



BLESSED SACRAMENT

# PARISH NEWS

23 January 2022. Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year C



## The text is being fulfilled today

After our brief excursion last week into Saint John's Gospel, we are back on track this week with Saint Luke - whom we will follow for the rest of the year. Today is about beginnings: the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. It begins with the Word of God, in the synagogue. Jesus reads from the Old Testament, as we do every Sunday, and tells the people that it is fulfilled in him. Everything that God has said to his people, through his prophets, comes together in Jesus, the Incarnate Word of God. Today is an ideal Sunday to think about the ministry of reader - about how as readers we make present the same fulfillment, Jesus, when we read the word of God in our churches.

# Sunday of the Word of God - 23 January

For our openness to the Word so that we may hear God speaking to us today. For all called to proclaim the word; that they may communicate God's message to all.

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022

**18 - 25 January.** The theme of this year's WPCU is "We Saw His Star in the East". From Monday 17 – Sunday 30 January Exeter Prays: Collective city-wide prayer, around the week of prayer for Christian Unity.

**Sunday 23 January** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity United Service 7.00pm at Wonford Methodist Church. A prayer evening to mark the global Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Gather with Christians from across the city to pray for the work of the Church in our communities.

## Healing and Thanksgiving Pilgrimage to Holy Land

The planned Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Bishop Mark, originally scheduled for March this year, has been postponed to later this year. The new dates are **30 October to 10 November**, when hopefully conditions for travelling will be much easier for us all. It will include a full programme of visits to the Holy Sites and staying in excellent Christian accommodation in the hills of Samaria and Judea, and closing with three nights at the Sea of Galilee. Places are limited, but to register your interest and for further detail please contact Della Shenton on [della@5gr.org](mailto:della@5gr.org).

## Clothes Collection for Refugees

The Student Action for Refugees (STAR), All Hands Together and Save the Children, groups at the University of Exeter are doing a clothes collection drive for refugees over these winter months. Any donations would be amazing, and no donation is too small. We will be collecting: - Clothes (Men's clothes urgently needed) - Coats - Hats, scarves, gloves - Brand new underwear/socks with tags - Shoes (no high heels) - Sleeping bags and mats - Tents - Blankets - Nappies (size 4-7 only) - Toiletries - Towels - Backpacks - Torches (with batteries) - Small camping stoves - Smart phones and chargers (with UK-EU adaptor) - Power banks (with UK-EU adaptor) No bedding or stained/damaged items. A collection has been arranged from Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday 1 February. Donations to be left at the Parish Office during opening hours.

## Diocese of Plymouth - Walking Together

Lots of feedback from parish groups on our Synodal journey has been received but we would love to hear more from those who did not participate in a group. There is a short online survey which can be completed anonymously [here](#). Please share this link with family and friends. Synodal Journey newsletter updates can be found [here](#)

## Retrouvaille Marriage Support

Covid 19—a very challenging time for many marriages. So much uncertainty around health, income, employment, vulnerable family members, children, housing. Different ways of seeing things, coping with change, managing fears can be a source of conflict and stress. It can be difficult to talk, to listen to support and comfort when there is so much uncertainty. Being together all the time, brings different challenges. You wonder would we be better apart? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples, it brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage ...and you don't need to leave home, it comes to you! For confidential information about Retrouvaille', or to register for the next programme, a Virtual weekend commencing 3 – 6 March call or text +44 788 729 6983.

Email: [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.org](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.org) – or visit [www.retrouvaille.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.uk)

## Diocese of Plymouth vacancy

The Diocese of Plymouth is looking to appoint the following position.

**Tribunal & Chancery Administrator (part time)** – 1 post

Location: St Boniface House near Ashburton Devon with some home-working

Salary: £11.39 per hour (Actual Salary - £7,107.36 per annum) plus contributory

pension scheme (subject to eligibility) Hours: 12 hours per week

Under the direction of the Judicial Vicar/Chancellor, the Tribunal & Chancery Administrator is responsible for the effective administration of the Tribunal & Chancery Office and the overseeing of the processing of cases/Chancery matters in conjunction with the instructing judges/Chancellor. Good administration, Microsoft Office skills and a degree of flexibility is essential.

