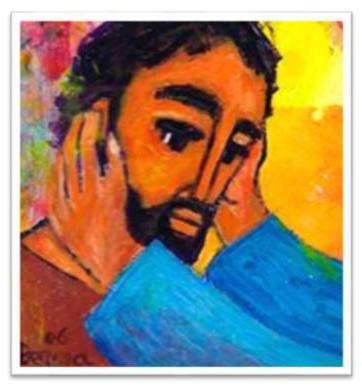


BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH NEWS

29 August 2021. 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year B



He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak

What shows us the presence of God? In the Biblical world it was miracles - signs, which pointed towards the emergence of a new Kingdom, the Kingdom of God.

This had been prophesied from of old: it was said that One would come, and also that certain things would be associated with this Messiah which would display the perfection of the Kingdom God wanted to establish. Jesus, in both his preaching and his miracles, proclaims that the Kingdom of God is at hand, in his own person.

He fulfils the prophecies of the past, as he displays to the people of his own time, and to us, the nature of Gods Kingdom: in it all diseases and afflictions are abolished: so opening the man's ears and eyes tells us two things: first that Jesus is God, present in our midst, and secondly that he calls us into a Kingdom where all is perfect.

Public Health Devon Information

Exeter is now in an 'enhanced response area' because COVID-19 case rates here are so high. Cases in Devon are rising (622 per 100,000 of the population) far higher than the national average (332). Socialising appears to be the main driver. Please do your bit by:

- limiting your social contacts to stop the virus spreading, meeting others outside because that's safer than meeting inside
- continuing to wear face coverings when indoors in public places
- washing your hands properly and regularly
- testing yourself regularly with rapid lateral flow device tests
- having the COVID-19 vaccine when offered
- self-isolating and arranging a PCR test if you show any symptoms of coronavirus or you are told to by NHS Test and Trace

More information from Public Health Devon is available here

In light of these recommendations we have decided to continue with the measures we have in place for the time being. We will review this at the end of September.

CELEBRATE AT BIG CHURCH DAY OUT

And you are invited! Come and join the CELEBRATE community in 2022 at Big Church Day Out Friday 3 to Saturday 4 June 2022 (let's thank the Queen for the extended Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend). Join with over 30,000 people from across the UK and beyond to worship together in the jaw-dropping surroundings of the Wiston Estate, Sussex, in the company of some of the best Christian music artists in the world. Each year at BCDO 500+ Celebrator's come to enjoy fellowship, Mass and the amazing church festival that is Big Church Day Out. As well as hosting Mass each day the weekend includes community, activities and fun for all ages. From the Big Church Kids Tent and the Fun-filled Fete to the relaxing Tea Tent nestled in the beautiful gardens, to campsite community gatherings. There's something for everyone. Booking your ticket through the Celebrate group you will receive a larger discount. Leading up to the event we will be able to connect with you and explain where the Celebrate camping area will be on site and make sure you don't miss out on the Big Breakfast we are hosting on the Saturday morning along with Mass times and location. Join us for the whole weekend or come for just a day, we can't wait to welcome you. Book your discounted tickets now here

Please pray for...

The repose of the souls of Anthony Casalucci and Lawrence Jones. Please pray also for their families and friends and all who mourn their death.

Senior Catechetical Camp October 2021

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 <u>seniorcamp@prcdtr.org.uk</u> Look forward to seeing you there. Please share!

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, SEI 7JB or Donate online to any current appeals. <u>https://cafod.org.uk/Give</u>

Step Forward, Reach Out and Help Putting All Children First

The Catholic Children's Society would like to thank Bishop Mark for his support and would ask you to 'Step Forward, Reach Out and Help' the CCSP to help 'Put All Children First' by donating generously today. The Society knows this is asking a lot, but your donations and prayers really are needed. Please visit the CCSP website <u>here</u> where you will find more information about the work they do and the difference your donation will make and please pray that this vital work will continue to make a difference. You can also donate using one of the envelopes that are available in the church and can be returned at any Mass. Thank you.

THE SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation, which is celebrated annually in the Church, runs from I 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.

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: If you would like to register for GIFT, please click on the link <u>here</u>

Bedtime Chats: All of the Bedtime Chats can be found on the Blessed Sacrament Website GIFT page: <u>here</u>

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.

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.

Last Baptism Preparation Course in 2021

Are you 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 at exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk or 01392 274724. We are now taking bookings for the October course.

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?



You can join an in person course commencing Thursday 30 September or an on line course commencing Monday 4 October. Please contact us at <u>this link</u> if you'd like to take part. We'd love you to join us.



