

CATHOLIC EXETER



Parishes of Blessed Sacrament and Sacred Heart

25 December 2022 The Nativity of the Lord. Year A. *Psalter I*



Today, God has fulfilled his promise by his Word becoming flesh through the virgin Mary, to prove how much He loves his chosen people and the entire humanity who have chosen to live in the darkness of sin. By the Incarnation, God revealed the fullness of His divinity in Christ. Indeed, the Good News of love, peace, charity, and happiness is among us. Above all, it is the Good News of life and everlasting salvation.

All those, who have waited faithfully, patiently, and vigilantly, during the season of Advent, must raise their voices and shout joyfully because the Lord is now with us - *the Emmanuel*. St. Paul also says that we are the favoured ones to receive the newborn baby into our lives. The Word, which was with the Father as Spirit, is now with us both as flesh as well as Spirit. Hence, while not losing His divinity, God, through Christ his Son, has condescended to become like us. What a great love that God has shown to us, his people! So, let us allow Him to be reborn in our lives during Christmas 2022 and every day of the New Year 2023.

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year, 2023. *Fr Anil*

I January 2023 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God



The title “Mother of God” goes back to the third or fourth century, but the Greek term *Theotokos* (“The God-bearer”) was officially consecrated as Catholic doctrine at the Council of Ephesus in 431, thus becoming the first Marian dogma. At the end of the Council of Ephesus, crowds of people marched through the streets shouting: “Praised be the Theotokos!”

This Catholic doctrine is based on the doctrine of Incarnation, as expressed by St. Paul: “God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law” (Galatians 4:4).

In its chapter on Mary’s role in the Church, Vatican II’s Dogmatic Constitution “*Lumen Gentium*” (“Light of the People”) calls Mary “Mother of God” 12 times.

6 January 2023 The Epiphany of the Lord.

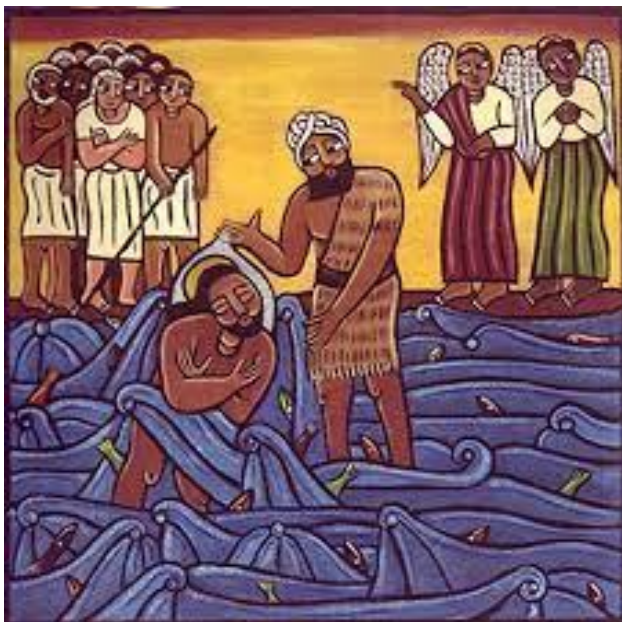


In the East, this Season of Christmas is called the ‘Time of Manifestation’, or Showing. Today is the ‘Feast of the Manifestation’, or the Showing of the Saviour to the whole world, to all nations. In the wise men who travel from the East, we see all the nations other than the people of Israel being

welcomed at the New Temple of the New Covenant - the newborn child in the manger. A look at the Psalm response shows this: "All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord."

The same is true of the key word in the second reading: "Revelation". Remember that for the people of Israel this was to be their Messiah, come to restore their fortunes. By this feast, we proclaim God's plan was to extend his salvation to men and women of every nation, of every time and every place - including us. In many ways this is our Christmas Feast, when we celebrate the Good News of the Saviour's birth revealed at last to us

8 January 2023 The Baptism of the Lord. Year A psalter 2



It may seem strange, but this is a Christmas Feast. Not if we think of Christmas only in terms of the Baby in Bethlehem, but if we have followed the ideas of the Feasts of Holy Family and especially Epiphany, and have seen the Season in terms of the growing manifestation or appearing of the Son of God: first to the shepherds and then to the wise men from the East. Now in the River

Jordan, Jesus, Son of Mary, is revealed to all as the fullness of all God's promises: 'This is my Son, the Beloved'. On this day we stand before the revelation of God's love for us, such that he would send his only Son into the world.

