



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH NEWS

11 February 2024. Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year B. Psalter



Thankfully, we do not encounter leprosy in our culture. It can therefore be difficult to enter into the real depth of today's readings. We have to understand that leprosy meant exclusion, rejection and the end of "normal" life. For your leprosy to be cured would be like being given a second chance at life. What is the cause of exclusion and rejection in our society – or even in the Church? Who are those who must "live apart"? And how can we put into effect in our day those most touching of the words of Jesus, when asked if he wants to cure the leper: "Of course I want to!"? Contemplating exclusion and rejection in our world can be hard work: Saint Paul guides the way: the Christian path is not to work "for my own advantage, but for the advantage of everybody else. *Salford Office for Liturgy*

MASS TIMES

Sunday 11 February – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Day of Prayer for the Unemployed

World Day for the Sick – we pray for the sick and those who care for them.

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am *For the sick and those who care for them*

6.00pm *Eamonn Maher RIP*

Tuesday 13 February

6.30pm *Canon Paul Cummins*

Wednesday 14 February – Ash Wednesday

Day of fasting and abstinence

9.30am *Jacky Coombes RIP*

7.00pm *Private Intention*

Thursday 15 February

9.30am *Private Intention*

7.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 16 February

6.30pm *Private Intention*

Saturday 17 February

9.30am *Private Intention*

Sunday 18 February – First Sunday of Lent

8.45am *Private Intention*

10.45am *People of the Parish*

Followed by refreshments in St Richard Reynolds Centre

6.00pm *Helena Cox RIP*

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](#)

Refreshments after Mass

Served on Sunday after 10.45am and on Wednesday after 9.30am Masses

SEASON OF LENT

Ash Wednesday

14 February is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Masses will be at 9.30am and 7.00pm with the distribution of ashes. It is a day when we are encouraged to abstain from eating meat and to go without some food.

Walk With Me

A Lenten journey of prayer for Lent. Booklets are available in the church porch for a suggested donation of £1.00 (please put your offering in the box marked 'Books').

Stations of the Cross

During Lent Stations of the Cross will take place on Friday evenings at 6.00pm starting on Friday 23 February and will be followed by Mass.

Lent Retreat Day – A Campaign of Christian Service

Saturday 2 March at St Rita's Centre, Honiton, led by Fr. Jacek Kostuch.

The charge for the day, including lunch (3 course meal), is just £25.00. Booking can be made by phone, email or online (www.stritascentre.org/events) Payment can be made on the day. If you have any questions, please contact Krista Radzina on 01404 42635

Online Lent Talks 2024

The Parish of All Saints in Teignmouth is again organizing a series of Lenten Talks on Zoom to which anyone is welcome. The leaping off point for each talk is one of the great Gospels of Year A's Lenten cycle. No booking is needed and the code remains the same for all five evenings. Please do come and join us and share the journey.

Friday 16 February	The Temptations.	Rev Nick Johnson.
Friday 1 March	The Transfiguration	Fr Andrew Marlborough
Friday 8 March	The Woman at the Well.	Mrs Deborah Fisher
Friday 15 March	The Man born blind	Fr Ignatius Raj SDM
Friday 22 March	The Raising of Lazarus.	Mr Gerard Gillespie.

Topic: Lent Talks 2024. Time: Feb 16, 2024 06:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting [at this link](#). Meeting ID: 834 4584 0521 Passcode: 862737

CAFOD Big Lent Walk

Sign up by [clicking this link](#).

Angela Bosley, a Blessed Sacrament parishioner, has taken part for the last two years being sponsored by friends and family and she has signed up again this year and she would like to raise £500. To do this she is asking for more sponsorship from Catholic Exeter. She has set up a Just Giving page - this is the link [The page is live now](#), but she will start walking on 14 February. Let's help Angela to reach her target and help the work of CAFOD.

Lenten Ignatian Silent Retreats

Individually guided, Ignatian silent retreats available locally in the diocese.

Honiton Lenten Retreats

Feb 23 - 25 (Fri - Sun) Weekend Retreat (£140)

Feb 26 – 1 Mar (Mon – Fri) Midweek Retreat (280)

Feb 23 – 1 Mar (Fri-Fri) 6 day Retreat (£475)

The recommended donation includes full board & lodging. If you would like to go on retreats, but has difficulty meeting the cost, this can be offset if they get in touch.

St Rita's Centre, Honiton is the venue for our Lenten retreats with very comfortable ensuite accommodation.

Please contact Plymouth Diocesan Ignatian Spirituality Group at diocesan-ignatian-retreats@prcdtr.org.uk or phone 01752 769164 Or 07823 447637 for further information or booking form.

Caritas at Lent

“Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor” (Tob 4:7)

In his message for World Day of the Poor 2023, Pope Francis reminded us that faith teaches us that every poor person is a son or daughter of God and that Christ is present in them. *“Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me”* (Mt 25:40).

