



Parishes of Sacred Heart and Blessed Sacrament
8 January 2023 The Baptism of the Lord. Year A. *Psalter I*



The Baptism of the Lord

With this great feast of the Baptism of the Lord the Season of Christmas comes to a close. God has appeared in the flesh. The timeless Only Begotten Son of God has

been born in time. The Word of God dwells among us. In Jesus' Baptism in the River Jordan by John we see and hear something amazing; a human being is the Son of God. It may appear odd at first, why does Jesus go to be baptised by John? It's a baptism of repentance, but he has nothing to repent of since he is God. John recognises this and says, 'It is I who need baptism from you, and yet you come to me!' Jesus is not baptised for himself, but for us. In entering the waters of repentance, Jesus shoulders our burdens and takes our lives to himself. The waters are now made not only for repentance but for adoption, so that by them the Holy Spirit descends upon us and the words spoken by the Father, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him' are truly spoken to us. This is the great gift of baptism: not that we make ourselves children of God, but that through the free gift of union with Jesus Christ, God makes us his children.

Fr Albert

MASS TIMES SACRED HEART



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*

Monday 9 January

- 10.00am *Laurence Farnican RIP*

Tuesday 10 January

- 10.00am *Andrea Tindal-Robertson RIP*

Wednesday 11 January

- 10.00am *Minimol Joby RIP*

Thursday 12 January

- 6.30pm *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
7.00pm *Andrea Tindal-Robertson RIP*

Friday 13 January

- 10.00am *Anne Lansberry RIP*

Saturday 14 January – Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 10.00am *Maureen Lee RIP*

Sunday 15 January – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 5.30pm (Sat) *For Fr Kieran Kirby*
9.15am *For the People of the Parish*
11.15am *For Peace in the World*
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 8 January – The Baptism of the Lord

8.45am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
10.45am	<i>Gift Catechists</i>
3.00pm	Epiphany Praise – Celebrating the Epiphany in word and song
6.00pm	<i>Sick & Housebound</i>

Tuesday 10 January

6.30pm	<i>The Hope Family</i>
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Wednesday 11 January

9.30am	<i>Mr McHale RIP</i>
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Thursday 12 January

9.30am	<i>Catholic Women's League</i>
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Friday 13 January

6.30pm	<i>Andrea Tindal-Robertson RIP</i>
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Saturday 14 January

9.30am	<i>Cafod Group</i>
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Sunday 15 January – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Peace Day

8.45am	<i>Sr Sheila & Sr Anna</i>
10.45am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
6.00pm	<i>Holy Souls</i>

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

Crib Offerings support children

Thank you for your offerings at the crib this Christmas. 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. 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.

FORMING IN FAITH

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](#)

Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

Wednesday Word meets online via zoom from 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

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 4 February 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

NEWS & EVENTS

Peace Sunday

Next Sunday, 15 January, is Peace Sunday and this year the message from Pope Francis is: 'No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace'.

The Pope asks us: 'What did we learn from the pandemic? What new paths should we follow to cast off the shackles of our old habits, to be better prepared, to dare new things? What signs of life and hope can we see, to help us move forward and try to make our world a better place?'

A vaccine has been found for Covid-19, says the Holy Father, but we still need to tackle the virus of war, and of inequality, and this can only be done together.

In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi, which aims at working together to promote peace through parishes, schools and social media. Their website suggests ways we can all become better peacemakers.

There are activities for families to do at home, including a peace liturgy for young children. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2023>

Pax Christi needs our support to keep going. If you'd like to make a donation, small or large, [here is the link](#). Or send a cheque payable to 'Pax Christi' to: Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, London NW4 4TY Tel: 0208 203 4884

Synodality Series

By popular demand, the diocese is offering two further talks by Dr Caroline Farey on Saturday 11 February, on vital aspects of synodality. Come and discuss

in person or join the day online via zoom. The talks will take place at St Peter's Catholic Church, Crownhill, Plymouth, PL5 3AX. For those attending the day there will be refreshments at 10.30am and at 12.15pm a lunch break. (Bring your own lunch). There is also Mass at 9.30am. To request a zoom link please email: carolinefarey@btinternet.com

11.00am: Talk 1. Sharing the priesthood of Christ.

1.15pm: Talk 2. Should women share in the hierarchy?

Synodal Journey – A conversation about safeguarding online event

There is a great deal of work, both locally and nationally, 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 e-mail safeguarding@prcdtr.org.uk or telephone 01364 645430.

Knit and Natter sewing group

will meet in the Lower Room at Sacred Heart after Mass on Friday 13 January. Everyone is welcome to join us as we think of ideas for the new year.

