



BLESSED SACRAMENT

PARISH NEWS

25 July 2021. 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year B



Jesus gave out as much as was wanted to all who were sitting ready

For the next five weeks we take our leave of Saint Mark's Gospel (since it is not long enough to fill the year) and read Chapter Six of Saint John's Gospel. This is the famous "Eucharistic Discourse" and begins with the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. A line of the Psalm gives the meaning of today's readings: "The eyes of

all creatures look to you (O God) and you give them their food in due time." Our God is the God who provides for his people; the prosperity and fruitfulness of our earth and the mysterious cycles of nature ensures that all have what they need - and have some left over. The actions of Elisha and Jesus are in a sense prophetic: many would say that there is not enough food in this world to go round, just as the two sets of disciples complain that there is not enough for the hundred or the five thousand. But the prophetic action states that this is not true: God provides what is needed. This might prompt us to think about the unfair and unequal distribution of the fruits of the earth: the miracle is a sign of the Kingdom of God - what God wants the world to be like. Perhaps we should take the message of the miracle to heart this Sunday and think about the multitude that still sits in hunger in our world today.

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time



He who
comes to me
will never be
hungry.

He who
believes in
me will never
thirst.

We continue reading
from John 6: this is
the aftermath of the
miracle, and we see

the beginnings of a misunderstanding that will develop over the next four weeks. People have seen the miracle, but not the message: they have seen the sign, but not what it points towards. The bread that was given is a sign of the Bread of Life, which is the teaching, the words and the very person of Jesus, as the revelation of the Father. His mission is to draw people back to his Father, to found a New Covenant or relationship. As the weeks go by, we will see that the people's hunger is simply for spectacle and miracle, not for the much harder teaching of living nourished by God's word and the presence of his only Son. For us, the People of the New Covenant, these passages must make us think of how we receive the Lord in the Eucharist. Are we nourished by his presence, so that all the hunger and thirst of our lives is answered by the One who is the Bread of Life?

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Pope Francis has established a World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, taking place for the first time today **Sunday July 25** For links to the Holy Father's letter and information go to [Catholic Grandparents Association](#).

Grandparents have no agenda; they simply want the best for their grandchildren. They want them to be good, decent human beings, to know the difference between right and wrong, able to make good moral decisions and, if they go astray along the way, to be able to find their way back to a loving, forgiving, non-judgmental God.

Moving forwards...

So called 'Freedom Day' was last Monday and whilst it made a huge difference for some people, for us as a parish it had little impact. Many of our faithful are still vulnerable, many more feel vulnerable and so we have decided that we are going to continue with the measures we already have in place, at least until the end of August. This will mean that although it's not the law, we will ask you to wear a face covering whilst you are in church. Please continue to sanitise your hands on entry.

We have relaxed the social distancing slightly so that if you are a couple in a pew a single person can sit at the other end of the same pew. This will increase our capacity but we ask you to be sensitive. You may be very excited to slide up to someone you haven't seen for ages and give them a squeeze, they may not feel so inclined! We will at some stage remove the ropes between the pews but this means we will be in close proximity to one another - if you are kneeling and the person in the pew in front wants to sit back you'll be literally breathing down their neck!

We will reinstate singing at some Masses, not all. We propose that the 10.45am Mass on Sunday will be celebrated with hymns and the chants of the Mass, so if you want to avoid this, please come at another time. Remember the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday is still suspended. The 8.45am and 6.00pm Masses will continue to be 'quiet'. We're not sure what it will be like singing wearing a mask (try it at home before you come), but we'll give it a go!

At the moment I think it prudent to continue distributing Holy Communion at the end of Mass. This will change, but it does mean that the moving around the church, climbing over people in the pew who are not coming to receive etc. will be minimised. We will also soon reinstate the Procession of Gifts at the offertory and, who knows, perhaps one day we will be able to offer each other the sign of peace - not just a cursory nod!

You will still be asked to provide your details for track and trace and the Stewards – God bless them – will continue to clean after you have left the church building. The QR code is available in the church for you to 'check in' if you have the Covid-19 app.

The live streaming of the Masses has become a permanent feature of what people are calling 'Hybrid Church' and we know how important it is. Although it is not attending Mass in the traditional way it does provide a sense of community and belonging which we all know is much needed, perhaps now more than ever.