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in preparation for the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. Caritas, Diocese of Plymouth has created a Lent Calendar – displayed at the back of the church - to suggest ways in which we can use this time for prayer, reflection and action as the service of the poor. The link to the digital version of the poster [can be found by clicking this link](#) Just a few small actions each week can make a positive difference.



CAFOD's daily Lent emails of prayer and reflection will offer an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Easter. Join us as we journey through the Lent with our global family. [Sign up here](#) to receive daily email reflections CAFOD's online Lent calendar

Ignatian Spirituality at Holy Cross Topsham

On Thursday 22 February (after 10.00am Mass and coffee) you are invited to our first Ignatian Spirituality Guided Prayer Meeting. It is proposed that these will be held each Thursday during Lent. All very welcome

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Remembering Fr George Oliver

At 6.30pm on Tuesday 13 February at St Nicholas Priory, Exeter there will be a talk about this important figure in Exeter's history. Fr George Oliver was a prominent Catholic priest in the nineteenth century Exeter. He is best known for being a hero of the Cholera epidemic of 1832, but also as a humanitarian, an antiquarian, historian and author. Tickets available on the Nicholas Priory website [or click here](#) The cost is £15 and refreshments are included.

Thursday Lunch Club

We have spaces free for anyone who would like to enjoy lunch and friendship on Thursdays at the St Richard Reynolds' Centre. You may choose to come fortnightly or monthly. Diners arrive from 12 noon and lunch is served at 12.30 pm.

We are also in need of extra helpers and so if you are maybe newly retired, have children now at school etc. you may feel you can offer a few hours to help approximately once a month. No cooking is involved - only setting up, serving, clearing up and enjoying meeting new people, young and less young! Please give Di Bish a call on 07940 142124 or email clydebish@hotmail.com for any extra information. We look forward to hearing from you.

World Day of Prayer

This women-led, global, ecumenical movement holds its annual service on the first Friday of March each year. The country that prepares the theme and service is chosen years in advance and material prepared in good time so that it can be translated and shared around the world. This year the Christian women of Palestine wrote the material and the theme is 'I beg you, bear with one another in love.'

On Friday 1 March there will be two services in the Exeter area at 11.00am at South St Baptist Church, with refreshments, from 10.30am and at 7.00pm at Pinhoe Parish Church. A timely opportunity to learn from the women of Palestine and to continue to pray for the whole region.

Saying Goodbye

Exeter Cathedral at 12.30pm on Saturday 2 March.

For anyone who has either personally lost a baby at any stage of pregnancy, at birth, or in early years, or who has been affected by family members' or friends' loss. Whether the loss was recent or 80 years ago, everyone is welcome to attend.

We have also extended the services, and gladly welcome anyone who is grieving the fact that they haven't had children. This may be due to circumstance, infertility, or for other reasons - but all are welcome. Babies and children are also invited to come with their families, as the Saying Goodbye service is truly a family event for all.

www.sayinggoodbye.org

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 January newsletter](#) And here is [the link](#) if you would like to sign up to receive the next newsletter.

Make do and Mend

Blessed Sacrament Sewing group are once again offering a sewing repair service. There will be a small charge for this, and profits used for charitable causes at the end of the year. Currently we meet every alternate Monday from 3.00pm. Next meeting Monday 12 February. Please contact Coral on 07745922636 for more information.



St Nicholas School News

We are looking forward to our half term break next week. We will return to the second half of Spring term looking forward to various trips and activities - the formation of our school 'Rock Steady' rock bands, trips to Torquay and Tiverton museum, a residential trip to Dartmoor for our Year 3/4 children and World Book Day. We are even holding a 'Break the Rules' day to raise funds for our PTA where the children can 'pay' to break rules such as eating pudding first, wearing bright socks, having wild hair or bringing in a cuddly toy. This is always a fun day and will help us raise funds to develop our outdoor play areas even more.

For information on joining our school community please contact Mrs Brocksom by emailing admissions@stncls.uk

Exeter Foodbank

Donations of the following priority items are especially needed: tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tins of fruit, noodle & pasta snacks, jams & spreads, small jars of coffee, rice pudding. There is a collection basket at the back of the church. Please email Mark at info@exeterfoodbank.org.uk to find out how you can help. More information about Food Bank can be found at [this link](#).



Lourdes Pilgrimage Appeal

I am Sian and I am travelling to Lourdes as a young helper with HCPT, 141 Group, and would really appreciate your support and prayers for my pilgrimage.

I am baking brownies to sell for people to take away after the 8.45am Mass or enjoy in the St Richard Reynold Centre after 10.45am Mass on Sunday 25 February. They will be delicious!

People really value being able to send their petitions to Lourdes so I am happy to take them for you. Please feel free to bring them along and leave in the basket after all Masses on 25 February, or they can be given in to the Parish Office, FAO 'Sian - Lourdes'. If you would like to make a donation to support my pilgrimage, I will be very grateful. Thank you so much. Sian.

