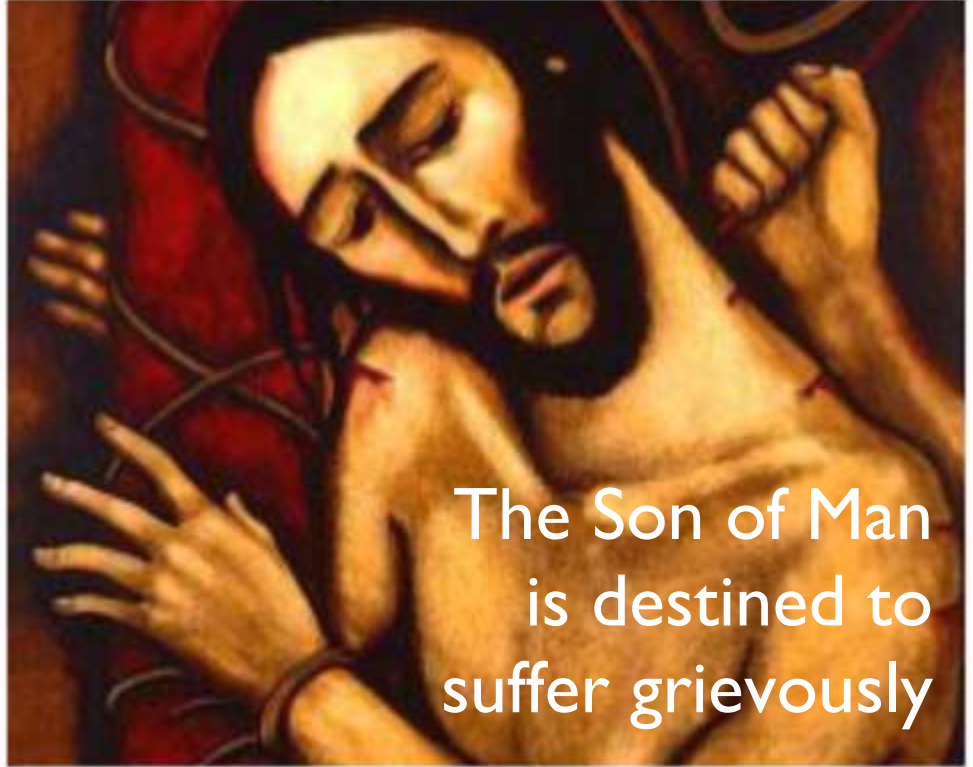




BLESSED SACRAMENT

PARISH NEWS

12 September 2021. 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year B



As we journey through the Gospel of Mark we come to an important turning point this week: after the preaching, the miracles and the journey so far, Simon Peter publicly recognises Jesus as the Messiah. But there is an important point, which is brought out by the choice of first reading today: this Messiah is a king who is destined to be rejected and killed. Jesus knows this very well, and rebukes Peter when he tries to lead him on a different path. From this point on, Saint Mark's Gospel leads to the cross: Jesus himself accepts his own cross, and reminds all his followers that the cross is a part of following him. If we are considering the question "Who is Jesus?" these scripture passages give us a deep insight into the mission of salvation that he accepts for us.

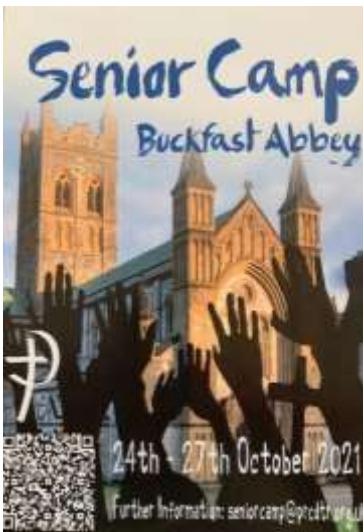
Education Sunday 2021 September 12

Education Sunday is marked this year on 12 September. The theme for 2021 is 'A word in season', taken from Isaiah 50:4.