Christmas without the Baptism of the Lord, and the words that are spoken from heaven, would be incomplete, since it is only in them that we fully see the wonder of what happened in Bethlehem, that we fully understand the reason for the joy with which we celebrated Christmas Day. As we come to the end of Christmas today, and look forward to hearing the Gospel in Ordinary Time, we do so having been shown who it is we listen to: the only Son of God, the Beloved.

MASS TIMES SACRED HEART



Sunday 25 December – The Nativity of the Lord

- 5.30pm (Sat) Vigil Mass - *Emma Marras RIP*
11.30pm (Sat) Readings and Carols followed by Midnight Mass
For Peace in our World
9.15am *For the People and the Parish*
11.15am *For Cecilia Wong*

Monday 26 December – St Stephen, Protomartyr

- 10.00am *Private Intention*

Tuesday 27 December – St John, Apostle & Evangelist

- 10.00am *Deceased Family Members of Stephen & Biji RIP*

Wednesday 28 December – The Holy Innocents

- 10.00am *For Elaine Yu (Thanksgiving)*

Thursday 29 December – St Thomas Beckett, Bishop & Martyr

NO MASS

Friday 30 December – Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

- 10.00am *For Families*

Saturday 31 December – Seventh day of the Christmas Octave

NO MASS

Sunday 1 January – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

- 5.30pm (Sat) *For Sean Macgriana*
9.15am *For Fr Kieran Kirby*
11.15am *For the People and the Parish*
5.00-6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

Confessions

This week confession will be available on reasonable request only.

Live stream Mass To access the YouTube stream please [click here.](#)

Refreshments served after Masses on Sunday (9.15am), Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.

Church open for private prayer from 9.00am until 6.00pm each day, except Thursday 29th December.

MASS TIMES SACRED HEART



Sunday 1 January – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

5.30pm (Sat) *For Sean Macgriana*

9.15am *For Fr Kieran Kirby*

11.15am *For the People and the Parish*

5.00-6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

Monday 2 January – Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen. Bishops & Doctors of the Church

10.00am *Alfred Smith RIP*

Tuesday 3 January

10.00am *Holy Souls*

Wednesday 4 January

10.00am *For Ukraine*

Thursday 5 January – Vigil of the Epiphany of the Lord

6.30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

7.00pm *For England*

Friday 6 January – The Epiphany of the Lord – Holy Day of Obligation

10.00am *For Frances, Alfred, Cyril & Maurice Connett*

7.00pm *Polish Mass*

Saturday 7 January

NO MASS

Sunday 8 January – The Baptism of the Lord

5.30pm (Sat) *For the People and the Parish*

9.15am *For Canon Paul Cummins*

11.15am *Holy Souls*

5.00-6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

Confessions Saturday 4-5 p.m. and on reasonable request.

Live stream Mass To access the YouTube stream please [click here.](#)

Refreshments served after Masses on Sunday (9.15am), Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.

Church open for private prayer from 9.00am until 6.00pm each day.

MASS TIMES BLESSED SACRAMENT



Sunday 25 December – The Nativity of the Lord

8.45am *Jack & Peggy Webber RIP*

10.45am *People of the Parish*

Monday 26 December – St Stephen - Protomartyr

9.30am *Altar Servers*

Tuesday 27 December – St John, Apostle & Evangelist

6.30pm *Kathleen Jenkinson RIP*

Wednesday 28 December – The Holy Innocents

9.30am *Adrian Jenkinson RIP*

Thursday 29 December – St Thomas Beckett, Bishop & Martyr

9.30am *Patrick & Christy Glavin RIP*

Friday 30 December – Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

6.30pm *Patricia Cummins RIP*

Saturday 31 December – Seventh day of the Christmas Octave

9.30am *Church Cleaners*

6.00pm *Holy Hour to welcome the New Year*

Sunday 1 January – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

8.45am *Mrs Kelly*

10.45am *Children's Liturgy Catechists*

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

Tuesday 3 January

6.30pm *Mary & Fred Collier RIP*

Wednesday 4 January

9.30am *Flower arrangers*

Thursday 5 January

9.30am *Thursday Lunch Club Helpers*

Friday 6 January – The Epiphany of the Lord

Holy Day of Obligation

9.30am *Olive Morgan RIP*

7.00pm *Stewards/welcomers*

Saturday 7 January

9.30am *Holy Souls*

Sunday 8 January – The Baptism of the Lord

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am *Gift Catechists*

6.00pm *Sick & Housebound*

Confessions

Saturdays after 9.30am Mass and on reasonable request.