Copies of the job description and application form are obtainable from the Human Resources Department on 01364 645383 or email [recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk).

Applications are by application form and covering letter. Closing date for applications is Mon. 31 January and interviews will be held on Wed. 9 February

## Homelessness Sunday

CTAX annual Homelessness Sunday service, with a chance to meet the new Director of St Petrock's, Peter Stephenson, is being held on Sunday 30 January at 4.00pm at St Petrock's Church

## Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

Wednesday word meets online via zoom from 2.00-3.00pm. 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.

# St Nick's News

Our Year 1/2 children had a fun morning last week finding out all about the school dog, Alfie the cavapoo, for a science project. They met him with his owner, Mrs Brocksom, and they asked lots of questions such as whether he has brothers or sisters (5 brothers), what his fur feels like (soft and curly), whether he is good (very) and what food he likes best (anything!). They discussed what his toys, lead and food bowls are made of and why so that they could then go back to class and design a toy for him.

Our Year 4 children are looking forward to their residential trip to Heatree for lots of outdoor activities at the start of February. If it is cold they have been promised lots of hot chocolate! We are also planning the Year 2 sleepover in school soon. It is lovely that we are able to start to offer these fun experiences to the children again after such a hard few years.

To find out about joining our school community (Nursery to Year 6) please contact Mrs Brocksom ([abrocksom@stnics.uk](mailto:abrocksom@stnics.uk))

## Youth Events in the diocese



### Synodal Journey -Walking together

We are aware that some of our youth have not had a chance to share their thoughts on the synodal journey.

**Saskia is offering a ZOOM session on Monday 24 January at 7.00pm.** This is aimed at any young person 11-17 year olds. Please encourage all young people to sign up. For the ZOOM link email: Saskia: [youth@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:youth@prcdtr.org.uk)

We are starting to plan the 2023 trip to **World Youth Day**.

**Rise Theatre** are starting their travels around the diocese. The next event will be in Plymouth. Anyone from across the diocese may attend any of the Rise Theatre events. The plan is to reach, Newquay in February and Exeter and Torquay in March. Don't forget to encourage any young adults (18+) to join the **young adults group**. There are online groups encouraging all across the diocese to join in prayer meetings including a weekly rosary group.

Lastly, there are still places at the **Heatree residential** if you know of any young people that would like to sign up. The deadline for the deposit is at the end of this week but I am happy to accept late bookings. Bless Youth Ministry. Saskia

# We commend to the Lord...

Muriel Kimberley who died recently. A funeral Mass will be celebrated for the repose of her soul on Thursday 3 February at 9.30am at Blessed Sacrament Church. All welcome. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

## Pope's January prayer intention

For true human fraternity: We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

See also the Popes' video [here](#)

## Caritas Plymouth

Tuesday 8 February - Refugees and Migrants. On the Feast of St Bakhita, you are invited to join Caritas Plymouth from 5.00 till 6.00pm for an hour of prayer, reflection and discussion on the challenges facing migrants and refugees and the opportunity to take action, including through community sponsorship. This is a free online event. You can register via this link [here](#) or by email [caritas@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:caritas@prcdtr.org.uk).

## Catholic Exeter Forming in Faith

The next sessions are on Monday 31 January 10.30am–12.30pm at Sacred Heart and Tuesday 1 February 7.00–9.00pm at Blessed Sacrament. We're watching and discussing films from Bishop Robert Barron's 'CATHOLICISM' series. Our next session is Lesson 7: Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven, the mystery of the Liturgy and the Eucharist. To join us on this journey of discovery or simply to find out more, register by clicking the link [here](#) or come along.