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 <u>link</u> and register your interest. If you have any additional questions, please contact Erik Renz <u>exeter-youth-worker@prcdtr.org.uk</u>

Exeter Foodbank – Part-time Administrator

Exeter Foodbank is seeking a part-time administrator to join our team. This role is for up to 20 hours per week. The closing date for applications is 14 September. Please contact trustees@exeterfoodbank.org.uk for more information or see ttps://exeter.foodbank.org.uk/2021/08/13/exeter-foodbank-is-seeking-a-parttime-administrator/

Exeter Foodbank – Food Shortages

Can you help by donating any of the following from the September priority items list: 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 <u>here</u>

YMCA Exeter

We're transforming an abandoned warehouse into affordable housing for local young people. Exeter has a challenging housing crisis. There is limited, affordable one-bed accommodation for local young people. We're tackling this problem by taking an abandoned warehouse near the city centre and converting it into 26 self-contained studio apartments. Each apartment will provide a young person with a permanent, affordable home and support if needed. There is still time to make a donation to this exciting project here and find out more about the project here.

Diocesan Vacancy in Exeter parish

Sacred Heart Parish 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 number 01364 645383 or by email to recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk. The closing date for applications is Monday 13 September 2021.

Volunteer Christmas Lunch Secretary

Secretary wanted for Ecumenical Christmas Day Lunch Project We are in need of a committee member with good admin skills to help with this long running project which puts on a Christmas Day meal for older folk who would otherwise be on their own. It shows God's love to all involved and has been much appreciated for over 30 years. Duties would include: Taking some notes/notes at our meetings, only 4 a year. Helping with coordinating guests, drivers and helpers, some letters and emails to be sent out, expenses for postage etc. will be paid! Please note that there is no requirement to be available on Christmas Day...unless you want to. If you think you would be able to help us or would like some more information, please contact Jayne Worthington by telephone 07884070131 or by email jayneworth@aol.com

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 <u>here</u> and will receive an email with Zoom details 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

Young Catholic Adults Plymouth Diocese

Youth Rally 2021 – St Rita's Honiton - 26 September 1.00 – 6.30pm. To book please contact <u>pmorris@wjmorris.co.uk</u> or <u>youth@prcdtr.org.uk</u> 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: <u>youth@prcdtr.org.uk</u>

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 <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/738397836590050</u> As the group starts to form, we hope to organise informal gatherings.

Christmas Crib

The Sisters have a large Christmas Crib which needs a good home. If you are interested please ring them on 01392 433301. Many thanks, God bless, The Sisters.

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 <u>here</u>

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 <u>here</u> to register or phone 01364 645421 for a paper registration form.

Pope Francis tweets...

In the beginning there was God's Love. Everything that is alive, beautiful, good and true is from God who is love. Just as human life comes from the heart and womb of a mother, and Jesus came from the heart and the womb of a Mother, Love became flesh.

Franciscan at Home – Finding Out More about Our Catholic Faith

Hour Long Online Sessions – Interactive Multi Media Zoom groups have been successfully meeting weekly for the past year, deepening our knowledge and understanding of the Faith. The new term begins on Monday 13 September at 7.30pm (The Catechism of the Catholic Church) or on Wednesday 15 September at 7.00pm (Scripture-The Big Picture). Please do take this new opportunity to join us. Further workshops are available throughout the Diocese. More information can be obtained from Deborah at: Deborah.vanKroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk

Made for Mission – Dr Maria Heath

Saturday 11 September 11.30am – 12.30pm via Zoom. After the great success of Michael Dopp's talk to our diocese earlier this year, we are delighted to announce that Maria Heath who is Chair- person for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal England and Wales has agreed to share her wealth of experience in working with the Holy Spirit as her guide in evangelisation. Dr. Maria Heath (Coordinator CNSC England) has been actively involved in the Church and Catholic Charismatic Renewal for 25 years. Maria is passionate about evangelisation and holds a Doctorate, exploring how parishes can become more missionary. A gifted speaker, she communicates the gospel in inspiring and practical ways, seeking to encourage others in their call to evangelise. Maria works part time as a Pastoral Parish Worker. In her free time, she enjoys all things Italian with friends and family. Maria lives in Northampton with her husband Alex and their five children, aged 2-17. To register for this FREE event, please visit <u>https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/made-for-mission-dr-maria-heath-chair-catholic-charismatic-renewal-uk-tickets-168248978223</u>

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.

CTaX Christians Together Across Exeter

The parish regularly receives news from CTaX, some of which is shared with you through our newsletter. It would be appreciated if someone in our parish would like to represent us at their regular meetings and let them know what is happening in Catholic Exeter. If anyone would like to do this please contact Lesley in the Parish Office by phone or email 01392 274724 <u>exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk</u> Thank you.

Season of Creation

From Wednesday I_{st} until Thursday I_{6th} September, St Petrock's Church, Exeter High Street, will feature informative displays with action points including for the Climate Crisis and other issues. Open $I_{0.00am} - 4.00pm$ daily.

