



BLESSED SACRAMENT

# PARISH NEWS

16 January 2022. Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year C

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This was the first of the signs given by Jesus; it was given at Cana in Galilee.

The Gospel of this second Sunday of Ordinary Time continues the theme of the end of Christmas - revelation. Jesus is re-vealed to the world by his birth, by his baptism, and by his miracles - the "signs" as John calls them. The wedding in today's Gospel is interpreted in many ways: today, reading the Gospel with the First Reading in mind, we can see it as an image of the way in which God is so close to his people, it is as though he is married to them. Thus Jesus, the spouse of the people, shows God's close-ness by revealing his glory in this miracle.



## Peace Sunday 16 January

Peace Sunday follows the international World Day of Peace and is celebrated in the parishes of England and Wales on the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time. In 2022 this falls today, 16 January. This year Pope Francis asks us to think about 'Education, work and dialogue between generations: tools for building lasting peace'.

The need for peace in the world is obvious. People are struggling against violence and conflict, growing inequalities, the effects of climate change and the covid pandemic. How can we harness the

gifts and energy of all generations in the work of peacemaking? Which 'tools for building lasting peace' do you think Pope Francis might be talking about?

Pax Christi, the international Catholic movement for peace, takes the lead in providing resources for Peace Sunday.

Its National President, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon of Liverpool, says: "This year has been one of unprecedented and continuing challenges. We are all conscious of the need to restore and rebuild our communities here and around the world, accepting that we need new ways of working and relating to each other. "The Christian message of peace, through reconciliation, justice and nonviolence, can offer hope and direction in these times."

Pax Christi does a great deal of good work to promote peace and nonviolence through parishes, schools and social media. Their website suggests many ways we can all become better peacemakers. Pax Christi needs our support to keep going. If you'd like to make a donation [here](#) is the link. If you'd like your personal donation to be counted towards the parish contribution please give our parish name and town in the 'Additional Information – Order Notes' box on the checkout page. Or send a cheque made payable to 'Pax Christi' to: Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, London NW4 4TY Tel: 0208 203 4884

*O God of peace, who are peace itself and whom a spirit of discord cannot grasp, nor a violent mind receive, grant that those who are one in heart may persevere in what is good and that those in conflict may forget evil and so be healed. Amen*

# Cardinal Vincent Nichols reflects on the virtues of faith, hope and charity for 2022

As a new year dawns, we look for hope. Surely this next year can't be as bad as the one to which we've said 'goodbye'?

There are two versions of hope worth pondering. One is that hope comes when we can look forward to an uncertain future from the basis of a secure present. The unknown prospects of what is to come do not cause us too much anxiety because we are well equipped to face them – individually and as a society. This is the pragmatic version of the virtue of hope

The second version is a reverse image of the first. Hope is the capacity to face an uncertain present on the basis of an utterly secure future. No matter what happens today or tomorrow, the long-term future is secure because it is promised by something beyond the ebbs and flows of 'outrageous fortune'. This is the Christian virtue of hope, founded on the promises of God made visible in Jesus, the Christ, whose coming we are celebrating.

These two versions stand on either edge of the stage of life, summoning us to decide where to put our trust. They clarify the fundamental options. The choice we make establishes the direction in which we look, the foundation on which we shape our lives.

But there is a great deal of 'middle ground', in which our daily activity takes place. Prudence demands that we make provision now for future eventualities: insurance and saving schemes, health provision, all we do in preparation for 'the rainy day'. Charity demands that we act without counting the cost, putting the present needs of others way ahead of our own current security, acting in a self-sacrificing manner, even going as far as making a gift of our very life itself. This is the story of every true love, told and illustrated again and again, constantly transforming the drama of human living.

Such charity points to its deepest roots, in the promise of a secure and totally fulfilling future in the presence of God for ever. This is the hope given by the Christian faith and enacted in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. This hope puts a radically new perspective on today and the days to come, no matter what they bring. This future is secured. Now I can act, in any set of circumstance, with a freedom and generosity which flows forcefully from that promise. This is what saints do.

But we must remember that we constantly see the astonishing goodness, devotion, perseverance and practical wisdom of so many people, made even more evident during the hardships of this last year.

As we start a new year, we may well ponder why it is that so many people act in such generous ways. I firmly believe that it is the promptings of the Holy Spirit, that flow of love pouring out of God, that lies as the deepest source of this service. It goes beyond self-interest. It is seeking a future beyond the securities of the present, for they have been shaken. It is the privilege of faith to identify and highlight the well-spring of this goodness: the radical hope given in the promises of God.

It is also the source of our joy and the best reason for wishing each other a happy New Year.

### **Cardinal Vincent Nichols**

*President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales*

## **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

## **Diocese of Plymouth - Walking Together**

We have been receiving lots of feedback from parish groups on our Synodal journey but would love to hear more from those who may not be able to or wish to participate in a group. There is a short online survey which can be completed anonymously [here](#) . Please share this link with family and friends.

If you want to keep in touch with the Synodal Journey newsletter updates can be found on our website [here](#)

## **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

This week we have welcomed our new Executive Head Teacher, Cathy Lowry who has joined the school. We look forward to getting to know her and working with her. We are also delighted to have welcomed a number of new families in many classes throughout the school this week.

Any families wishing to have a tour of the school or to find out more about places from Nursery to Year 6 please contact Mrs Brocksom ([abrocksom@stncls.uk](mailto:abrocksom@stncls.uk)).

## Youth Events

### 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 25 January at 7.00pm through ZOOM. 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.

Youth Events are not only aimed at the young people active in the church, it aims to reach out to those linked to our parish communities.