So we continue to be aware of one another and especially those who are anxious. We have done so well and I am so grateful to you all for your patience and resilience. May God continue to bless us all. *Fr Jonathan.*

Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

Thank you to all who have joined us for Wednesday Word over the past year for what has been a thoroughly enjoyable and faith growing experience. Last Wednesday (21 July) was our last session now until Wednesday 1 September. In September, we will continue to meet online via zoom from 2:00-3:00pm every Wednesday. If you would like to join us then, please get in touch with Maria: exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk. Please note that you do not need to make a weekly commitment and a warm welcome will await you whenever you can come.

Vacancies in the Diocese of Plymouth

Heritage Project Manager: Fixed Term Contract (12 months)

Location: Home Based. Hours: 35 hours per week. Salary Range: £28,000 - £30,000 per annum plus mobile phone allowance and pension scheme (subject to eligibility).

Caritas Plymouth has a vacancy for a person to take responsibility for the management of the heritage project to restore the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Barnstaple and re-purpose it as a venue for social action, Caritas in Action, funded by the Architectural Heritage Fund. 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 for applications 2 August and interviews to be held 17 August at St.

Boniface House, Ashburton. 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.

Caritas Project Support Worker

Caritas Project Support Administrator .Location: St. Boniface House, Ashburton

Hours: 35 hours per week. Salary: £23,000 - £25,000 per annum (depending on skills and experience) plus contributory pension scheme (subject to eligibility).

Caritas Plymouth is looking for a dynamic and enthusiastic person who would like to be part of a small, friendly team supporting social action across the Roman Catholic Diocese of Plymouth. The role will be varied and rewarding and will require a range of office, project management and marketing skills. The role will occasionally require evening or weekend working to support events. Closing date: 26 July. Interviews will be held on Wednesday 4 August at St. Boniface House, Ashburton. A job description and application form can be obtained from Cathedral Appointments on

dani@cathedralappointments.co.uk. For further information please follow the link:

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

ST NICK'S NEWS

After another disruptive year we are pleased to have reached the end of the year for a well earned holiday. We have said goodbye and good luck to the Year 6 children and those members of staff who are leaving us. We wish them all much happiness for their future. We look forward to welcoming new children and staff in September. The whole school wishes all parishioners a very happy summer.

Young Catholic Adults Plymouth Diocese

Youth Rally 2021 – St Rita's Honiton - 26 September 1.00 – 6.30pm. Parishes are asked to make an £8pp contribution. We are pleased to announce that the infamous youth Rally will run as usual in Honiton. Parishes are encouraged to bring teams of 6 young people aged 8 – 16. A BBQ will be offered throughout the afternoon along with other snacks and drinks. Challenges include Tug or War, it's a knockout, Gladiators. After Mass young people will be awarded certificates and medals for their achievements. To book please contact pmorris@wjmorris.co.uk or youth@prcdtr.org.uk

Youth Workers Conference 16 October. Venue: St Rita's, Honiton 10.00am – 2.30pm People are welcome to make a voluntary contribution on the day. I am inviting everyone across the diocese who either works with young people or would like to work with young people (this includes catechists) to join me at Honiton. Rise Theatre will be joining us to celebrate all the youth work and events (and what used to happen before COVID) across the diocese. I hope it is an opportunity for us to reflect on what is happening in our parishes and across the diocese, offering each other support and a chance to share our talents. My aim is to build a forum where we can continue to share ideas and experiences along with a chance to call upon each other for help when needed. Rise Theatre will offer a workshop for everyone, offering suggestions of activities that can be used in the parish either as part of the catechesis programme or informal events. Lunch will be provided. For further information or to simply join the forum, please email Saskia Hogbin: youth@prcdtr.org.uk

Young Catholic Adult Group: Ian Jackson is volunteering with Youth Events to set up a new group for young adult Catholics. Check out the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/738397836590050> As the group starts to form, we hope to organise informal gatherings.

Alpha in the autumn

Alpha has been instrumental in changing people's lives. It has had a powerful effect on the lives of some of our parishioners and we would love to invite you to share their experience of encountering Jesus and the Church in a dynamic way. Please contact us at [this link](#) if you'd like to take part. We'd love to hear from you.