A Message to Catholic Schools for Education Sunday 2021

Bishop Marcus Stock expressed heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to teachers for the vocation and mission they exercise in the community of the Church in his message for Education Sunday 2021

"Over the last eighteen months we have seen an upheaval affecting everyone in our society, the like of which has not been witnessed since the end of the Second World War. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed not only aspects of how we live our lives but has given us a chance to reflect on the fragility and preciousness of human life, on human solidarity, and the capacity to show love and support to our neighbours. Like many other front-line workers, teachers, school leaders, and support staff have exemplified this love throughout the pandemic, going above and beyond to support the young people in their care. It is only right therefore that on Education Sunday, we take this opportunity to offer prayers of thanksgiving for all who work in our Catholic schools and colleges, and to express our gratitude for their outstanding dedication and professionalism, especially during the pandemic. Throughout the challenges they have faced in two national lockdowns, two sets of exam cohorts, and a managed return to schooling, the staff of all our schools have exemplified what it means to follow the command of Our Lord Jesus Christ to love our neighbour. On behalf of the Catholic Education Service, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to them and my appreciation for the vocation and mission they exercise in the community of the Church." Rt Rev Marcus Stock Bishop of Leeds



Senior Catechetical Camp

October 2021 Buckfast Abbey

After a successful on-line "Virtual" Camp this summer we're delighted to announce that Senior Camp for youngsters in Years 7-11 is taking place this October 24-27 (half term week) at Grangehurst Buckfast Abbey. Cost: £120. To apply, simply follow the QR code. Applications by 8 October please. Enquiries to seniorcamp@prcdtr.org.uk Look forward to seeing you there. Please share!

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 you to share their experience of encountering Jesus Christ and the Church in a dynamic way.

Charlotte writes: *Before Alpha, I was less whole, my spiritual self was part time. Through the Alpha course I learnt to prioritise God through my choices and found that they led to more happiness and fulfilment. During Alpha I felt supported by the friendships and consistent companions and love shown. I really enjoyed watching the thought*

provoking videos. It helped me as I am alone in my beliefs at home, except for my youngest daughter. So I felt empowered and not alone. Jesus is showing me the way. I still mess up but I recognise it sooner and want to bask in his love and so I generally feel less lost.

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?'

Join an 'in person' course commencing Thursday 30 September or an on-line course commencing Monday 4 October. Contact us at [this link](#) if you'd like to take part. We'd love you to join us.

NB We're monitoring the situation regarding Covid locally and may decide at the last minute to revert to meeting on-line. We will keep you informed.

YOUTH ALPHA

We would like to invite our youth community to an exciting new way to explore their faith openly and honestly through Exeter's first online (Zoom) Youth Alpha course. It will consist of 9 weeks of gatherings **beginning Tuesday 28 September** from 7.15pm until 9.00pm and continue weekly after that. We will certainly allow for the half-term break and will skip that week so holidays can take place without missing anything. Youth Alpha will feed into our preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation so please register if you are interested in preparing to be confirmed.

To sign up, please follow the [link](#) and register your interest. If you have any additional questions, please contact Erik Renz exeter-youth-worker@prcdtr.org.uk



Exeter Foodbank – Food Shortages

The the September priority items list is: squash, noodle snacks, sponge puddings, vegetarian meals – longlife/tinned, small jars (100g) coffee and toothpaste. 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). Or you can donate money online [here](#)

CAFOD UPDATE

Emergency Haiti Appeal: Please gift aid if you can. Donate by phone: Telephone: +44 (0)303 303 3030 Donate by post: CAFOD (Emergency Haiti Appeal / Emergency Afghanistan Appeal) Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB or Donate online to any current appeals. <https://cafod.org.uk/Give>

GIFT Growing In Faith Together

September Update

Our monthly parent zoom meetings will continue in the autumn on Wednesdays with our first session on 15 September. We look forward to welcoming our families back in person on Saturday 2 October at St Nicholas School.

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

Get in Touch: If you would like to find out more about GIFT, please get in touch with Maria exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk.

