



BLESSED SACRAMENT

# PARISH NEWS

22 August 2021. 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time. Yr B

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

Failure, rejection and isolation: these are the themes of today's remarkable Gospel - but they are not all. In the face of them we see perseverance, fidelity and trust. Above all there is an adherence to the truth that is truly amazing. Jesus speaks the truth to all who will listen, and if

they find that truth "intolerable" they are free to leave, just as they are free to believe. No one who reads this passage could accuse Jesus of being interested in fame or fortune or the simple accumulation of followers. He didn't play the 'numbers game'. Even more amazing is that when his followers seem to be down to their lowest ebb, he turns to the Twelve and gives them freedom to go as well. Peter's reply, when he speaks of their belief, is the only answer that matters; it is spirit and life that replies, not the flesh, which has nothing to offer.

# Bishop Mark offers prayers and support after Plymouth shootings

*Friday 13 August 2021 @ 10:10 am*

The Right Reverend Mark O'Toole, Bishop of Plymouth, has issued a statement on the fatal shootings which took place in the Keyham area of Plymouth in which six people were killed on the evening of Thursday 12 August. "It is with a deep sense of shock and sadness that we heard of the terrible shootings in our beloved city. "Personally, I offer my support and my prayers for all those who have died and for their loved ones. "I know that I will be joined in that prayer and support by all the Catholic community. "Our churches are open in the city as places of oasis – safe spaces in which people can come to pray and reflect – to remember those who have died and their families at this time. "This weekend in our churches and in our places of worship, let us pray for all those affected by these terrible events and for all the people of Plymouth." You can view him speaking [here](#)

## CAFOD UPDATE

CAFOD is responding to significant crises across the world this week. We are working with local Church organisations in Haiti to deliver emergency aid to people affected by the catastrophic earthquake and tropical storm. In the tragic situation in Afghanistan, we are working to ensure the safety of our local partners and their communities. We are supporting local aid workers to deliver urgent food and water supplies to hundreds of thousands of people facing extreme hunger in Tigray in Ethiopia, South Sudan and north-east Nigeria. You can read more about how we can all express solidarity with our sisters and brothers affected by these emergencies on the CAFOD website: [here](#). Your compassion, generosity and prayers have helped us to stand together and enable us to continue to support communities in these difficult times. Thank you for your solidarity, your prayers and your support for CAFOD's work across the world. We share this prayer with you in this time of crisis.

**Loving Lord, for those who have died, give them eternal rest. For those who are bereaved, comfort and console them. For those who are hurt, heal and strengthen them. Lord God, enable us to help our suffering brothers and sisters in whatever way we can. Heavenly Father, be with us now and always. Amen.**

## Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN)

A brief initial statement from CSAN can be found [here](#)

Caritas Plymouth will also be looking to connect with those leading on migration in the South West to support any local resettlement scheme. e.g. Exeter WAYmakers. If you would like to know more and help Exeter WAYmakers, please make contact. Thank you. Chris Lee m: 07702 435890 e: [cml\\_lee@hotmail.com](mailto:cml_lee@hotmail.com)

## Education Sunday 2021 *September 12*

Education Sunday is marked this year on 12 September – just after the new academic year starts. The theme for 2021 is ‘A word in season’, taken from Isaiah 50:4.

Churches Together in England (CTE) rightly describes teaching and studying as “demanding and privileged callings” and Education Sunday gives us the opportunity to give thanks to God for all who teach and all who study, for all who continually have to find the right words and deliver them with enthusiasm and graciousness.

This is all the more poignant as we attempt to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Teachers, pupils and leaders in our schools have suffered 18 months of disruption and uncertainty. For the second year in a row, GCSE and A Level students have been Centre Assessed or Teacher Assessed – a challenging situation for both teachers and pupils. On 12 September, we pray that God will fortify those working to make our schools places of learning and sanctuary – not just teachers and leaders but all the support staff whose tireless work sometimes goes unnoticed. We pray for all our primary and secondary pupils – particularly school leavers who have had such a difficult journey in recent times – not to mention students in higher education and vocational training.

## Journeying from Despair to Hope...

### Prisons Week Online Event 12 October 2021 5.00-6.15pm

Caritas Plymouth would like to invite you to an online event to explore the challenges facing prisoners and their families and how we can take action in our parishes. Prisoners and their families are often some of the most socially excluded people in our society. Even for people of faith they are often forgotten or come lower down on a list of causes to support. This event will include speakers from PACT and prison chaplaincy. It will offer an opportunity to direct our thoughts and prayers to prisoners, their families and children and to reflect on how we as individuals, as a Church and as a community are serving those affected by imprisonment. You can register by clicking [here](#) or email [Caritas@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:Caritas@prcdtr.org.uk)

## ROOT & BRANCH SYNOD

A synod that starts with women and doesn't end there. Root & Branch Inclusive Lay-led Synod already calls for radical re-thinking of our Church's inclusion, diversity, moral theology and authority.

