

CATHOLIC EXETER



Parishes of Sacred Heart, Blessed Sacrament, and Holy Cross
24 December 2023. Fourth Sunday of Advent. Year B. Psalter Week 4

MAGNIFICAT



This Sunday we enter a new stage of Advent: having spent so much time on the Second Coming, now we look back, to remember the details of the Lord's First Coming. Today we focus on the character of Mary, and hear of the angel Gabriel being sent to her, to invite her to take her part in the mystery of the Incarnation, "the revelation of the mystery kept secret for endless ages". This mystery springs from the House of David, and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing of the establishing of that house. An interesting idea is that the first reading talks of David wishing to build a house for the Lord; through the prophet he is told not of the house that he would build, but the House which is his line: eventually, in Mary (betrothed to Joseph) the House of David does itself become the house of the Lord, the womb wherein he has a dwelling place.

MASS TIMES BLESSED SACRAMENT



Sunday 24 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.45am *Kathleen Jenkinson & Family*
10.45am *All Expectant Mothers*
2.00pm *Syro-Malabar Mass*
6.00pm **Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord**
People of the parish
11.30pm *Vigil of Readings and Carols*
Followed by Mass at Midnight
Peace in the world

Monday 25 December – The Nativity of the Lord

8.45am *Sick & Housebound*
10.45am
NO evening Mass

Tuesday 26 December – St Stephen - Protomartyr

9.30am *Altar Servers*

Wednesday 27 December – St John. Apostle & Evangelist

9.30am *Jennie Mason RIP*

Thursday 28 December – The Holy Innocents

9.30am *Thursday Lunch Club Helpers*
7.00pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

Friday 29 December – St Thomas Becket. Bishop & Martyr

6.30pm *Church Cleaners*

Saturday 30 December

9.30am *CAFOD & livesimply Group*

Sunday 31 December – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8.45am *People of the parish*
10.45am *Children's Liturgy Catechists*
2.00pm *Syro-Malabar Mass*
6.00pm *Bishop-elect Christopher Whitehead*

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

MASS TIMES SACRED HEART



Sunday 24 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 5.30pm (Sat) *Chris Lee RIP*
9.15am *Bernard Jaffa RIP.*
Followed by refreshments in the Lower Room
11.15am *People of the Parish*
1.15pm Mass in Polish
5.00pm **Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord**
Msrgr Harry Doyle RIP
9.00pm Vigil Mass in Polish
11.30pm Vigil of Readings and Carols
Followed by Mass at Midnight
Fr Kieran Kirby RIP

Monday 25 December – The Nativity of the Lord

- 9.15am *Bishop Christopher Budd RIP*
11.15am *Pat McAndrew RIP*
1.15pm Mass in Polish

Tuesday 26 December – St Stephen, Protomartyr - Feast

- 10.00am *Enrique Nievia RIP*

Wednesday 27 December – St John, Apostle & Evangelist - Feast

- 10.00am *Jan Pawson RIP*

Thursday 28 December – The Holy Innocents, Martyrs - Feast

- 6.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction
7.00pm *Chris Lee RIP*

Friday 29 December – St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr - Feast

- 10.00am *Monica Adelabu*
7.00pm Polish Carols

Saturday 30 December

- 10.00am *Christine Rayner*
Followed by CWL refreshments in the Lower Room

Sunday 31 December – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

- 5.30pm (Sat) *People of the Parish*
9.15am *Biju Varghese RIP.*
Followed by refreshments in the Lower Room
11.15am *Andrea Tindal-Robertson RIP & her family*
1.15pm Mass in Polish
5.30-6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

25 December 2023 The Nativity of the Lord.



On behalf of all the clergy of Catholic Exeter, we wish you a very Happy Christmas. May the birth of our Saviour bring joy and peace to your hearts and homes and may we all be filled with hope.

MASS TIMES BLESSED SACRAMENT



Sunday 31 December – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8.45am	<i>People of the parish</i>
10.45am	<i>Children's Liturgy Catechists</i>
2.00pm	<i>Syro-Malabar Mass</i>
6.00pm	<i>Bishop-elect Christopher Whitehead</i>

Monday 1 January – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

12.00noon	<i>Jack & Peggy Webber RIP</i> Followed by refreshments in the St Richard Reynolds Centre
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Tuesday 2 January – St Basil the Great. Bishop & Doctor

6.30pm	<i>Ministers of the Word</i>
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Wednesday 3 January

11.00am	<i>Funeral Mass Jackie Coombes RIP</i>
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Thursday 4 January

9.30am	<i>Catholic Women's League</i>
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Friday 5 January

6.30pm	<i>Welcomers</i>
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Saturday 6 January

9.30am	<i>Olive Morgan RIP</i> Followed by Confessions
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Sunday 7 January – The Epiphany of the Lord

8.45am	<i>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</i>
10.45am	
2.00pm	<i>Syro-Malabar Mass</i>
6.00pm	<i>People of the parish</i>

Confessions Saturdays after 9.30am Mass and on reasonable request.