Plymouth Diocese Catechetical Summer Camps

This year there are to be a variety of activities for each year group.

Junior Camp for School Years 3-6 on 9-13 August online with activities in the morning and evening, with the group coming together on Friday 13th at St Rita's Centre, Honiton. Email: juniorcamp@prcdtr.org.uk

Senior Camp for School Years 7-10 on 9-13 August online with meetings in the morning and afternoon, as a short taster, with a live 4-day actual camp at Buckfast in October half term. Details for the residential Camp will be advertised shortly.

Email: seniorcamp@prcdtr.org.uk

St Petroc's Camp for School Years 10 - 12 on 9-13 August will have a Live Camp at St Rita's Centre, Honiton Email: stpetrocscamp@prcdtr.org.uk. RSVP. We have been preparing to welcome your young people to this year's residential camp. We are gathering together at St. Rita's Residential Centre, set in the beautiful vale of Honiton. Arrival: Monday 9 August at 12:00, lunch will follow quite soon after all have arrived. Leaving: Friday 13 August at 14.00 following the conclusion of Lunch. The cost remains at £170.00. A deposit of £40.00 will secure a place in the first instance. To ask any questions or access to an online Application Form please email stpetrocscamp@prcdtr.org.uk or give me a call Chris Lee on M: 07702 435890

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.

GIFT Growing In Faith Together

We will not meet in the month of **August** and pray that the summer holidays offer a time of relaxation and refreshment for all families.

What is GIFT? GIFT is for all families of faith: for families who have already made their Holy Communion or for families with children who are looking forward to receiving this sacrament; for families with older children who want to be confirmed in their faith; for families with younger children who want to experience and grow in faith in a simple and enjoyable way.

Bedtime Chats All of the Bedtime Chats can be found on the Blessed Sacrament Website GIFT page: <https://www.blessedsacrament.org.uk/parish-life/gift/>

Get in Touch Our next parents zoom session is on Saturday 4 September. If you would like to join us, please get in touch with Maria exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

Exeter Foodbank – Food Shortages

Can you help by donating any of the following from the July priority items list: Squash (you can't go wrong with orange or apple & blackcurrant), UHT milk (green is usually best), tinned vegetarian meals, gluten-free items, noodle and pasta snacks. 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). To donate money online please visit [this link](#).

Pope's July Intention

Social friendship. We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

Pope Francis on Mercy

Humility is the necessary condition to be raised by Him, so as to experience the mercy that comes to fill our emptiness. If the prayer of the proud does not reach God's heart, the humility of the poor opens it wide.

Exeter Prays for...

Street Pastors – The second Monday of each month, on zoom at 7.30pm. Do get in touch with ctaxexeter@gmail.com if you would like to join others praying for the ministry of Exeter Street Pastors.

Initiatives in Education (ICE) – The third Tuesday of each month on zoom 7.30pm. Please email office@icetrust.co.uk for the meeting details.

Pray 4 Exeter – Tuesday 27 July and the last Thursday of each month on zoom 12.00 – 1.00pm contact ctaxexeter@gmail.com for the link. Join others to pray for our city, region and nation.

YMCA Exeter – Thursday 29 July and the last Thursday of each month at St David's church EX4 4HR and zoom 11.30am – 12.30pm. Join others to pray for the work of YMCA Exeter across the city, their staff, and the residents and young people they support. In the previous months of prayer, we've already seen situations shift and clear interventions by God. Email ctaxexeter@gmail.com for more info.

Pope Francis tweets...

During summer time, let us learn how to take a break, turn off the mobile phone to gaze into the eyes of others, cultivate silence, contemplate nature, regenerate ourselves in dialogue with God.

Holiday Hunger

More children in Devon are eligible for free school meals than ever before, with numbers soaring during the coronavirus pandemic to the highest levels on record. If you or someone you know didn't previously qualify for free school meals but have lost income call 0345 155 1019 or check out [here](#) for more info how to apply.

Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) News

Annual Appeal 2021 – 'Step Forward, Reach Out and Help'

We continue to need your help, now more than ever, and ask you please to 'STEP FORWARD, REACH OUT AND HELP' once again to support the CCSP and help replace some of our lost income from last year's Annual Appeal, which raised around a third of what we would normally receive. Thank you to everyone who was able to support us last year. Leaflets will be available in parishes at the start of next month and full details of all the ways you can donate to the CCSP can be found on our website www.ccsplymouth.org.uk

We are still looking for more CCSP Parish Volunteers

"*You Can Make Difference*" We are delighted that a number of parishes have stepped forward and now have a Parish Volunteer in place to help us with our fundraising once it is safe for us to do so. There is a ladder of involvement and some parishes just want to *Maintain and Monitor* our supply of CCSP promotional material, whilst others want to help *Promote* organised CCSP fundraising events such as the Annual Appeal and the Great Big Diocesan Quiz and some are happy to get more involved by *Organising* fund raising events of their own. To receive a Parish Volunteer pack contact Vicki Dunstone at 01364 645420 or vicki.dunstone@prcdtr.org.uk Thank you for your continued support of the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth).

Summer of Family Fun at Exeter Cathedral

From now until 3 September join the series of family activities lined up this summer at Exeter Cathedral, from archaeological investigations to sleepovers; drop-in craft sessions to trails and quizzes. Bookable workshops are wide and varied, including tie dye sessions, Forest School, and a behind-the-scenes visit to the Library and Archives. Click the link to find out more and book your place: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/news-events/whats-on/summer-of-family-activities/>

Spare mobile phones needed

We have had a request from the "Departure Lounge" at Exeter Prison for mobile phone handsets and chargers, for those being released from prison. Jo Armstrong based at CoLab will receive any donations and organise delivering items to 'Departure Lounge.' Spread the word.

FOR ALL THE SAINTS...



26 July St Joachim & St Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

An ancient tradition, already known in the 2nd century, gives these names to the parents of the Virgin Mary. The cult of St Anna became popular in the 6th century in the East, and in the 10th century in the West, where she is the patron saint of Brittany; Joachim was added a long time later – too often the fate of fathers. Although the information about Mary's parents is found in an early apocryphal writing that gives many miraculous and highly-coloured stories about the early life of the Virgin Mary, there is no reason to suppose that such a straightforward fact as her parents' names should be wrong, since there is nothing to be gained from falsifying it. It does not occur in the Gospels simply because the most reliable evangelists (the only ones whom we have allowed into the Bible) felt they had more important things to talk about. But what, after all, could be more important than the parents who brought up the Virgin Mary to be the woman she was? At the moment of consenting to the Incarnation she took the most important decision ever taken by any human being, and the fact that she took it is, to a great extent, the work of her parents. The Holy Spirit gave her the strength to take the decision; but her parents' training gave her the wisdom to choose. Those of us who have children must seek to bring them up to the best of our ability, to meet challenges that, like Anna and Joachim, we have no way of even imagining.



29 July St Martha

Martha was the sister of Mary of Bethany and Lazarus. In the West, her feast day comes a week after that of St Mary Magdalene because of the old and probably erroneous tradition that Mary Magdalene was the same person as Martha's sister. Modern scholarship having made matters clearer, Martha, Mary and Lazarus have since 2021 been celebrated together on this day, which was formerly assigned to Martha alone.



31 July St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

Ignatius was born in Loyola in the Spanish Basque country. He was a soldier, but was wounded in the battle of Pamplona (against the French) at the age of 30. During a long convalescence he read a life of Christ and a collection of lives of the saints, and discovered that his true vocation was to devote his life wholly to God. He was as systematic about this as he had been about his military career: he spent a year's retreat in a Dominican friary, made a pilgrimage to

Jerusalem, and then set about learning Latin. Such enthusiasm in a layman caused grave suspicion in the Spanish authorities, and he was questioned and imprisoned more than once. He moved to Paris in 1528 and continued his studies; and then in 1534 Ignatius and six companions bound themselves to become missionaries to the Muslims in Palestine. By the time they were ready to set out, war made the journey impossible and so the group (now numbering ten) offered their services to the Pope in any capacity he might choose. A number of them were duly ordained and they were all assigned to various tasks. Soon it was proposed that they should organise themselves into a regular religious order, and in 1540 the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) was formed. Ignatius was the first Superior General until his death. Soon after their foundation the Jesuits began to meet the challenge of the Reformation: a tough task, given the debilitated state into which the Church had fallen, but one which, as Ignatius said, had to be undertaken "without hard words or contempt for people's errors". Ignatius had a gift for inspiring friendship, and was the recipient of deep spiritual insight. Soon after his conversion Ignatius wrote the Spiritual Exercises, a systematic step-by-step retreat that can be followed by anyone – and has been followed by many, not all of them Catholics, ever since.



