



BLESSED SACRAMENT

# PARISH NEWS

15 August 2021

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Year B

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The Almighty has done great things for me, he has exalted the lowly.

This great feast is a twin to the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. Then, if you recall, the preface of the Mass contained these words: 'Christ is the beginning, the head of the Church; where he has gone, we hope to follow.' Today we celebrate the first of us to do just that, as we remember Mary following our Lord into heaven. She is the first to follow him - but not the last: this feast should help open our eyes to our final destination, heaven.

So this feast pushes us right back to Easter, to thoughts of death and resurrection: it is the second reading which underlines all this. It talks of the 'gradual' resurrection of the dead: Christ first, then 'those who belong to him'. Of these, the first is Mary, she who was without stain of original sin, she who was 'most blessed of all women.' In her, today, we see the fulfilment of the vision of the first reading: the end of death and the victory of life in Christ.

# Diocese of Plymouth Environment Policy

Online Workshop 14 September 5.00-6.00pm.

'Praise to you, my Lord, through sister Mother Earth, who sustains us and governs us and who produces varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.' St Francis of Assisi (from Canticle of the Sun). Everyone is warmly invited to join this online event organised by Caritas Plymouth to enable people to learn more about our Diocesan Environment Policy and plans for next steps. We also want to hear views from parishes and individuals. You can register for the event [here](#) and will receive an email with Zoom details nearer the time.

## Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

Wednesday Word will resume 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](mailto: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.

## 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.

## The Season of Creation

Runs from 1 September to the Feast of St Francis on 4 October. During this season we are encouraged to pray and engage in community events in order to deepen our relationship with our God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. It is an opportunity to review our practical and personal response in what we are doing to care for our Common Home, and to celebrate the gift of God's beautiful Creation. If we ignore the well-being of our planet, we assist the evils of our day which undermine the dignity of the human person - poverty, hunger, social isolation, economic deprivation, human trafficking, and modern slavery. Parishes are asked, therefore, to mark the first Sunday in the Season of Creation, the weekend of the 5 September.

## Please pray for...

All our young people who will have received their A level and GCSE grades this last week. We hope that they have achieved the grades that they need to continue on their academic journey either to college or university.

# Young Catholic Adults Plymouth Diocese

**Youth Rally 2021** – St Rita's Honiton - 26 September 1.00 – 6.30pm. To book please contact [pmorris@wjmorris.co.uk](mailto:pmorris@wjmorris.co.uk) or [youth@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:youth@prcdtr.org.uk)

**Youth Workers Conference** 16 October. Venue: St Rita's, Honiton 10.00am – 2.30pm  
For further information or to simply join the forum, please email Saskia Hogbin: [youth@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto: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.

## Exeter WAYmakers

Are a group of people from the parishes of Catholic Exeter who are preparing to resettle a refugee family in our City of Sanctuary. As the name suggests we seek to prepare a WAY as WAYMAKERS of Welcome. We will be expanding the invitation to help support us, more widely with time, at various stages and this will extend more broadly into our community in the City. In 2015 Pope Francis called on 'every parish, every religious community, every monastery, every sanctuary in Europe to take in a family, saying the Vatican's two parishes would lead by example.' We are pleased to be following similarly... We are currently a core group of 12 and this has need of further people, to help us accomplish more... Caritas in the Diocese are our lead sponsor, in making an application to the Home Office to resettle a family and utilising the UK Government Community Sponsorship Scheme to do this. There are significant challenges and opportunities for us all to grow, in ways we cannot imagine, We are building upon a basis of prayer, that is turning into actions that are making progress. If you would like to join us, to help transform the life of a family, please make contact to learn more. Thank you. Exeter WAYmakers  
Chris Lee email [cml\\_lee@hotmail.com](mailto:cml_lee@hotmail.com) Mobile 07702 435890