## Exeter Street Pastors

Here to... Listen, Care & Help. What we do: Work with the Night-Time Economy enabling people to have a safe and Enjoyable evening. Be the presence of God on the streets of Exeter. Exeter Street Pastors started in 2009 and currently have approximately 60 trained volunteers from over 30 different churches. We can be found out and about in Exeter city centre one Friday and every Saturday night between 10.30pm and 2.30am. What we provide: ♦ A listening ear ♦ A Calming and prayerful presence ♦ Flip-flops, water, First aid, lollipops.

Are you a Christian, over 18, and have a heart to serve as Jesus' hands and feet on the street of Exeter? Training of this year's intake of Exeter Street Pastors begins Monday 7 March – sign up now for your place, or share widely to help this great ministry recruit it's team for this year. For details contact: [admin.exeter@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:admin.exeter@streetpastors.org.uk)

# GIFT Growing In Faith Together

## January Update

GIFT Families gathered together on Saturday 8 January to explore the meaning of the feast of the Epiphany, to celebrate Mass and to socialise. Families considered their own personal gifts that they have to offer Jesus and to the service of others. Our 19 January parents zoom meeting will meet to explore and discuss the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand.

## 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

## Next Meetings

Wednesday 19 January: Parent zoom call

Saturday 5 February: Families Session at St Nicholas School

**Bedtime Chats** Blessed Sacrament Website [GIFT Bedtime Chats](#)

**Get in Touch** with Maria at [exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk).

**Register** for GIFT by clicking [this link](#).

## Could you be a GIFT to our parish?

Are you a parent or grandparent who have done – or are still doing - your best to pass on your faith to your family (regardless of the outcome)?

Are you a single person who is faithful and committed to your faith and to the Church, but don't necessarily have all the answers?

Then you're just who we're looking for!

It has been said that 'faith is caught, not taught'. Think of how you came to faith, the people who you 'caught' it from. But faith, once it's caught, also needs to be taught – and that's where you come in.

We need help passing on the faith to our young, and not so young. We need people just like you who could support families and individuals to grow in their faith. We don't need experts, we need ordinary, faithful Catholics who are willing to give up some of their time to take part in this important work. It's unpaid (!) but the rewards are immense. It's tiring, but then nothing was ever achieved without a bit of hard work. More importantly, it's cooperating with the Holy Spirit to bring others, just like you, to a deeper understanding of the place of God in our lives and the beauty of faith. And, to be frank, we can't do it without you!

Please get in touch with Fr Jonathan at the parish office to let him know you're prepared to help. You'll join a brilliant team and be given lots of support. Thank you.

## Pope Francis tweets...

Praying together for one another and cooperating in charity with one another for the sake of this world which God loves so much: this is the most concrete route to full unity

## Big Exeter Sleep Out

The Big Exeter Sleep-Out is open for registrations!

Your help and support are vital to the most vulnerable in the region.

You are invited to join us at this year's event and help by joining the challenge and raise awareness and funds for rough sleepers and vulnerable adults and homelessness in Exeter and Devon. It's a grim realisation that without support like ours, the life expectancy of a long-term homeless person is just 45 years!

For this year's event, upon registering, you can choose where you would like to sleep-out. Whether it is joining the Julian House team and others in St James Park Stadium in Exeter for the night or joining virtually and sleep out at home in your garden, balcony or kitchen floor. We will all be connected by one aim – to raise vital funds to provide safe shelter and support for men and women forced to sleep outside every night.

Please follow the link to register and start your own challenge Big Exeter Sleep-Out | Julian House | Homeless Charity | Devon or contact Daffne Zamudio directly if you have any enquiries [bigexetersleepout@julianhouse.org.uk](mailto:bigexetersleepout@julianhouse.org.uk) or check out <https://www.julianhouse.org.uk/support-us/events/big-exeter-sleep/> for more information.