To register for GIFT: Please click on the link [here](#)

Bedtime Chats: All of the Bedtime Chats can be found on the Blessed Sacrament Website GIFT page: [here](#)

Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

Wednesday Word has resumed. 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.

Liturgy of the Word for Children is back!

We will resume at the 10.45am Mass on Sundays. Children from age 3 to year 3 are invited to join the catechists in the St Richard Reynolds Centre to hear the Word of God which is specially prepared for them. All catechists have been DBS checked.

Last Baptism Preparation Course in 2021

Are you, or anyone that you know, expecting a baby and/or looking to have your child baptised? We look forward to spiritually supporting you in preparation for this important sacrament and welcoming you and your family into our parish family. Courses are delivered via zoom over two consecutive Saturday mornings from 10:30-12.00. The next course dates are **9/16 October**. Godparents are especially welcome to attend the second Saturday session as the role of Godparents is explored. Please get in touch with Fr Jonathan to let him know you would like to prepare to have your child baptised. You will then be directed to the parish web site where an enquiry form for the course can be found. If you have any problems accessing this you can contact Lesley in the parish office on 01392 274724 or at exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk We are now taking bookings.

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). You are invited to join this online event organised by Caritas Plymouth to enable people to learn more about our Diocesan Environment Policy and future plans. We want to hear views from parishes and individuals. Register for the event [here](#). Zoom details sent nearer the time.

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

Nina Savicevic Piano Concert

St Stephen's Church, Exeter High Street 1.00pm Thursday 16 September.

More info contact ctaxexeter@gmail.com

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 or youth@prcdtr.org.uk Coaches will be laid on to pick up in Exeter.

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

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.

Walking With the Poor



Saturday 9 October 10.30am-3.00pm

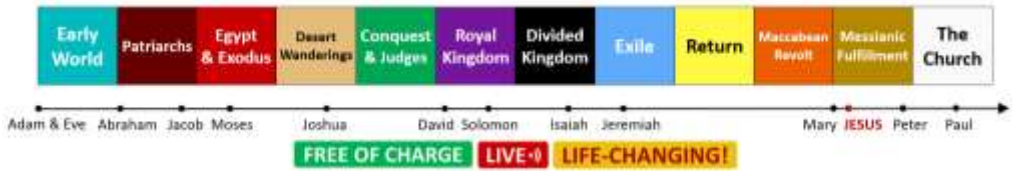
Caritas Plymouth will be holding an event at St Rita's Centre in Honiton to prepare for the World Day of the Poor which takes place in November. All are warmly welcome. The event includes lunch. Pope Francis has said that this year's theme will be 'The poor you will always have with

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.

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.

BIBLE TIMELINE



Understand the Bible from start to finish, the Old and New Testament, with this FREE OF CHARGE, worldwide-famous course delivered online LIVE by Mauro Iannicelli. Starts Wed 29 September 2021. Eight Wednesday sessions (7pm-8:40pm).
Info & Registration: www.comeandsee.org

Season of Creation

From Wednesday 1st until Thursday 16th September, St Petrock's Church, Exeter High Street, will feature informative displays with action points including for the Climate Crisis and other issues. Open 10.00am – 4.00pm daily.

Afghan Refugees: How we can help

Caritas continues to look at how best we can support any Afghan refugees who might be resettled in the South West and will update parishes when we know more about what support is needed.

We have been advised that local refugee charities which have donation points have been overwhelmed, so are not currently asking for donated items and have asked not to be contacted – this includes Devon Refugee Services.

CAFOD is currently seeking donations to an Afghan Emergency Appeal <https://cafod.org.uk/About-us/Where-we-work/Asia/Afghanistan> to help vulnerable people caught up in the crisis. Caritas@prcdtr.org.uk 07761 595567

Adult Formation

This new and exciting course, starting on Monday 20 September, commissioned by Bishop Mark O'Toole, is highly recommended for any teacher who currently teaches, or wishes to teach in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Plymouth, as well as anyone seeking to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and theology through an educational lens. Training and formation will lead to the award of a Diocesan Certificate for Catholic Education. More details can be found on a flyer at the back of the church, but if you are interested, please follow this link for more details and to register via Eventbrite. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/163496326915>

Baptised in faith...

