



BLESSED SACRAMENT

# PARISH NEWS

8 August 2021. 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Yr B

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I am the  
living bread  
which has  
come down  
from heaven.

The bread that comes down from heaven is not just bread which nourishes the body, but which gives renewed life - be this in the form of energy and purpose (as in the story of Elijah) or in the form of a gift of eternal life. As Jesus continues his discourse on the Bread of Life, he faces the complaints and criticism of the crowd, who take a very short-sighted view of what he says. He affirms for them that true life, life that will never end, is found only in him. He is the one who has come from the Father and so is the living bread which gives life. Here Jesus makes an explicit link between “belief” and “eating the bread of life”: the two lead to each other, and they both bring about that which we most desire - to live forever. The Response to the Psalm in many ways sums this up: ‘Taste and see that the Lord is good.’

## CAFOD: Talk on Synodality

Pope Francis' new initiative on synodality within the Church begins in October 2021 and will run for two years. There is a very interesting talk from CAFOD which explains what is meant by synodality, how we might listen to the Holy Spirit and walk together to discern a future vision for the whole church. The talk relates this new way of being to the work of CAFOD and Caritas. [Find the talk here](#)

Interview with Christopher Lamb, Rome Correspondent for The Tablet about Pope Francis' invitation to us all to participate in consultations in our dioceses from October this year as the first stage of the next Synod.

## Grants for School Transport

Requests will be considered for financial assistance to help meet the cost of transport to and from Catholic schools in the Diocese of Plymouth during the school year September 2021 to July 2022. The Trustees of Plymouth Diocesan Trust welcome the efforts and initiative of parishes, schools and individuals in funding school transport costs from their own resources. However, where those resources are insufficient, the Trustees will consider giving grant aid. A Grants Committee meets once a year to determine the beneficiaries. Applications for grants must be submitted by completion of an application form (available from the parish office) and submitted through parish priests to: Caritas Plymouth, Plymouth Diocesan Trust. The deadline is 7 September, together with a statement to enable the Charity to assess relative needs. It may not be possible to make a grant if a formal application has not been received or is received late.

## 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.

## 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.

# 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](#)

## 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.

## Walking With the Poor

Caritas Plymouth will be holding an event on Saturday 9 October from 10.30am – 3.00pm 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 to this event which will include lunch. Pope Francis has said that this year's theme will be 'The poor you will always have with you' Mk 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. To reduce crowding spaces will be limited so booking is essential. Click the following link [to register](#) or phone 01364 645421 for a paper registration form.

## 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)

## Catholic Children’s Society (Plymouth)

### Annual Appeal 2021 ‘Step Forward, Reach Out and Help’

‘Whatever you do to the least of your brothers and sisters, you do to me.’ Mt 25:40

Seventeen months have passed since the start of the Covid -19 pandemic in our country and many families are still facing crippling economic hardship. Throughout this long period, the Catholic Children’s Society (Plymouth) has continued to respond to an ever-increasing demand from families in our Diocese who find themselves in great difficulty and who lack essential items to meet their basic needs. Meeting these needs has resulted in a significant depletion of the Society’s limited resources which are needed in order to continue to support such families who have fallen on hard times. So I again appeal to your generosity to support the good work of the Catholic Children’s Society (Plymouth) by offering what you can. In so doing, through the agency of the Society, you will make a real difference to those families who are struggling at the most basic level. May God bless you for responding as generously as you can to this Annual Appeal. Mark O’Toole Bishop of Plymouth. Full details of all the ways you can donate to the CCSP can be found [here](#)

## With thanks...

Margaret Leonard would like to thank Fr Jonathan and Fr John for their kindness and concern for her on the death of her son Michael and especially for offering the Masses requested by her parish friends. She is very grateful for the prayers and cards she has received and they have given her strength and consolation at this sad time. Thank you all.

## We welcome...

Niamh and Lily who were recently baptised in to our parish community. August is a very busy month with more baptisms when will welcome Mia, Elizabeth, Ada, Cleo, Samuel, Theodore, Tiago and Nicholas. Please keep all the children, their parents and godparents and families in your prayers.

# 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

GOOD NEWS IN ACTION: A few of the many WAYS in which we are looking to make a difference as WAYmakers – Can you help?



## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Pope Francis on Mercy

The salvation which 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.

## 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'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...

In this time of pandemic, the Tokyo Olympics are a sign of hope, a sign of universal brotherhood marked by a healthy competitive spirit.

# FOR ALL THE SAINTS...

## 9 August St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein 1891 - 1942)



She was born into a practising Jewish family. She had a distinguished career as a philosopher and received a doctorate at the University of Freiburg, but her academic career was impeded because she was a woman. Reading the autobiography of Saint Teresa of Ávila brought about her conversion to Catholicism and she was baptized on 1 January 1922. She taught at a Dominican girls' school and studied Catholic philosophy. She became a lecturer at the Institute for Pedagogy at Münster but was thrown out of her post in

1933 as a result of the Nazi régime's anti-Semitic legislation. She entered a Carmelite monastery in Cologne and took the name Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. Her order moved her to the Netherlands to keep her safe from the growing Nazi threat. While a Carmelite she wrote an important philosophical book, seeking to combine the phenomenology of her former teacher Edmund Husserl with the philosophy of Aquinas, and she also wrote on St John of the Cross. On 20 July 1942 the Dutch Bishops' Conference had a statement read in all churches condemning Nazi racism. In retaliation the authorities ordered the arrest of all Jewish converts to Christianity. Teresa Benedicta was taken to Auschwitz and killed on 9 August 1942.