Pope Francis has told all bishops worldwide that they must consult with us, the people, from 17 October, through to April 2022. Come and hear what millions of Catholics think, (but rarely say aloud) at our Root & Branch Inclusive Lay-Led Synod 5-12 September. All are welcome. All topics are on the table. Join us.

More information and access to the Synod can be found by clicking [here](#)

# Step Forward, Reach Out and Help Putting All Children First

The annual appeal of the Catholic Children's Society is next weekend. Please take a leaflet today or visit their website [here](#) to understand the wonderful work, which the Society does to help struggling children and their families. Thank you as always for your continued support of the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth). We hope and pray that this year's appeal will be one of the best yet as more and more families are turning to us for our help.

## 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.

## 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 Canticum 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.

## Please pray for...

The repose of the soul of Sean Corcoran whose funeral service will be celebrated at Exeter Crematorium on Wednesday 1 September at 1.30pm. Requiescat in pace. Please pray also for his family and friends and all who mourn his death.

## 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.

## 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

**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.** 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)

# Pope's August prayer 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](#) In his video message for his prayer intention for August, Pope Francis reminds the faithful that "the vocation of the Church is evangelisation," and even more, "the Church's identity is evangelisation." In this month, the Holy Father reflects on the situation of the Church, its vocation and its identity, and calls us to renew it "by discerning God's will in our daily life," and "embarking on a transformation guided by the Holy Spirit." "Our own reform as persons is that transformation," the Pope said. This allows the "Holy Spirit, the gift of God in our hearts, to remind us what Jesus taught and helps us to put into practice."

## Evangelisation and a more missionary option

Pope Francis begins with the specific vocation of the Church, which is to evangelize. The Holy Father dreams of an even more missionary option: "one that goes out to meet others without proselytism and transforms its structures for the evangelization of today's world." He emphasizes that he is not talking about proselytism but rather a reform of the Church through "a reform of ourselves, without prefabricated ideas, without ideological prejudices and rigidity." To make progress in this regard, Pope Francis invites all to move forward based on spiritual experience: "an experience of prayer, an experience of charity and an experience of service."

## Reforming the Church

"Let us remember that the Church always has difficulties," the Pope said, explaining that the Church goes through crises because she is alive; not like the dead who do not go through crises. In a statement accompanying the Pope's prayer intention, the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, which prepares "The Pope Video" each month, explains that in the recent letter Pope Francis wrote to Cardinal Reinhard Marx, in which he refused his offer of resignation, the Holy Father acknowledged the crisis in the Church brought about by abuse cases, emphasizing the need for reform. "A reform... does not consist in words but in attitudes that have the courage to face the crisis, to assume reality whatever the consequences may be. And every reform begins with oneself. The reform in the Church was made by men and women who were not afraid to enter into crisis and let themselves be reformed by the Lord," the Pope said. Concluding the video message, the Holy Father invited all to 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."

Source:Vaticannews.va

# The new life of Baptism...

Please pray for Theodore, Nicholas and Tiago who will all be baptised this weekend. Please pray also for their parents and Godparents and families.

We have been blessed recently to celebrate so many baptisms. These are families who have waited patiently for the restrictions to ease so that they can celebrate the birth of their child in the Church, giving thanks to God. It gives us a real sense of hope and joy that they are coming forward. They have been brilliantly supported by Ann, Nina, Maggie and Maria who have facilitated the baptism preparation courses for families from Sacred Heart and Blessed Sacrament. We are immensely grateful.

Some of our families are meeting on Sunday afternoon in the St Richard Reynolds Centre and garden for a cream tea. We wish them well. Pray the sun shines!

## Pope Francis tweets...

The climate crisis always generates more serious humanitarian crises and the poor are the most vulnerable regarding extreme weather events. A solidarity founded on justice, on peace and on the unity of the human family is needed

## Mass intentions

If you would like a Mass intention 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/>

## 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 online at: <https://www.common-players.org.uk/>

# CELEBRATE

Are you looking for great ideas for holiday activities for all the family? Take a look at the latest CELEBRATE@Home resource for summer by clicking [here](#)

## Diocesan Vacancy in Exeter

Sacred Heart Parish in Exeter has a vacancy for a Cleaner. The role will require the jobholder to carry out essential tasks to ensure the cleanliness of the Presbytery flat, Guest flats and Parish Rooms. The role requires the jobholder to maintain the cleanliness of clergy accommodation and guest flat and Parish Rooms so that the accommodation presents a healthy environment and is ready for use by the Parish clergy, visitors and parishioners. This is a part-time post where the jobholder will be required to work three hours per week and the salary payable will be in line with the Living Wage which is currently £9.50 per hour. The key skills required are attention to detail, the ability to work unsupervised, a knowledge of health and safety at work together with an awareness of the importance of confidentiality. Applications are invited for this position to support the Parish. If you are interested and would like to apply please contact the HR Department for a copy of the Job Description on 01364 645383 or by email to [recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk). The closing date for applications is Tuesday 31 August 2021.