4 August St John Mary Vianney, Priest

He was the son of a peasant farmer, and a slow and unpromising candidate for the priesthood: he was eventually ordained on account of his devoutness rather than any achievement or promise. In 1818 he was sent to be the parish priest of Ars-en-Dombes, an isolated village some distance from Lyon, and remained there for the rest of his life because his parishioners would not let him leave. He was a noted preacher, and a celebrated confessor: such was his

fame, and his reputation for insight into his penitents' souls and their futures, that he had to spend up to eighteen hours a day in the confessional, so great was the demand. The tens of thousands of people who came to visit this obscure parish priest turned Ars into a place of pilgrimage. "The Curé refused to sit for a portrait. When the sculptor Cabuchet surreptitiously tried to capture his features in a ball of wax during the catechism, Vianney sternly bounced him out of the church." (*The Curé d'Ars Today*, by G.W.Rutler, 1988). The French State recognised his eminence by awarding him the medal of the Légion d'Honneur in 1848, he sold it and gave the money to the poor.



6 August The Transfiguration of the Lord

The Transfiguration of the Lord can sound embarrassingly magical. Jesus goes up onto a mountain and his clothes become dazzlingly white. Prophets appear and talk to him. And then it is all over and Jesus tells his disciples to say nothing. We should hold on to the absurdity of the incident. There is simply no reason for all this to have happened. In particular, there is no reason to put it into a gospel – the evangelist makes no capital out of it, it is simply there. And this is the strength of the Transfiguration as an historical incident. There is no reason for anyone to have invented it. It is not central to the Christian case. It is not used to win arguments. There is only one reason to put it into the Gospel, and that is because it happened. It is one of those cases of the evangelists writing things down without knowing why they were important, and their very puzzlement is what makes the story so convincing. Why, then, did it happen? Surely so that we could see and understand that Jesus is at once one of the prophets and the one that was prophesied by them; and that he is God, and lives for all eternity in a blaze of dazzling and unapproachable light. The true miracle of the Transfiguration is not the shining face or the white garments, but the fact that for the rest of the time Jesus hid his glory so well.

Mass Times

Sunday 25 July

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am Thomson Family

10.45am People of the Parish

6.00pm Dick Henwood RIP

Monday 26 July

Ss Joachim & Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday 27 July NO MASS

Wednesday 28 July 9.30am

Bill Ferguson RIP

Thursday 29 July 9.30am St Martha

Marjorie Elizabeth Gifford Pitman RIP

Friday 30 July 6.30pm

Kathleen Jenkinson RIP

Saturday 31 July 9.30am

St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

In Thanksgiving

Sunday 1 August

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am Di & Clyde Bish

Golden Wedding Anniversary

10.45am

6.00pm People of the Parish

Tuesday 3 August 6.30pm

Wednesday 4 August 9.30am

St John Mary Vianney, Priest

Michael Leonard RIP

Thursday 5 August 9.30am

Michael Leonard RIP

Friday 6 August 6.30pm

Transfiguration of the Lord

Saturday 7 August 9.30am

The Word

Sunday 25 July

First Reading 2Kings 4:42-44

They will eat and have some left over.

Psalm Response

You open wide your hand, O Lord,
and grant our desires.

Second Reading Ephesians 4:1-6

One body, one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

Gospel John 6:1-15

*Jesus gave out as much as was wanted to all
who were sitting ready.*

Sunday 1 August

First Reading Exodus 16:2-4.12-15

*I will rain down bread for you from the
heavens.*

Psalm Response

The Lord gave them bread from
heaven.

Second Reading Ephesians 4:17.20-24

*Put on the new self that has been created in
God's way.*

Gospel John 6:24-35

*He who comes to me will never be hungry; he
who believes in me will never thirst.*

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*

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

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 can be found at

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/>

Churches Together

Exeter:

<https://ctax.chessck.co.uk/Comingup>

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

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