## 10 August St Laurence (- 258)



Laurence was one of the seven deacons of the Church of Rome and was executed on 10th August 258, four days after Pope Sixtus II and his companions. By now, few of the facts of his life are known for certain: he was probably a Spaniard from Toledo. A basilica was built over Laurence's tomb fifty years after his death, by the Emperor Constantine, and the anniversary of his martyrdom was kept as a solemn feast – with considerably more solemnity than that of Pope Sixtus

(we do not know why). By the sixth century, it was one of the most important feasts throughout much of western Christendom. His name occurs (with Sixtus's) in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

## 11 August St Clare (1193/4 - 1253)



She was born at Assisi and came under the influence of Saint Francis. She left home at the age of 18 and, under Francis's guidance, began a community that grew to become the order of the Poor Clares (she was later joined both by her sister and by her widowed mother). In its radical attachment to poverty the Rule of the order was much more severe than that of any other order of nuns. In 1215 Clare obtained from the Pope the privilege of owning nothing, so that the nuns of the order were to be sustained by alms and

nothing else. Such a rule was (like the Franciscan rule) both a challenge to established structures and a risk to those who followed it, and successive Popes tried to modify it. In 1247 Pope Innocent IV promulgated a new Rule that allowed the ownership of communal property: Clare rewrote it. A later attempt at mitigation



in 1263 partly succeeded (perhaps because Clare was dead by then): some communities followed the old, strict rule and some followed the new. Clare was a noted contemplative and a caring mother to her nuns. She died at Assisi in 1253.

## 14 August St Maximilian Mary Kolbe (1894 - 1941)



He was born on 8 January 1894 in occupied Poland: he joined the Franciscans in Lwów in 1910, and was ordained eight years later, as his country became free and independent for the first time in over 120 years. He believed that the world was passing through a time of intense spiritual crisis, and that Christians must fight for the world's salvation with all the means of modern communication. He founded a newspaper, and a sodality called the Knights of Mary Immaculate, which spread widely both in Poland and abroad. In 1927 he founded a community, a "city of Mary," at Teresin: centred round the Franciscan friary, it

attracted many lay people, and became self-supporting, publishing many periodicals and running its own radio station. In 1930 he went to Japan, studied Buddhism and Shintoism, and through the Japanese edition of his newspaper spread the Christian message in a way that was in harmony with Japanese culture. In Nagasaki, he set up a "Garden of the Immaculate," which survived the atomic bomb. He also travelled to Malabar and to Moscow, but was recalled to Poland in 1936 for reasons of health. When the Germans invaded in 1939, the community at Teresin sheltered thousands of refugees, most of them Jews. In 1941 he was arrested and sent to the concentration camp at Auschwitz, where he helped and succoured the inmates. In August of that year a prisoner escaped, and in reprisal the authorities were choosing ten people to die by starvation. One of the men had a family, and Maximilian Kolbe offered to take his place. The offer was accepted, and he spent his last days comforting his fellow prisoners. The man he saved was present at his canonization. Maximilian Kolbe's martyrdom is the least important thing about him. We are none of us likely to find ourselves in a position to emulate his sacrifice, and speculation as to the heroic way in which we would have behaved in his place is a pernicious waste of time. What is important is that he acted the way he did because of who he was – or, rather, because of who he had become. It is because of who he had become that we revere him as a saint: he would have been a saint (though perhaps not canonized) even if he had not been martyred. And that process of becoming is something we can all emulate. We can all become people for whom doing the right thing is obvious, natural, and easy. It requires no heroism, no special gifts: just perseverance, and prayer.

# SUNDAY IT IS OUR DAY

## *Statement from the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales*

On 19 July, the current legislative powers which assist the mitigations against the Covid-19 virus transmission will be rescinded by HM Government. Nevertheless, there will be an encouragement to personal and corporate responsibility in this area; as the Prime Minister said in his most recent statement “The pandemic is not over.” Even without this legislation in place, the Church in England and Wales will be adopting a cautious approach to capacity and activity within our buildings, especially at corporate acts of worship.

**Sunday Obligation** We are mindful of the certain fact that the Covid-19 virus is still circulating in society. Vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the virus, yet we recognise the legitimate fear on the part of some who otherwise desire to gather for Holy Mass. It is our continuing judgement, therefore, that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God.

It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021. In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.

In April, following our Plenary Assembly, we offered a reflection on the experience of the extraordinary long months of the pandemic. It was titled *The Day of the Lord*. We also began to look at the way forward. We spoke about the important invitation to restore the Sunday Mass to its rightful centrality in our lives. We asked for a rekindling in our hearts of a yearning for the Real Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist, as our response to the total, sacrificial love that Jesus has for us. We said: “The Eucharist should be the cause of our deepest joy, our highest manner of offering thanks to God and for seeking his mercy and love. We need to make it the foundation stone of our lives.”

May this continue to be our striving during these coming months as we journey back to the full celebration of our Sunday Mass and our renewed observance of *The Day of the Lord*. Download a copy of [The Day of the Lord](#).

# Mass Times

## Sunday 8 August

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am

6.00pm

## Monday 9 August

St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross  
Virgin & Martyr. Patron of Europe

Tuesday 10 August 6.30pm

St Lawrence. Deacon & Martyr

Wednesday 11 August 9.30am

St Clare. Virgin

*Tom & Richard Ware RIP*

Thursday 12 August 9.30am

*Michael Leonard RIP*

Friday 13 August 6.30pm

Saturday 14 August 9.30am

St Maximilian Kolbe Priest & Martyr.

*Margaret Leonard & Family*

## 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

# The Word

## Sunday 8 August

First Reading 1 Kings 19:4-8

*Strengthened by the food he walked until he reached the mountain of God.*

Psalm Response

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Second Reading Ephesians 4:30-5.2

*Follow Christ by loving as he loved you.*

Gospel John 6:41-51

*I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.*

## 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.*

## 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](#).