Liturgy of the Word for Children

During term time at 10.45am Mass on Sunday.

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

MASS TIMES SACRED HEART



Sunday 31 December – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

- 5.30pm (Sat) *People of the Parish*
9.15am *Biju Varghese RIP.*
Followed by refreshments in the Lower Room
11.15am *Andrea Tindal-Robertson RIP & her family*
1.15pm Mass in Polish
5.30-6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

Monday 1 January – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

- 10.00am *Andrew Adelabu*
7.00pm *Bishop-elect Christopher Whitehead*

Tuesday 2 January – St Basil the Great, Bishop & Doctor

- 10.00am *Alfred Smith RIP*
5.30-6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

Wednesday 3 January – The Most Holy Name of Jesus

- 10.00am *Alberta Nievia RIP*

Thursday 4 January

- 6.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction
7.00pm *Jonathan Bower RIP*

Friday 5 January

- 10.00am *Andrea Tindal-Robertson RIP*

Saturday 6 January

- 10.00am *Frances, Alfred, Cyril & Monica Connett RIP*
Followed by CWL refreshments in the Lower Room

Sunday 7 January – The Epiphany of the Lord

- 5.30pm (Sat) *People of the Parish*
9.15am *Martha Gawron-Franscek*
Followed by refreshments in the Lower Room
11.15am *Duncan Marshall RIP*
1.15pm Mass in Polish
5.30-6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

Confessions Saturdays after 10.00am Mass and at 4.00-5.00pm and on request

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

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

MASS TIMES HOLY CROSS, TOPSHAM

Sunday 24 December Fourth Sunday of Advent

11.00am *People of the Parish*

Thursday 28 December

10.00am

Sunday 31 December – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

11.15am *People of the Parish*

Thursday 4 January

10.00am

Sunday 7 January – The Epiphany of the Lord

11.15am *People of the Parish*

EXETER NEWS & EVENTS

We have a new Bishop!

His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Canon Christopher Whitehead as the tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Plymouth.

On hearing the news of his appointment Bishop-elect Christopher said:

“With complete trust in the gentle, guiding hands of the Lord, I take up the appointment that our Holy Father Pope Francis has entrusted to me. This is not something I could have ever imagined and willingly give myself to where the Lord has called me to serve and with all I have to offer.”

Please offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God and for our Bishop-elect as he prepares for his ordination to the episcopacy. Thanks be to God!

[Follow this link](#) to find out more.

Foodbank Tree at Blessed Sacrament

Thank you for your contributions to the Foodbank this Christmas. The tree is now adorned with ribbons symbolising our prayers for our loved ones who have died.

Christmas Offerings

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

Sacred Heart Church Book Club

The next meeting will be on Thursday 4 January 2024 at 7.30pm, in the Upper Room, after evening Mass. The book that we are reading is 'Foster', by Claire Keegan.

Blessed Sacrament Weekly Giving Envelopes

Collect your weekly gift aid and planned giving envelopes from the Parish Office.

Chatter Café

There will be no "SVP Chatter Cafe" at Sacred Heart after daily Mass times on Wed 20 and Wed 27 December.

Holy Communion at home

If you know of anyone who can no longer come to Mass and would like to be added to the list for home Communion visits from Sacred Heart, please inform Fr Petroc, Fr Albert, or the Parish Office so that they can be added to our lists. For Blessed Sacrament please contact Fr Jonathan or the Blessed Sacrament Parish Office.

Putting All Children First – Especially at Christmas Time

Please take time to visit the cribs in our parish churches over the Christmas period. The collection will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society as it works across the diocese spreading God's love and giving families hope in times of crisis. We continue to ask you for a combination of concern, prayer and action. May God bless all our supporters and donors.

Exeter Foodbank

Donations of the following priority items are especially needed: tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, noodle & pasta snacks, small jars of coffee and rice pudding. Collection Points include – Co-Op (Heavitree/St Thomas); Tesco (Exe Vale); Sainsbury's Aliphington/Pinhoe/Guildhall); Waitrose (Gladstone Rd) as well as the back of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacred heart churches. Please email Mark at info@exeterfoodbank.org.uk to find out how you can help. More information about Food Bank can be found at <https://exeter.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

Coffee after Sunday Mass at Blessed Sacrament

We serve refreshments after the 10.45am Mass on Sunday morning but we are in need of more volunteers. The more people helping the less frequently you will have to be put on the rota. If you can help please contact Niamh Owens on 01392 986702 or email: niamhowens@gmail.com

WIDER NEWS

Diocese of Plymouth Newsletter

The diocese is publishing a regular newsletter with items of interest from across the diocese as well as further afield. [Here is the link to the latest newsletter](#) And here is [the link](#) if people would like to sign up to receive the next newsletter and weekly Advent reflections.