Live stream Mass

To access the YouTube stream please [click here](#).

Refreshments

Served after 10.45am Mass on Sunday and 9.30am Mass on Wednesday.

CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME

Christmas Offerings

Envelopes are available at Sacred Heart and Blessed Sacrament for the traditional Christmas offering for our priests.

Crib Offerings support children

Please take time to visit our crib over the Christmas period. The collection will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society as it works across our diocese spreading God's love and giving families hope in times of crisis. Please give what you can afford, it is greatly appreciated by so many children. Thank you. For more information on their work visit www.ccsplymouth.org.uk

Exeter Foodbank

Priority items: Fruit squash, fruit juice, tinned fish, tinned meat, tinned potatoes, tinned vegetables, biscuits, noodle snacks, jams & spreads, custard, sponge puddings, 500g coffee jars, household items (washing up liquid, washing capsules etc.). Collection points at Sacred Heart and Blessed Sacrament churches.

Free lunch for the over 50's

Christmas Day at the Salvation Army Temple, Friars Walk, EX2 4AY [to book use this link](#)

FORMING IN FAITH

Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

We will be taking a break and will meet again on 4 January 2023 2.00-3.00pm. If you would like to join us then, get in touch with Maria: exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk. Come whenever you can, you will be most welcome.

Forming in Faith

The next session is on **Monday 16 January 10.30am – 12.30pm at Sacred Heart. Tuesday 17 January 7.00 – 9.00pm at Blessed Sacrament**. All are welcome.

Preparing for Baptism

Are you expecting a baby and/or looking to have your child baptised? We look forward to supporting you in preparation for this important sacrament and welcoming you and your family into the community of the Church. We meet over two consecutive Saturday mornings from 10.15-12.15 via Zoom.

2023 dates: **21 & 28 January**, 15 & 22 April, 15 & 22 July, and 14 & 21 October.

Godparents are especially welcome to attend the second Saturday session as the role of Godparents is explored. Click the Enquiry Form link at the end of this article to register. If you have any problems accessing this, contact Lesley on 01392 274724 or exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk. We are now taking bookings for January 2023. [Baptism Enquiry Form](#)

Dipping into the Catechism [Click here for January sheets](#)

GIFT: Gateway to the Sacraments

GIFT is for all families of faith who want to learn about their Catholic faith, meet other families and be supported in their family faith journey. GIFT is the gateway to the sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation. Find out more on the Blessed Sacrament Website GIFT page: [Click Here](#)

Next GIFT Meeting: Saturday 7 January 2023

Get in Touch and Register If you would like to join us, please register using the appropriate link: GIFT Primary [Registration Form](#) and GIFT Youth [Registration Form](#) If you have any questions, please get in touch with Maria exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

YOUTH

Flame 2023

Join Youth Events at Wembley Stadium on Saturday 4 March 2023. Tickets are £35 which include entry and travel to Wembley. Coaches will pick up from locations in Dorset and Devon. It's a great chance to hear from speakers like Robert Bilott, singer/ songwriter Adenike and award winner Guvna B. This is the largest Catholic gathering in England and Wales. This is for those aged 14 to 21. To book [please use this form](#) or contact Saskia or Michelle by emailing youth@prcdtr.org.uk

World Youth Day in Lisbon August 2023

If you would like to sponsor a youngster to experience all that World Youth Day has to offer for further information on how you can do this please [click here](#)

NEWS & EVENTS

Synodal Journey – A conversation about safeguarding online event

Many of you will have been involved in the synodal process, and we know from the feedback both locally and nationally that many significant questions and issues were raised around safeguarding, ranging from disappointment and concern over past events, the impact on both individuals and the reputation of the Church, as well as concern over what needs to be done in the future. More recently we have seen the release of the final report from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). This highlighted the terrible and damaging impact on children and families caused by abusers. However, both locally and nationally there is a great deal of work to make our churches safe places for everyone and to provide support for those who have been hurt.

Many of you may have questions such as: How safe is my church? What are the implications arising from the IICSA report? Or how is safeguarding reflected upon in the synodal journey? Come and join our online event on **Monday 9 January** between 6.00pm and 7.30pm, led by Robert Brown, the Plymouth Diocese Senior Safeguarding Professional. Please [Click Here to register](#) if you wish to attend and the Zoom meeting details will be sent to you. You will also be able to highlight any questions you would like to be answered at the meeting.