## New parishioners

Do you know anyone who is new to Blessed Sacrament parish? If they haven't already done so, please ask them to look on our website and complete a Parish Registration form and submit it. This also applies if you have been here for a while but not yet completed a form. It is good for us to know something about you and to be able to keep you updated with things happening in the parish. Forms are also available from the Parish Office. Thank you.

## Mass intentions

If you would like a Mass said for a particular intention, for someone who is ill or a loved one who has died, in thanksgiving for an answer to prayer or perhaps something personal please contact the Parish Office and we'll 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.

# Exeter Foodbank - January

The January priority items are: Sponge puddings, Fray Bentos Pies, Tinned Meat, Sugar, Custard, Coffee (small jars), Long Life Milk and Fruit Juice.

Please ONLY donate items from the list. Thank you for your understanding.

Collection Points - Co-Op (Heavitree/St Thomas); Tesco (Exe Vale); Sainsbury's Alphington/Pinhoe/Guildhall); Waitrose (Gladstone Rd). Or you can donate money online [here](#). The Food Bank is feeding approximately 333 people a week at present.

## Exeter Prays for...

**Pray 4 Exeter** Tuesday 25 January (and the fourth Tuesday of every month)

10.00-11.00am On Zoom - contact [ctaxexeter@gmail.com](mailto:ctaxexeter@gmail.com) for the link

Monthly prayer meeting for the city, region and nation.

**Pray for YMCA Exeter** Thursday 27 January (and the last Thursday of every month)

11.30am-12.30pm At St David's Church Exeter EX4 4HR. Join others to pray for the work of YMCA Exeter across the city (from Broadclyst to Exwick, Sowton and the city centre, and much more), their staff, and the residents and young people they support. In the previous months of prayer, we've already seen situations shift and clear interventions by God. Email [ctaxexeter@gmail.com](mailto:ctaxexeter@gmail.com) for more info.

**Pray for Exeter Street Pastors** Monday 14 February (and second Monday of every month) 7.30-9.00pm. Our monthly prayer meeting for Exeter Street Pastors.

Do get in touch with [ctaxexeter@gmail.com](mailto:ctaxexeter@gmail.com) if you would like to join others praying for the ministry of Exeter Street Pastors.

## Music Session at St David's Church



Sunday 13 February  
4.00pm at St David's  
Church EX4 4HR,  
Traditional hymns,  
fresh sounds,  
contemporary  
praise and worship  
music. With praise  
bands and musicians  
from churches  
across the city.  
Bring churchmates  
and non-Christian  
friends! Get in touch

on [ctaxexeter@gmail.com](mailto:ctaxexeter@gmail.com) if you would like to join the performers.



# Christian Resources Exhibition

Wednesday 23 – Thursday 24 February CRE South West at Westpoint, EX5 1DJ  
The Christian Resources Exhibition is coming to Exeter's Westpoint ground again!  
This two-day event is the nearest the Church has to a trade show - it is a great place to find out about resources for churches, meet other Christians from our area and be inspired for mission and ministry. More info [here](#)