Diocesan Youth Events Newsletter [click here](#)

Caritas January Newsletter

Follow [this link](#) to the January edition of the Caritas Diocese of Plymouth newsletter.

Marriage Week 7 – 14 February

An annual celebration offering the opportunity to support and promote marriage and family life. We are called to live out our vocation in different ways, perhaps as a priest or religious, husband or wife, and some of us will remain single. Whichever state of life God calls us each of us to, we are all united by our call to holiness, just like the saints in heaven. Let us give thanks for our husbands and wives, parents, grandparents, those who inspire us, and those we look up to in marriage.

We also pray for all engaged couples, that through a period of discernment together, in prayer, and guided support that they use this is an opportunity of growth together.

God our Father, We pray in thanksgiving for the vocation to marriage And for each couple that you join together in order to make a family. We ask that every marriage brings each couple closer to you and closer to holiness. We pray for those who are struggling in their marriage at present, That they can make it through this tough time And support each other in their differences. We make this prayer through Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen

During Masses on Sunday 11 February married couples will have the opportunity to renew their marriage vows.

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 run over two consecutive Saturday mornings from 10.15-12.15 delivered via Zoom.

Forthcoming dates: 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 April 2024 course.

[Baptism Enquiry form](#)

PRAYER & LITURGY

Worship Thursdays

Adoration in church each Thursday 7.00-8.00pm.

With Taizé on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Next: 14 March.

Pope's February Prayer Intention [The Pope Video](#)

For the terminally ill. Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

Pope Francis tweets...

A person's dignity does not depend on them being a citizen, a migrant, or a refugee. Saving the life of someone fleeing war and poverty is an act of humanity.

Prayer for World Day for the Sick

For all who are sick; may they be restored to fullness of health or come to know dignity in their suffering.

For doctors, nurses and all who care for the sick and dying; may they bring Christ's love and compassion to all whom they are care for.

Prayer for Day for Unemployed

For all seeking work or unable to work through disability and illness; may they place their trust in the God of hope and new beginnings.

For politicians and all who work with the economy; may they always remember the poor and those who have least.

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

GIFT tots

Next session: **Friday 23 February at Sacred Heart. Registration is 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. 2nd Friday every month at St Richard Reynolds Centre, Blessed Sacrament. 4th Friday every month at the Lower Room Sacred Heart. 10.15-11.15am.

[GIFT Tots Registration Form](#)

GIFT families

Next GIFT Meeting: **Saturday 2 March at 9.45am** at St Nicholas School, Ringswell Avenue, Exeter EX1 3EG.

GIFT is for primary and secondary aged families and supports them to live and grow as Catholics. It enables parents to prepare their children to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

[GIFT Registration Form](#)

GIFT youth

Next GIFT Youth Social **Friday 16 February**. If you've signed up for Gift Youth details of the next session will be sent to you. We ask that parents of any young person wishing to come along to GIFT Youth have registered them before they come

to GIFT Youth Socials and GIFT Youth Saturdays. This ensures the safety of our young people.

[GIFT Youth Registration Form](#)

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. Next meeting is Monday 12 February. All welcome.

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

If you would like to discover more, join our RCIA course every Thursday at 7.30pm in the Lower Room at Sacred Heart.

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](#). Come whenever you can to explore the riches of the scriptures. You will be most welcome.

THE WORD

Sunday 11 February – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Leviticus 13:1-2.44-46

The leper must live apart: he must live outside the camp.

Psalm Response: You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Second Reading: I Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

Gospel Mark 1:40-45

The leprosy left him at once and he was cured.

Sunday 18 February – 1st Sunday of Lent

First Reading Genesis 9:8-15

God's covenant with Noah after he had saved him from the waters of the flood.

Psalm Response:

Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant

Second Reading: I Peter 3:18-22

That water is a type of baptism which saves you now.

Gospel Mark 1:12-15

Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

New look Newsletter

You will notice that the newsletter this week looks different. This is because our two parishes have decided to have our own newsletters. If you would like to receive Sacred Heart Parish's newsletter, please contact the parish office on 01392 642389.

CONTACT US

Blessed Sacrament Parish

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*

Pastoral Assistant *Maria Quinn* exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Office *Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10.00am–4.00pm*

Gift Aid enquiries: exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish website blessedsacrament.org.uk

Parish Facebook [Facebook Catholic Exeter](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicExeter)

Safeguarding

If you have any concerns about a vulnerable child or adult please contact the parish office on 01392 274724 or by email: exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

Lesley Hooper 07712 216724 or 01392 274724

Maria Edwards 07870 696530

St Nicholas 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*

Useful links

[Bishops' Conference Updates](#)

[Churches Together Devon News](#)

[Churches Together Exeter News](#)

[Churches Together England News](#)