Sacred Heart International Mass

Spanish Speaking Parishioners There will be a rehearsal for the Gloria on Tuesday 10 January at 6.45pm, in the Lower Room at Sacred Heart. Please join us.

Legion of Mary

Will meet next at 6.00pm on Friday in the Lower Room at Sacred Heart. It is an opportunity to gather in prayer and share experiences as Catholics. All welcome.

Diocesan Yearbook 2023

The 2023 Diocesan Yearbook is still 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.

CAFOD

There will be a CAFOD/livesimply meeting for Exeter Parishes on Saturday 14 January 10.00am to 12.00noon in the St Richard Reynolds Centre at Blessed Sacrament. The meeting is open to anyone interested in these groups, so please just come along on the day.

Blessed Sacrament Weekly Giving Envelopes

The weekly gift aid and planned giving envelopes are available for collection from the Parish Office.

Accommodation Needed

A young Catholic male student will be arriving in Exeter on January 24 to study at the University until June. He is looking for reasonably priced accommodation. If you can have or know of someone who may have something that will help this young man please contact the Blessed Sacrament Parish office on 01392 274724

PRAYER & LITURGY

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI Requiescat in Pace



You can read an obituary and the comments of Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Bishops' Conference, [using this link](#).

A prayer for the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI: Father, eternal shepherd, hear the prayers of your people for your servant Benedict, who governed your Church with love. In your mercy, bring him with the flock once entrusted to his care to the reward you have promised your faithful servants. May he who

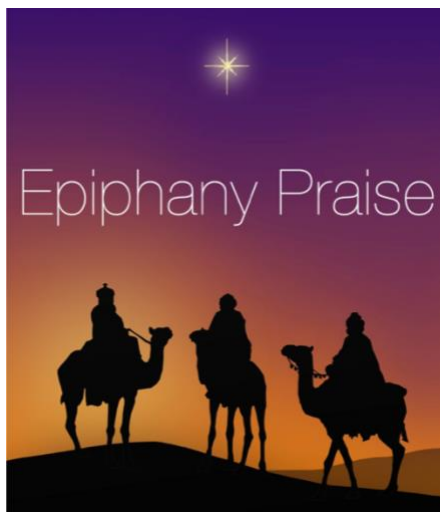
faithfully administered the mysteries of your forgiveness and love on earth, rejoice with you for ever in heaven. In your wise and loving care, you made your servant teacher of all your Church. He did the work of Christ on earth. May your Son welcome him into eternal glory. May your servant whom you appointed high priest of your flock be counted now among the priests in the life of your kingdom. Give your servant the reward of eternal happiness and let your mercy win for us the gift of your life and love. We entrust your servant to your mercy with faith and confidence. In the human family he was an instrument of your peace and love May he rejoice in those gifts for ever with your saints. Amen.

We commend to the Lord...

the souls of Mary Cecilia Evans, Fiona Dooley, Barbara Dare, Nancy Russell, Bob Benfield, Brian Pugh and Andrea Tindall-Robertson. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Please keep them, their families and friends in your prayers.

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

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 in Blessed Sacrament church at 3.00pm for an afternoon of praise and worship. All welcome.

Octave of prayer for Christian Unity

18 - 25 January. For this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we are guided by the churches of Minneapolis as we seek to explore how the work of Christian unity can contribute to the promotion of racial justice across all levels of society. Through this resource, the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland writers' group has focussed our attention on the 30th anniversary of the murder of Stephen Lawrence, which we mark in 2023. The work of restoring hope through justice undertaken in Stephen's memory continues to change lives for the better. As we join with other Christians around the world for the Week of Prayer we pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone.

Join St Matt's Church at Lower Summerland for a service on Sunday 22 January from 6.00 till 7.00pm. For info visit [Churches Together in Britain and Ireland](#).

THE WORD

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.

Sunday 15 January – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Peace Day

First Reading Isaiah 49:3.5-6

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

Psalm Response: Here I am Lord! I come to do your will.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

Gospel John 1:29-34

Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.



Fr Kieran, Fr Jonathan, Fr Anil and Fr Albert would like to express their gratitude for the cards, presents, offerings and greeting we received this Christmas.

It is a privilege to serve such a faith filled community as Catholic Exeter. Please keep us in your prayers as we keep you in ours.

God bless you.

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

Executive Head Teacher

Cathy Blatchford

Pastoral Assistant

Maria Quinn

exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

Safeguarding

Sacred Heart

Andrew Blewett

07729 608356

drewmail2016@gmail.com

Blessed Sacrament

Lesley Hooper

07712 216724 or 01392 274724

exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk

Maria Edwards

07870 696530

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.*