with their families. Next Month we will explore how we can deepen our friendship with Jesus and what being Jesus' friend means in our daily lives.

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 12 June. If you would like to join us, please get in touch with maria.exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

St Nick's News

After a restful break last week we look forward to coming back for the final half term. We are pleased that our Yr 6 children will be able to enjoy their residential week at Kilve, taking part in many exciting outdoor activities. We also look forward to the official launch of our new running track which will be a joint event with Our Lady and St Patrick's School in Teignmouth, who also have a new track. We are very excited about our new outdoor classroom which should be completed before the Summer break.

We welcome enquiries about joining our school from Nursery to Yr 6. Please contact Mrs Brocksom (abrocksom@stncls.uk) for more information.

Renewal of Marriage Vows Mass

On 12 June at 5.30pm at the Sacred Heart Church there will be a Mass at which you can renew your marriage vows. As numbers are still restricted due to Covid-19, please can you register your place if you would like to attend by completing the booking form attached to the newsletter and emailing it to mkoverly@gmail.com Please note that registration applies to attending and places will be allocated on a first come, first served, basis. We will accommodate as many as the guidelines allow. We hope to see you there. *Best wishes, The Catholic Marriage Preparation Exeter (CMPE) team*

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.

Exeter Foodbank – Food Shortages

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

Tinned potatoes, tinned vegetables, rice (500g bags), shower gel and deodorant.

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](#).

South West Awake

Saturday 19 June 10.30am. A chain of prayer and praise on the South West Coast Path. SWA believes God wants to impact the 2.6 million people who live in the South West and prayer will be key to this being possible. Join Christians of all traditions on one of the 630 miles of the South West Coast Path to pray Thy Kingdom Come. Stand together asking God for His Kingdom to come in the region. For more information click [here](#)

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.

Also view: The Pope Video [here](#)

Churches Together at Devon County Show

The Devon County Show 2021 will take place on Friday 2, Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 July.

Following covid restrictions, the Devon Churches Stand will appear this year but in a totally different format. We are excited that this event is going ahead and invite you all to come and find the stand. You will still receive a warm welcome although a more distant one than we would have chosen. Kathy Govett – Sec. Churches Stand Committee.



For all the Saints...

11 June

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Devotion to the Sacred Heart, encouraged by mediaeval mystics and promoted by St Gertrude, St Margaret Mary Alacoque, St John Eudes and others, represents a devotion to Jesus in his human nature, in particular referring to the heart as the seat of the emotions.

12 June The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary

During the seventeenth century in

France, St John Eudes popularised this devotion along with that to the Sacred Heart. St Luke's Gospel twice mentions that Mary 'kept all these things in her heart', pondering the word of God. Mary shows us how to listen to the words the Holy Spirit speaks to us in the depths of our hearts, and how to respond in faith.

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.

St John Henry Newman said "To grow is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often". Change is a natural part of life, we see it in the dying and rising of nature, the newness of spring overcoming the seeming dead of winter. To change is to be renewed. The early Church was transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit into a community which left its safety and security and went out as missionary disciples to the world, preaching God's message of hope and life. 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

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

Sunday 6 June

The Body and Blood of Christ

8.45am

10.45am

6.00pm People of the Parish

Tenth week in Ordinary Time

Tuesday 8 June No Mass

Wednesday 9 June 9.30am

For the spiritual welfare of Hilda &
Edith Robinson

Thursday 10 June 9.30am

Brian Edworthy RIP

Friday 11 June 6.30pm

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Saturday 12 June 9.30am

The Immaculate Heart of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday 13 June

Eleventh 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

Thursday 17 June 9.30am

Friday 18 June 6.30pm

Saturday 19 June 9.30am

The Word

Sunday 6 June

First Reading Exodus 24:3-8

*This is the blood of the Covenant that the Lord
has made with you.*

Psalm

The cup of salvation I will raise;

I will call on the Lord's name.

Second Reading Hebrews 9:11-15

*The blood of Christ can purify our inner self
from dead actions.*

Gospel Mark 14:12-16.22-26

This is my body.

This is my blood.

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.*

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

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

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Executive Head Teacher

Angela Folland

Convent

Sisters of the Presentation of Mary

Mount St Mary Convent,

Wonford Road, Exeter 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: www.ctax.btck.co.uk/Comingup

Devon: News is available [here](#).

England: News is available [here](#).

Blessed Sacrament Live

visit our YouTube channel to find details of scheduled live streams: [Blessed Sacrament YouTube](#)

Deadline for newsletter items

10.00am Thursday.



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