Afghan Refugees: How we can help

As people arrive in the UK seeking refuge, there are lots of opportunities for people to get involved such as offering vacant properties and housing for refugees, as well as community and cultural activities, English language support and other options. Donations – specifically baby equipment, clothes and homeware – are also being welcomed in some areas.

Councils are leading on resettling families and those who want to help can search their postcode on this website, to find the specific help their council is looking for. Donations Organisations which are seeking clothing and other material support include Refugee Support Devon. The charity has collection points around the UK for donations, which are sorted according to the number and age of people in nearby hotels. It particularly wants good quality shoes and coats for adults and children, baby buggies and baby carriers and unlocked smartphones.

The Arc Plymouth https://www.thearcplymouth.co.uk/afghan-appeal-donations - Their collection is currently on hold due to the high number of donations received. Many donation points have already received more items than they can store, so please check first before taking items.

Housing Councils are looking for self-contained flats or houses, available on an openended/rolling lease and with rent affordable within the Local Housing Allowance for the relevant area and size of property. They favour properties in larger towns rather than rural locations, to minimise the risk of isolation. Any landlords who would consider letting to a refugee family are invited to contact their local council who will put them in touch with the relevant district council, who can go into more detail about tenancies etc. The contact details for Devon are

corpor.refugeeresettlementmailbox@devon.gov.uk; The contact details for Plymouth are houseletenquiries@plymouth.gov.uk

Cash Donations. The Refugee Council has an appeal to help Afghans resettling in the UK. The British Red Cross is appealing for donations and is already supporting hundreds of people newly arrived from Afghanistan.

Community Sponsorship There may be the opportunity for community sponsorship, which allows parishes to welcome a family. Community sponsors provide housing for the refugees and support them in integrating into life in the UK. They help to arrange access to medical and social services, English language tuition and support towards employment and self-sufficiency.

Quorum Concert for Exeter Foodbank

St Stephen's Church, Exeter High Street 1.00pm Thursday 9 September For more info contact ctaxexeter@gmail.com

Heritage Open Days Weekend

Saturday 11th – Sunday 12th September

Venues across the city, including Exeter Cathedral & St Michael's Mount Dinham Churches across the city will participate in Heritage Open Days 2021, with music, history talks, cream teas, and much more. More information <u>here</u>

Nina Savicevic Piano Concert

St Stephen's Church, Exeter High Street 1.00pm Thursday 16th September More info contact ctaxexeter@gmail.com





Green Event Ideas for how we can live more

sustainably 10am to 2pm Saturday 11 September 2021 Vegetarian Lunch £5

Co Cars and Bikes

Wildlife talk

Becoming an Eco church

Greening the church

Churchyard Changes & Plans

Churchyard tours

Mending & making things - Knit & Natter

Tea, Coffee and cakes

Traidcraft stall

Harvest produce

Participation table - bring your own ideas

Children's activities

Helping hedgehogs

Exeter Cycling Campaign

Re-using & Recycling tools

Mass Times

Sunday 5 September 23rd in Ordinary Time 8.45am 10.45am People of the Parish 6.00pm Sammon - in appreciation

Tuesday 7 September 6.30pm Harold Holding RIP

Wednesday 8 September 9.30am Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary In thanksgiving for the safe delivery

Thursday 9 September 9.30am Thanyika's parents

of a baby

Friday 10 September 6.30pm

Saturday 11 September 9.30am Thanyika's parents

Sunday 12 September 24th in Ordinary Time

8.45am 10.45am *Mo Flavin RIP* 6.00pm People of the Parish

Monday 13 September 6.30pm St John Chrysostom Bishop & Doctor

Tuesday 14 September 6.30pm The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Wednesday 15 September 9.30am Our Lady of Sorrows

Thursday 16 September 9.30am St Cornelius Pope & Martyr St Cyprian Bishop & Martyr Sandy Kent RIP

Friday 17 September 6.30pm

Saturday 18 September 9.30am

The Word

Sunday 5 September

First Reading Isaiah 35:4-7 The ears of the deaf shall be unsealed and the tongues of the dumb shall be loosed.

Psalm Response My soul, give praise to the Lord.

Second Reading St James 2:1-5 God chose the poor to be the heirs to the kingdom.

Gospel Mark 7:31-37 He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

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.

Blessed Sacrament Live

10.45am Mass on Sunday and most weekday Masses will be streamed live on the <u>Parish YouTube channel.</u>



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@stncs.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 <u>https://www.cbcew.org.uk/</u>

Churches Together

Exeter:

<u>https://ctax.chessck.co.uk/Comingup</u> Devon: News is available <u>here</u>. England: News is available <u>here</u>.