## Diocesan Vacancy

**Safeguarding Caseworker** - Victim/Survivor Support & Communications  
Part time. Location: St. Boniface House, Ashburton, Newton Abbot TQ13 7JL  
Hours: 21 hours a week. Salary: £33,000.00 per annum FTE (Actual salary £19,800) plus mobile phone allowances and pension scheme (subject to eligibility)  
The Diocese is looking to appoint a Safeguarding Caseworker - Victim/Survivor Support and Communications (part time) to work within the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. The role is to provide and develop services to victims and survivors of abuse regardless of where such abuse occurred as well as promoting safeguarding across the Diocese and to the wider community. A copy of the job description/person

specification and application form are obtainable from the Human Resources Department on 01364 645383 or by email to [recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk). Applications are by application form and covering letter and the closing date for applications is Monday 16 August 2021. Interviews will be held in early September 2021 at St. Boniface House. For an informal discussion regarding the role please contact our Safeguarding Caseworker Ms Annette Moody–Burkinshaw on 01364 645432 or by email on [annette.moody-burkinshaw@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:annette.moody-burkinshaw@prcdtr.org.uk)

## YMCA Exeter is recruiting host families

They are looking for host families who can give a YMCA Intern a home for the coming academic year (2 September 2021 to 23 July 2022). Host families will receive £85 per week from YMCA Exeter to cover their rent and food. The host families partner with the YMCA to give the interns a fun, inspiring and transformational year of Christian service. A host family can be single, a couple or a family and age is no bar. To find out more or to register your interest contact by email at [office@ymcaexeter.org.uk](mailto:office@ymcaexeter.org.uk) or call on 01392 410530.

## GIFT Growing In Faith Together

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.

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](mailto:exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk)

**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** 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.

## Exeter Foodbank – Food Shortages

Can you help by donating any of the following from the August priority items list: Squash (you can't go wrong with orange or apple & blackcurrant), long life milk, noodle/pasta snacks, sponge puddings, shower gel and small jars of coffee. Please ONLY donate items from the list. Thank you for your understanding. Collection Points - Co-Op (Heavitree/St Thomas); Sainsbury's Alphington/Pinhoe/Guildhall); Tesco (Exe Vale); Waitrose (Gladstone Rd). If you are unable to get to the collection points you can donate money online. Please visit [this link](#).

## Pope Francis on Mercy

The salvation that God offers us is the work of His mercy. No human efforts, however good they may be, can enable us to merit so great a gift. God, by His sheer grace, draws us to Himself and makes us one with Him. He sends His Spirit into our hearts to make us His children, transforming us and enabling us to respond to His love by our lives.

## Pope's August Intention

Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel. See also the Popes' video [here](#)

## Pope Francis tweets...

With the help of young people and their innovative spirit, we can make the dream come true of a world where bread, water, medicine and work flow abundantly and reach those most in need first

## Mass intentions

If you would like a Mass said for a particular intention, for someone who is ill or a loved one who has died, in thanksgiving for an answer to prayer or perhaps something personal please contact Lesley in the parish office who will be able to help you find a date and time which suits you. It is traditional to make an offering at the same time. This is simply what you can afford and would like to give. To comply with GDPR rules we must have the permission of the person named if it is to be made public unless they are deceased.

## 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.exetercathedral.org.uk/news-events/whats-on/summer-of-family-activities/>

## Readers

Those who stood down during lockdown will have been contacted by the Parish Office to ask whether they would like to exercise their ministry again, in order to be put on the rota once we start to put it together. We are also looking for anyone else who would like to offer to read at Mass on Sunday. Please give your name and details to the parish office.

# St Petrock's 25th Anniversary

A family-friendly day of outdoor theatre, fun and feasting on the theme of Robin Hood with Common Players: The Tuck Inn, to mark St Petrock's 25th Anniversary. Do come along and 'Tuck Inn' on Sunday 29 August in Rougemont Gardens, and bring your friends! Tickets are available online at: <https://www.common-players.org.uk/>

## Accommodation Needed

A young lady from Canada is coming to Exeter in September to study law. She is struggling to find somewhere here to live, doing it from Canada, so she has reached out to the parish in the hope that someone in the parish might be able to help. She is a practicing Catholic and would like to make Blessed Sacrament her parish when she comes. If anyone has a room to spare or knows of some accommodation that would be suitable please contact Lesley in the parish office 01392 274724

## FOR ALL THE SAINTS...

### 15 August The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



The commemoration of the death of the Blessed Virgin Mary (the Dormition, or falling asleep, as it was known in the East) is known as the Assumption because of the tradition that her body did not decay but that she was raised up, body and soul, into heaven. This tradition was already present in the sixth century; by the beginning of the twentieth century it was widespread; and after consulting the views of bishops all over the world, the Pope formally and infallibly declared the doctrine of the Assumption to be part of the authentic and ancient doctrine of the universal Church.