Should you have any questions or concerns in the interim then please contact the Safeguarding Office on 01364 645430 or e-mail safeguarding@prcdtr.org.uk

Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)



Would you like to win these two signed balls, or do you know someone who would love them? To be in with a chance, please visit the following link before 12 noon on Thursday, 5 January 2023 to enter our Crowdfunder prize draw – [click here to see how to enter](#)

Thanks to both clubs for kindly donating these balls so that we can raise some money to support our Essential Grants programme to help more vulnerable children and their families.

On behalf of all the trustees and staff at CCSP, we wish all our families, supporters and donors a Blessed Christmas.

Father, we are filled with the new light by the coming of your Word among us. May the light of faith shine in our words and actions. Amen

Parent & Toddler Group

The group will be meeting again in the St Richard Reynolds Centre at Blessed Sacrament Church on Monday 9 January 2023. If you or someone you know is interested in coming along please register using this [link](#). Booking is essential as numbers are limited.

Diocesan Yearbook 2023

The 2023 Diocesan Yearbook is now available at a cost of £4.00. It is a great source of diocesan information and news. Please put your payment in the wall box marked 'Books' at Blessed Sacrament or 'Repository Items' at Sacred Heart.

Warm Spaces in Exeter

The Exeter Connect Team have put together an interactive map to make accessing information about warm, friendly spaces in Exeter this winter easier [To access the map click here](#)

CAFOD

There will be a CAFOD/Live Simply Meeting for Exeter Parishes on Saturday 14 January 10am to 12 in the St Richard Reynolds Centre.

The meeting is open to anyone interested in these groups, so please just come along on the day.

Thursday Lunch Club

The first lunch of 2023 will be held on Thursday 5 January

PRAYER & LITURGY

Pope's January Prayer Intention

For educators. We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all. See also [the Pope's video here](#)



Epiphany Praise

Please join us on Sunday 8 January to celebrate the lovely feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, when the three visitors from the east brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. We will gather at Blessed Sacrament Church at 3.00pm to sing the praises of the Lord led by the Stronghold music group. Refreshments afterwards in St Richard Reynolds Centre.

Legion Of Mary

The Legion of Mary will next meet on Friday 6 January at 5.00pm at Sacred Heart church.



Taizé Adoration

Wednesday 4 January at 7.00pm at Sacred Heart Church. Join us for this special time of prayer and praise.

THE WORD

Sunday 25 December – The Nativity of the Lord

First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God

Psalm Response: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God

Second Reading St Paul to the Hebrews 1:1-6 66

God has spoken to us through his Son.

Gospel John 1:1-18 *The Word was made flesh and lived among us.*

Sunday 1 January – Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

First Reading Numbers 6:22-27

They are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.

Psalm Response: O God, be gracious and bless us.

Second Reading St Paul to the Galatians 4:4-7

God sent his son, born of a woman.

Gospel Luke 2:16-21

They found Mary and Joseph and the baby...When the eighth day came, they gave him the name Jesus

Sunday 8 January – The Baptism of the Lord

First Reading Isaiah 42:1-4.6-7 *Here is my servant in whom my soul delights.*

Psalm Response: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Second Reading Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38

God anointed him with the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Matthew 3:13-17

As soon as Jesus was baptised he saw the Spirit of God coming down on him.

CONTACT US

Blessed Sacrament

29 Fore Street, Heavitree,

Exeter EX1 2QJ

01392 274724

exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Priest

Fr Jonathan Stewart

Priest in retirement

Fr John Watkins

Parish Secretary

Lesley Hooper

Office hours Tuesday, Wednesday,

Thursday 10.00am–4.00pm

Gift Aid enquiries:

exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk

Sacred Heart

25 South Street, Exeter EX1 1EB

01392 272815

exeter-sacredheart@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Priest

Fr Kieran Kirby

Assistant Priests

Fr Albert Lawes &

Fr Anil Gundabathina

Deacons

Delian Bower & Kelvin Russell

Parish Secretary

Coral Saunders-Mortier

Office Hours -9.00am-12.00pm &

1.00pm- 4.00pm Tuesday - Friday

Gift Aid Enquiries: [exeter-sacredheart-](mailto:exeter-sacredheart-giftaid@prcdtr.org.uk)

giftaid@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish School

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

Ringswell Avenue, Exeter EX1 3EG

01392 445403

admin@stnics.uk

www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk

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Useful links

[Bishops' Conference Updates](#)

[Churches Together Devon News](#)

[Churches Together Exeter News](#)

[Churches Together England News](#)

*Catholic Exeter is part of the Roman
Catholic Diocese of Plymouth.*