## Mardon Neuro-Rehab League of Friends

The Mardon League of Friends are a group of individuals who give up their time in order to raise funds and awareness for Mardon Neurological Rehabilitation Centre. The Centre aims to improve and enhance patients' lives after a traumatic or neurological episode. The LOF's purpose is to raise funds, in order for the Centre to help the patients who come through Mardon's doors. To find out more and how you can help go [here](#)

## 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](#).



# AUTUMN ALPHA

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. You may be thinking, 'I'm already a Catholic, what could Alpha do for me?'

Many of those who take part begin with this question.

What if the question was, 'Do I really know Jesus?'

'Do I make God the priority of my life? Please contact us

at [this link](#) if you'd like to take part. We'd love you to join us.



## Walking With the Poor

Saturday 9 October 10.30am-3.00pm Caritas Plymouth will be holding an event at St Rita's Centre in Honiton to prepare for the World Day of the Poor which takes place in November. All are warmly welcome. The event includes lunch. Pope Francis has said that this year's theme will be 'The poor you will always have with you.' Mark 14:7. This free event will include sharing thoughts and ideas about how we are reaching out to the poor and whether we need to take a different approach to poverty. Speakers include; Bishop Mark O'Toole and Raymond Friel from the Caritas Social Action Network. We will follow best practice guidance on Covid safety measures in place at the time. Spaces are limited so booking is essential. Click [here](#) to register or phone 01364 645421 for a paper registration form.

## FOR ALL THE SAINTS...

24 August St Bartholomew – Apostle



He was born at Cana and brought by the Apostle Philip to meet Jesus. Nothing further is known for certain. Eusebius speaks of him in India, but the Roman Martyrology has him martyred in Armenia, skinned alive according to the Persian custom. Because his relics were enshrined on the island in the Tiber that is principally used as a hospital, he has become a patron saint of the sick.

## 27 August St Monica (331 - 387)



She was born at Thagaste in Africa of a Christian family. She was married young, to Patricius, and among her children was Augustine. He had a brilliant intellect and uncertain morals and his wayward spiritual career saw him at one time a Manichee and then a Neoplatonist. With many tears she prayed unceasingly to God for his conversion and her prayers were answered shortly before she died. She had a deep faith and outstanding virtue and is a wonderful example of a Christian mother.

## 28 August St Augustine – Bishop & Doctor (354 - 430)



Augustine was born in Thagaste in Africa of a Berber family. He was brought up a Christian but left the Church early and spent a great deal of time seriously seeking the truth, first in the Manichaeian heresy, which he abandoned on seeing how nonsensical it was, and then in Neoplatonism, until at length, through the prayers of his mother and the teaching of St Ambrose of Milan, he was converted back to Christianity and baptised in 387, shortly before his mother's death.

Augustine had a brilliant legal and academic career, but after his

conversion he returned home to Africa and led an ascetic life. He was elected Bishop of Hippo and spent 34 years looking after his flock, teaching them, strengthening them in the faith and protecting them strenuously against the errors of the time. He wrote an enormous amount and left a permanent mark on both philosophy and theology. His *Confessions*, as dazzling in style as they are deep in content, are a landmark of world literature. The Second Readings in the Office of Readings contain extracts from many of his works.

He was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Boniface VIII in 1308.

# Mass Times

## 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

*Thanyika's Parents*

## Sunday 29 August

22nd in Ordinary Time

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am

6.00pm

## Monday 30 August

St Margaret Clitheroe

## Tuesday 31 August 6.30pm

## Wednesday 1 September 9.30am

World Day of Prayer for the Care of  
Creation

## Thursday 2 September 9.30am

## Friday 3 September 6.30pm

St Gregory the Great Pope & Doctor

## Saturday 4 September No Mass at

Blessed Sacrament - Mass at St  
Nicholas School 10.00am All welcome

# The Word

## 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.*

## Sunday 29 August

First Reading Deuteronomy 4:1-2.6-8

*Add nothing to what I command you, keep  
the commandments of the Lord.*

Psalm Response

The just will live in the presence of  
the Lord.

Second Reading St James 1:17-  
18.21-22.27

*You must do what the word tells you*

Gospel Mark 7:1-8.14-15.21-23

*You put aside the commandment of God to  
cling to human traditions.*

## 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@stnics.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](#).