Diocesan Yearbook 2024

The 2024 Diocesan Yearbook is now available at Blessed Sacrament 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'.

Caritas Plymouth

Homelessness – How are we called to respond?

Why not join Caritas Diocese of Plymouth on Zoom on Wednesday 17 January from 6.00pm-7.00pm to pray and reflect on this important issue and to hear from charities across our Diocese about what they are doing and how we can respond. St Petrocs Cornwall and Routes to Roots based in Poole will be sharing their work and insights. Please register to receive the Zoom details <https://forms.office.com/e/VVp5t5qU7F>

Caritas Newsletter: With news of love in action around our diocese can be found if you [by following this link](#).

GIFT tots

Beginning Friday 12 January 2024: Registration Required

An hour of fun faith for pre-school age children and their parents and carers. Come together to pray, sing, explore and create the Good News as we Grow In Faith Together. Second Friday every month at St Richard Reynolds Centre, Blessed Sacrament. Fourth Friday every month at the Lower Room Sacred Heart. 10.15-11.15am. [GIFTtots Registration](#)

GIFT families

GIFT is offered to all primary and secondary aged families and supports them to live and grow as Catholic Christians. GIFT meets monthly to worship together and learn about our Catholic faith. GIFT also enables parents to prepare their children to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation. [Click here to register for GIFT.](#)

Next GIFT Meeting **Saturday 13 January at 9.45am** at St Nicholas School, Ringswell Avenue, Exeter EX1 3EG.

GIFT Youth & Socials News

The next Gift Youth Social will be on 19 January 2024. If you have signed up for Gift Youth details of the next session will be sent out to you. We ask that the parent of any young person **MUST** have registered/re-registered them using the NEW form [use this link](#) before they come along to future Gift Youth Socials and Gift Youth Saturdays. This ensures the safety of the young people.

Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

We meet online via Zoom from 2.00 – 3.00pm each Wednesday. If you would like to join us, contact Maria: exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk. Come whenever you can to explore the riches of the scriptures. You will be most welcome.

Want to learn more about the Sacraments?

Join us every fortnight on Monday morning after the 10.00am Mass until 12.15pm in the Lower Room Sacred Heart. Monday 15 January 2024. All welcome.

Baptism Preparation Course

Are you expecting a baby and/or wish 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. Courses are over two consecutive Saturday mornings from 10.15-12.15 delivered via Zoom.

Forthcoming dates: **27 January & 3 February**, 20 & 27 April, 20 & 27 July and 12 & 19 October 2024. Godparents are especially welcome to attend the second Saturday session as the role of Godparents is explored. Click on the 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 the January 2024 course. [Baptism Enquiry form](#)

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

These sessions are aimed at those wanting to learn more, desiring to receive Baptism or Confirmation in the Catholic Church. If you would like to discover more, join our RCIA course every Thursday at 7.30pm in the Lower Room at Sacred Heart.

PRAYER & LITURGY

Worship Thursday at Blessed Sacrament

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament each Thursday 7.00-8.00pm

With Taizé 2nd Thursday of each month: 11 January 2024.

With Praise & Worship Third Thursday of each month: 18 January 2024.

Pope's January Prayer Intention

Let us pray that the spirit helps us recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church. See also <https://thepopevideo.org/>

Adoration & Taizé Prayer at Sacred Heart

Wednesday 3 January at 7.00pm. Come and join the Lord in this time of prayer.

"The Almighty has done great things for me; holy is his name." – *Magnificat antiphon*

We commend to the Lord...

Jackie Coombs who has died recently. A funeral Mass for Jackie will be celebrated at Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday 3 January 2024 at 11.00am. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may her family find consolation and peace.

THE WORD

Sunday 24 December Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-12.14.16

The kingdom of David will always stand secure before the Lord.

Psalm Response: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

The mystery, which was kept secret for endless ages, is now made clear.

Gospel Luke 1:26-28

Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.

Sunday 31 December

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

First Reading Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6. 12-14

He who fears the Lord respects his parents.

Psalm Response: O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Family life in the Lord.

Gospel Luke 2:22-40 The child grew, filled with wisdom.



CONTACT US

Sacred Heart

25 South Street, Exeter EX1 1EB
01392 642389

exeter-sacredheart@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Priest

Fr Petroc Cobb 01392 642388

Assistant Priests

Fr Albert Lawes 01392 642378

Deacons

Brian Bargent

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-giftaid@prcdtr.org.uk

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

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

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Safeguarding

Sacred Heart

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Blessed Sacrament

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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.*