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

## Parent & Toddler Group

At the moment, due to covid restrictions, the numbers attending the toddler group are limited and they are up to capacity at this time. However if you are interested in attending the group in the future you can be placed on a waiting list. To do this please email [blessedsacramenttoddlergroup@gmail.com](mailto:blessedsacramenttoddlergroup@gmail.com)

## 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

A Happy New Year from Caritas Plymouth who have two upcoming online events:

### Tuesday 18 January 6.00-7.00pm Homelessness

Caritas Plymouth is running an online event on homelessness on the 18 January in partnership with St Petrocs, Cornwall. The event will be led by Canon John Deeny.

There are still places available for this event and everyone is warmly welcome to attend. The event will reflect on homelessness in our Diocese and what practical actions we can take to reach out to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. If you can join us for an hour of prayer, reflection and practical advice to reach out to those who are homeless, please register

here: <https://forms.office.com/r/NkUZyhwckf> or email [caritas@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:caritas@prcdtr.org.uk) and

we will send you the Zoom joining instructions. If you know of someone who you think would be interested in joining us, please send these details to them.

### Tuesday 8 February Refugees and Migrants

On the Feast of St Bakhita, all 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 <https://forms.office.com/r/K3uz5LLY2X> or by emailing [caritas@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:caritas@prcdtr.org.uk).

To see the January Caritas newsletter click [here](#)

## Catholic Exeter Forming in Faith

The next sessions are on Monday 17 January 10.30am–12.30pm at Sacred Heart and Tuesday 18 January 7.00–9.00pm at Blessed Sacrament. The sessions will be the same, it's the day, time and venue that are different. We're watching and discussing films from Bishop Robert Barron's 'CATHOLICISM' series. Our next session is Lesson 6: A body both suffering and glorious – the Mystical Union of Christ and the Church. 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? If so we start training on Monday 7th March 2022. For more information and an application form please email [admin.exeter@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:admin.exeter@streetpastors.org.uk) 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. Contact [admin.exeter@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:admin.exeter@streetpastors.org.uk) for details.

## 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". Resources have been prepared by churches in the Middle East and can be found [here](#). From Monday 17 – Sunday 30 January Exeter Prays: Collective city-wide prayer, around the week of prayer for Christian Unity. There will be 14 leaders guiding a daily devotional video prayer being distributed online and through social media, such as Exeter Prays on YouTube and Facebook.

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.

## Pope Francis tweets...

To really know people, we need to recognize them and recognize that each of them bears the inviolable beauty of a son or daughter of God, a reflection of the Creator's image.

## 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.

# 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.



# 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.

# The Universe Catholic Weekly

We have launched our new on line newspaper Order **your Digital** copy by going to [www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk](http://www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk) or call us on 0743661 7650 and ask for Michelle. Special offer: Only £20 for 3 months.

# New parishioners

Do you know anyone who is new to Blessed Sacrament parish? If they haven't already done so, please ask them to contact the parish office and a registration form can be sent to them which should be returned to the office once completed. 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. 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.

# SAINTS OF THE WEEK...



## 17 January St Anthony (251-356) Abbott

St Anthony is the originator of the monastic life. He was born in Egypt: when his parents died, he listened to the words of the Gospel and gave all his belongings to the poor. He went out into the wilderness to begin a life of penitence, living in absolute poverty, praying, meditating, and supporting himself by manual work. He suffered many temptations, both physical and spiritual, but he overcame them. Disciples gathered round him, attracted by his wisdom, moderation, and holiness. He lived to be over a hundred years old.



## 21 January St Agnes Virgin & Martyr

As with so many of the early Roman martyrs, very little is now known about Agnes' life. Partly this is because the details have been obscured by the light that shines from her martyrdom and the cult that it inspired, and partly because if you are martyred at the age of 12, your life has not really acquired that many details in any case. Agnes was filled with the love of God from an early age, vowed herself to celibacy, and when the opportunity of martyrdom arose, she did not hide away but stepped forward

and took it. That is really all that is known: but it is enough. We who are used to compromising with the world at every turn, and would find excuses to avoid any inconveniences that our faith might cause us, let alone martyrdom ("yes, of course I would die for my faith *in principle*, but wouldn't I be able to do more good in the long run if I stayed alive just now?"), should admire the simple wisdom of Agnes, realise that there are moments where compromise and moral ambiguity just will not do, and pray for the strength to live up to such moments when they happen.

# Mass Times

## Sunday 16 January

*Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*Peace Sunday*

8.45am

10.45am *People of the Parish*

6.00pm

Tuesday 18 January 6.30pm

Wednesday 19 January 9.30am

Thursday 20 January 9.30am

Friday 21 January 6.30pm

St Agnes Virgin & Martyr

Saturday 22 January 9.30am

*Emma Louise Bullous RIP*

## 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

St Timothy Bishop & St Titus Bishop

Thursday 27 January 9.30am

Friday 28 January 6.30pm

Anniversary of the Ordination of  
Bishop Mark O'Toole

Saturday 29 January 9.30am

# The Word

## Sunday 16 January

First Reading Isaiah 62:1-5

*The bridegroom rejoices in his bride.*

Psalm Response

Proclaim the wonders of the Lord  
among all the peoples.

Second Reading Corinthians 12:4-11

*One and the same spirit, who distributes gifts  
to different people just as he chooses.*

Gospel John 2:1-11

*This was the first of the signs given by Jesus:  
it was given at Cana in Galilee*

## Sunday 23 January

First Reading Nehemiah 8:P2-6.8-10

*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.*



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](#).