We welcome into the family of the Church, Miriam Blandini who will be baptised today at Blessed Sacrament. Please pray for her, her parents and Godparents.

Catholic Chaplaincies

A new website has been set up to help young people find their Catholic chaplaincy when they arrive at college or university this autumn – catholic@university.org.uk

Exeter University Students

We look forward to welcoming you to The Catholic Chaplaincy, Boniface House, Glenthorne Road, EX4 4QU. We are located next to Moberly and Birks Grange. We have several events organised for Welcome Week and hope you will be able to join us for one or more. The Chaplaincy is a wonderful supportive community and a great place to discover more about your Catholic Faith. For Welcome Week and weekly events see

<http://university.exeter.ac.uk/catholic/Thisweek/thisweek.php>. To sign up for a weekly email giving details of activities each week please email:

D.cooper@exeter.ac.uk or follow the link on the website.

Falmouth and Exeter (Penryn) Universities

Hi, my name is Fran Freeman, and I am the Catholic Chaplain for Falmouth University and Exeter Cornwall (Penryn Campus). If you will be coming to either of these universities this autumn, I want to extend a warm welcome to you. I organise different weekly events both on campus and on the beach, which will help you meet other students and give you some time out from studying. If you need any help with practical things or need some space to talk, I do drop-ins and face to face sessions. I look forward to meeting you! Please contact me on f.freeman@fxplus.ac.uk or go to our Cathsoc Instagram [@falcatchsoc](https://www.instagram.com/falcatchsoc)

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: 07702 435890 cml_lee@hotmail.com

The World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR)

Will be celebrated on Sunday 26 September. The theme chosen by the Holy Father for WDMR 2021 is Towards an ever wider "we". In response to his call to ensure

that “after all this, we will think no longer in terms of ‘them’ and ‘those’, but only ‘us’” <https://migrants-refugees.va/world-day-ofmigrants-refugees/> In a new video, <https://tinyurl.com/br6p7k75> the Holy Father asks us to learn to live together in peace and harmony, building a future enriched by diversity and intercultural relations.

The Arts Group presents



“*Murder at Middlemarsh*” a Murder Mystery drama, devised and written by members of the Arts Group. Throughout lockdown, we have been meeting whenever and wherever possible, to create an intriguing play that revolves around the residents of the fictitious village of Middlemarsh. You are invited to watch these characters in

action at the Sacred Heart Parish Rooms, South Street, Exeter on Saturday 2 October 7.00pm & Sunday 3 October 2.30pm. Tickets £5 - Proceeds toward Exeter Waymakers Refugee Resettlement Programme. Tickets may be obtained from: Gerry Hinton 07970 042641 or Dorf Ruscoe 01404 822689 or by contacting any member of the Group. First come first served, as seating space is limited. (Covid constraints have led to a restricted rehearsal schedule so that some characters may be reading their parts)

Assisted Dying Bill

Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues for the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales has written an open letter inviting Catholics to pray for the defeat of the Assisted Dying Bill to be debated in the House of Lords in October. It encourages them to write to peers at the House of Lords [here](#) stating the reasons why they oppose this legislation and particularly explain from personal experience the reasons why this change in the law should be opposed. It urges discussion and communication about this important matter. The text of the letter:

In the next weeks, we face an unprecedented attack on the sanctity of life with Baroness Meacher’s ‘Assisted Dying Bill 2021’ is due its 2nd Reading in the House of Lords with full debate on Friday, 22 October.

The term ‘Assisted Dying’ is euphemistic, the truth is that this bill seeks to introduce Assisted Suicide. If legalised, this Bill would allow a terminally ill adult with less than 6 months to live to be assisted in committing suicide. Catholic teaching opposes assisting suicide, since life is a gift to be cared for and preserved until its natural death. The Church is clear that we cannot directly choose to take the life of another, even if they request it. The solidarity of praying and caring for the most vulnerable at this fragile time of their lives is a profoundly Christian act which imitates Our Lady’s prayer at the cross and Christ’s service to the weakest.