### 20 August St Bernard of Clairvaux (1090 - 1153)

He was born near Dijon, in France, in 1090, of a noble family. In 1112 he joined the new monastery at Cîteaux. This had been founded fourteen years before, in a bid to reject the laxity and riches of the Benedictine Order (as exemplified by great monasteries such as Cluny) and to return to a primitive poverty and austerity of life.



Bernard arrived at Cîteaux with four of his five brothers and two dozen friends. Within three years he had been sent out to found a new monastery at Clairvaux, in Champagne, where he remained abbot for the rest of his life. By the time of his death, the Cistercian Order had grown from one house to 343, of which 68 were daughter houses of Clairvaux itself. Bernard was a man of great holiness and wisdom, and although he was often in very poor health, he was active in many of the great public debates of the time. He strongly opposed the luxurious lives of some of the

clergy, and fought against the persecution of the Jews. He was also a prolific writer, of an inspiring rather than a technical kind. The Church is always suffering from corruption and always being renewed. If St Bernard, so often ill, could take a leading part in this renewal, what excuse do we have?

## 21 August St Pius X (1835 - 1914)



He was born in the village of Riese, near Venice, one of ten children of a very poor family. He was ordained to the priesthood at the age of 23. He was successively bishop of Mantua and of Venice, and was elected Pope, against his wishes, in 1903. In his time as Pope, he sought to “restore all things in Christ.” He insisted on the separation of Church and State, and banned the formation of political associations that claimed exclusive

religious sanction for their political programme, whether of the Left or of the Right. He revised the code of Canon Law, founded an institute for scriptural studies, and initiated the revision of the Latin translation of the Bible (the Vulgate) and the reform of the liturgy. He lived in great poverty even when he was Pope, and preached sermons every Sunday in the courtyards of the Vatican, to any who would listen. In his simplicity and goodness of heart, he performed miracles even when he was alive, and the clamour for his canonization started immediately after his death, on 20 August 1914, broken-hearted at the outbreak of the First World War.

# Mass Times

Sunday 15 August

The Assumption of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

8.45am

10.45am *People of the Parish*

6.00pm

Tuesday 17 August 6.30pm

Wednesday 18 August 9.30am

*Alex Szytko RIP*

Thursday 19 August 9.30am

Friday 20 August 6.30pm

St Bernard Abbot & Doctor

Saturday 21 August 9.30am

St Pius X Pope

Sunday 22 August

21st in Ordinary Time

8.45am

10.45am

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

Tuesday 24 August No Mass

St Bartholomew Apostle

Wednesday 25 August 9.30am

*Private Intention*

Thursday 26 August 9.30am

Friday 27 August No Mass

St Monica

Saturday 28 August 9.30am

St Augustine Bishop & Doctor

# The Word

Sunday 15 August

First Reading Revelations 11:19,  
12:1-6.10 *A woman adorned with the sun,  
standing on the moon.*

Psalm Response

On your right hand stands the queen,  
in garments of gold.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians

15:20-26 *Christ as the first-fruits and then,  
those who belong to him.*

Gospel Luke 1:39-56

*The almighty had done great things for me,  
he has exalted up the lowly.*

Sunday 22 August

First Reading Joshua 24:1-2.15-18

*We will serve the Lord, for he is our God.*

Psalm Response

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Second Reading Ephesians 5:21-32

*This mystery has many implications for  
Christ and his Church.*

Gospel John 6:60-69

*Whom shall we go to? You have the message  
of eternal life.*

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](#).