## SAINTS OF THE WEEK...

24 January St Francis de Sales (1567 - 1622)

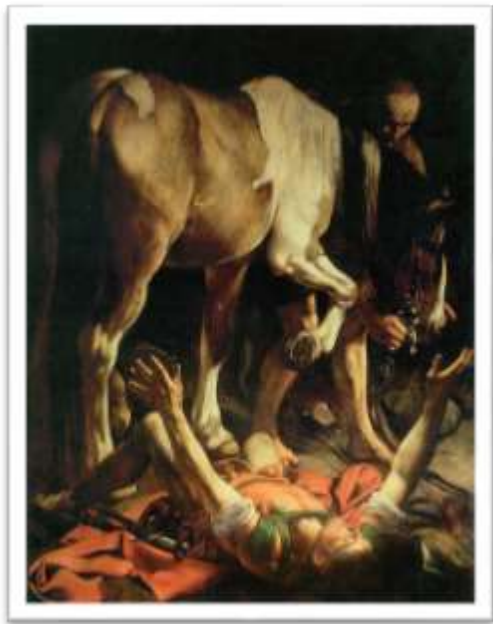


He was born near Annecy, in Savoy, studied the law, and was ordained to the priesthood despite the opposition of his father. His first mission was to re-evangelize the people of his home district who had gone over to Calvinism. Always in danger of his life from hostile Calvinists, he preached with such effectiveness that after four years most of the people had returned to the Church. He was then appointed bishop of Geneva, and spent the rest of his life reforming and reorganising the diocese, and in caring for

the souls of his people by preaching and spiritual guidance. St Francis taught that we can all attain a devout and spiritual life, whatever our position in society: holiness is not reserved for monks and hermits alone. He wrote that “religious devotion does not destroy: it perfects,” and his spiritual counsel is dedicated to making people more holy by making them more themselves. In his preaching against Calvinism he was driven by love rather than a desire to win: so much so, that it was a Calvinist minister who said “if we honoured anyone as a saint, I know of no-one since the days of the Apostles more worthy of it than this man.”

St Francis is the patron saint of writers and journalists.

## 25 January Conversion of St Paul



Saul, the young man who looked after the cloaks of the men who were stoning St Stephen, grew into a dedicated and efficient persecutor of Christians. Today's feast celebrates the day that Christ appeared to him in a vision as he was on the way to Damascus, reproached him for his persecutions and converted him to the true faith. This painting by Caravaggio shows the very moment Saul is thrown to the ground. He reaches up in amazement as the light shines upon him.

## 26 January St Timothy & St Titus

Timothy and Titus were converted to Christianity by St Paul, and became his companions and helpers. Paul entrusted Timothy with the care of the Christians in Ephesus, and sent Titus to Crete to look after the Christians there. He wrote them the so-called "pastoral" epistles, giving advice for pastors and people alike.



# Mass Times

## Sunday 23 January

*Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*Sunday of the Word of God*

8.45am

10.45am *Pat Stewart RIP*

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

## Tuesday 25 January 6.30pm

*Conversion of St Paul*

## Wednesday 26 January 9.30am

*Ss Timothy & Titus, Bishops*

## Thursday 27 January 9.30am

## Friday 28 January 6.30pm

*Anniversary of the Ordination of  
Bishop Mark O'Toole*

## Saturday 29 January 9.30am

## Sunday 30 January

*Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am

6.00pm

## Tuesday 1 February 6.30pm

## Wednesday 2 February 9.30am

*The Presentation of the Lord*

## Thursday 3 February 9.30am

*Funeral Mass Muriel Kimberley RIP*

## Friday 4 January 6.30pm

## Saturday 29 January 9.30am

*St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr*

# The Word

## Sunday 23 January

**First Reading Nehemiah 8:2-6.8-10**

*Ezra read from the law of God and the people understood what was read.*

**Psalm Response**

Your words are spirit, Lord,  
and they are life

**Second Reading**

**I Corinthians 12:12-30**

*You together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.*

**Gospel Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21**

*This text is being fulfilled today*

## Sunday 30 January

**First Reading Jeremiah 1:4-5.17-19**

*I have appointed you as prophet to the nations*

**Psalm Response**

My lips will tell of your help

**Second Reading**

**I Corinthians 12:31-13:13**

*There are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.*

**Gospel Luke 4:21-30**

*Like Elijah and Elisha, Jesus is not sent to the Jews only*



Blessed Sacrament Parish is  
part of the Roman Catholic  
Diocese of Plymouth

## 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*

### Safeguarding Reps

*Lesley Hooper & Maria Edwards*

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

*Cathy Lowry*

### Blessed Sacrament Live

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

**Deadline for newsletter items 10.00am Thursday.**

## 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 or calling 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 by dialing 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 [here](#)

### Churches Together

Devon News [here](#)

Exeter news [here](#)

England News [here](#).