Those in favour of the bill are making good use of language to confuse the issue and call it a compassionate and caring approach to redefine the question and obscure the actual reality and consequences of such legislation. As Pope Francis has said, “Physician-assisted suicide is part of a ‘throwaway culture’ that offers a ‘false compassion’ and treats a human person as a problem... True compassion does not marginalise anyone, nor does it humiliate and exclude – much less considers the disappearance of a person as a good thing.” He criticised “those who hide behind an alleged compassion to justify and approve the death of a patient.”

Dangers of the introduction of Assisted Suicide

Importantly, at this stage we need to argue the dangers of the introduction of Assisted Suicide, which include the safety of people who are vulnerable due to external pressures, and the later liberalisation of the law which is evidenced by other countries which have introduced Assisted Suicide. Many voices from the world of disability-rights and other allies are also very fearful and fighting this bill. Whilst there are clear arguments to support Catholic teachings, it is important to remember that this position is not only a matter of faith but also human reason.

Later this month, the BMA will be debating whether to change their stance to support or neutrality on this matter. I hope that healthcare professionals will enter this debate and highlight the dangers of this Bill to change and skew the meaning of medicine.

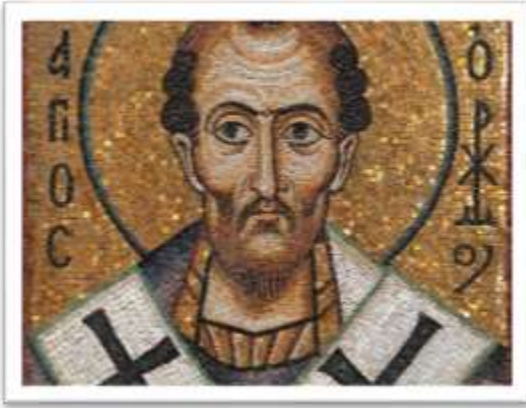
Take action

There are three important actions in the next weeks: praying, writing and sharing. First, I ask you to pray that the Bill will be defeated. Second, I ask you to write to the Peers from your personal experience and share stories which will argue the reasons for opposing the Bill as well as narrate the importance of precious time during the final stages of life. The testimony of healthcare and legal professionals will also be important. This needs to be done before the Second Reading on 22 October. Third, I ask you to engage and share stories and reasons against the Bill on social media. Briefing papers will be available on the bishops’ conference website to assist you as this work develops. Be assured of my prayers, +John Bishop John Sherrington

Pope’s September prayer intention

An environmentally sustainable lifestyle. We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this. See also the Popes’ video [here](#)

FOR ALL THE SAINTS...



13 September

St John Chrysostom

Bishop & Doctor (349 - 407)

He was born in Antioch. After a thorough education, he took up the ascetic life. He was ordained to the priesthood, and became a fruitful and effective preacher.

He was elected Patriarch of Constantinople in 397, and was energetic in reforming the ways of

the clergy and the laity alike. He incurred the displeasure of the Emperor and was twice forced into exile. When the second exile, to Armenia, had lasted three years, it was decided that he should be sent still further away, but he died on the journey, worn out by his hardships. His sermons and writings did much to explain the Catholic faith and to encourage the living of the Christian life: his eloquence earned him the surname “Chrysostom” (the Greek for “golden mouth”).



14 September

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

What are these Christians about, exalting an instrument of torture? Firstly, we rejoice that something so terrible should have been transformed into a means of redemption for the whole human race.

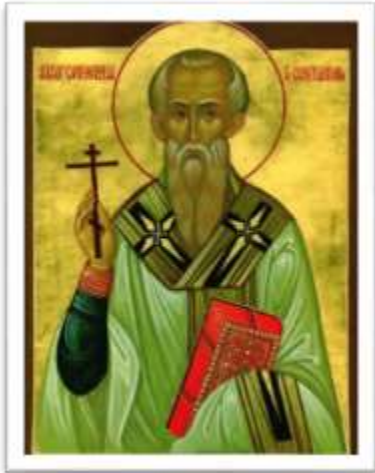
Secondly, we remind ourselves of the fact that Christianity is not an abstract and spiritual religion. It springs from God’s direct intervention in the affairs

of the world, a real historical event involving real people and, in the end, a real execution on a real cross. We may theorize and theologize all we like; but all our theorizings and theologizings are nothing without the history on which they are based. Take away that history – take away the Cross – and Christianity is nonsense.



15 September Our Lady of Sorrows

The devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows flourished in the Middle Ages, and the hymn *Stabat Mater* was composed for it. Although it is officially celebrated today, the day after the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, popular devotion in many parts of the Mediterranean celebrates it with processions on the Friday before Holy Week.

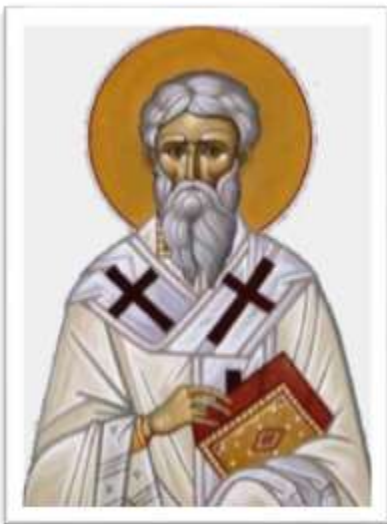


16 September

Pope St Cornelius (- 253)

Cornelius was made bishop of the church in Rome in the year 251. He fought against the Novatian schismatics, and established his authority with the aid of Cyprian.

The emperor Gallus sent him into exile, and he died at Civitavecchia in June 253. He is buried in Rome.



16 September St Cyprian (210 - 258)

He was born in Carthage and spent most of his life in the practice of the law. He was converted to Christianity, and was made bishop of Carthage in 249. He steered the church through troubled times, including the persecution of the emperor Decius, when he went into hiding so as to be able to continue looking after the church. In 258 the persecution of the emperor Valerian began. Cyprian was first exiled and then, on the 14th of September, executed, after a trial notable for the calm and courtesy shown by both sides. Cyprian's many letters and treatises shed much light on a formative period in the Church's history, and

are valuable both for their doctrine and for the picture they paint of a group of people in constant peril of their lives but still determined to keep the faith

Mass Times

Sunday 12 September

24th in Ordinary Time

8.45am

10.45am *Mo Flavin RIP*

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

Tuesday 14 September 6.30pm

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Ben Davies RIP

Wednesday 15 September 9.30am

Our Lady of Sorrows

Special Intention

Thursday 16 September 9.30am

Ss Cornelius & Cyprian

Sandy Kent RIP

Friday 17 September 6.30pm

Saturday 18 September 9.30am

Sunday 12 September

25th in Ordinary Time

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am

6.00pm *Mr Sammon RIP*

Monday 13 September

St Andrew Kim Tae-gon Priest

Tuesday 14 September 6.30pm

St Matthew Apostle & Evangelist

Wednesday 15 September 9.30am

Dedication of the Cathedral

Thursday 16 September 9.30am

St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) Priest

Friday 17 September 6.30pm

Our Lady of Walsingham

Saturday 18 September 9.30am

The Word

Sunday 12 September

First Reading Isaiah 50:5-9

I offered my back to those who struck me.

Psalm Response

I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

Second Reading St James 2:14-18

If good works do not go with faith, it is quite dead.

Gospel Mark 8:27-35

You are the Christ. The Son of Man is destined to suffer grievously.

Sunday 19 September

First Reading Wisdom 2:12.17-20

Let us condemn him to a shameful death.

Psalm Response

The Lord upholds my life.

Second Reading St James 3:16-4.3

Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Gospel Mark 9:30-37

The Son of Man will be delivered. If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself servant of all.

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](#).