

PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER
25 February 2024. *Second Sunday of Lent. Year B. Psalter 2*



We pool forward a few centuries in the story of the Old Testament, to arrive at Abraham, “our Father in faith”. Today we hear of another Covenant (like last week) - even though the word is not used. God promises Abraham descendants like “the stars of heaven”, and the showering of blessings. This shows how much God loves Abraham, and all his children. This love is proved for us in Jesus: God loves us so much he sacrificed his only Son (just as Abraham was willing to do); but this is not all: Jesus also rose from the dead, to stand at God’s right hand and plead for us. All this is revealed in the story of the Transfiguration, where Jesus is seen in the glory that is rightfully his as the only Son of God. Not until after the Resurrection will the disciples see this fully again. *Salford Office for Liturgy*

MASS TIMES

Sunday 25 February – Second Sunday of Lent

8.45am *People of the Parish*
10.45am *For the terminally ill and their families*
Followed by refreshments in St Richard Reynolds Centre
6.00pm *Joe O'Connor RIP*

Tuesday 27 February

6.30pm *Private Intention*

Wednesday 28 February

9.30am *Paul Ruff RIP*

Thursday 29 February

9.30am *Canon Paul Cummins*
7.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 1 March – St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales

6.00pm Stations of the Cross
6.30pm *Sick & Housebound*

Saturday 2 March

9.30am *Canon Paul Cummins*

Sunday 3 March – Third Sunday of Lent

8.45am
10.45am *People of the Parish*
Followed by refreshments in St Richard Reynolds Centre
6.00pm *Private Intention*

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

Walk With Me

There are still copies of this Lenten journey of prayer for Lent booklets 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 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.
If you have any questions, please contact Krista Radzina on 01404 42635

Online Lent Talks 2024

Series of Lenten Talks on Zoom to which anyone is welcome. No booking is needed and the code remains the same for all five evenings.

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 yourself by [clicking this link](#). Or to sponsor Angela Bosley she has set up a Just Giving page - [this is the link](#) Let's help Angela to reach her target of £500 and help the work of CAFOD.

Caritas at Lent

Caritas, Diocese of Plymouth has created a Lent Calendar. The digital version of the poster [can be found by clicking this link](#)

Caritas Diocese of Plymouth Upcoming Events

Please [click this link](#) to read about what events are coming up

Diocese of Plymouth The latest Lenten Offering can be found at [this link](#)

CAFOD's online Lent calendar [Sign up here](#) for daily email reflections

Ignatian Spirituality at Holy Cross Topsham

Thursdays during Lent (after 10.00am Mass and coffee) you are invited to an Ignatian Spirituality Guided Prayer Meeting.

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

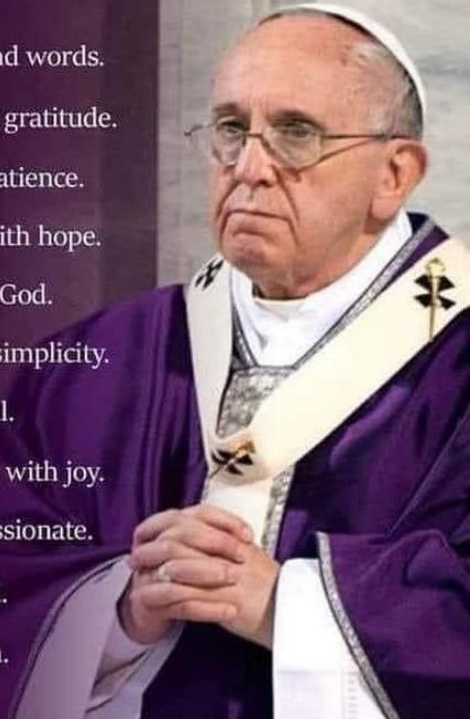
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.



Catholic Women's League

Lenten Lunches Fridays at 12 30pm at the Parish Room South Street

After the Stations of the Cross in the Sacred Heart Church at 12 noon, the CWL will be serving a Lenten Lunch consisting of a choice of soups, roll, butter and cheese followed by tea or coffee every Friday during Lent. The suggested minimum donation is £3.50. All proceeds go to St Petrock's day services for the homeless in Exeter and its environs. The need is very great, so please come to as many as you can. It is an enjoyable social event.

Lenten Lunch in aid of the Exeter Food Bank

You are invited to a Lenten Lunch on Thursday 7 March at 12.30pm in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. The lunch will consist of homemade soup, roll and cheese and coffee and tea, with a suggested donation of £4. Proceeds go to the Exeter Food Bank. We would welcome any donations of cheese. Please contact Frances Canning at francesandedward@blueyonder.co.uk or call on 01392 209542 if you can help.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS



Forget-me-not Bereavement Café

Due to the limited take-up of the nationally acclaimed Bereavement Journey we have deferred its introduction in the parish until later in the year.

In the meantime we invite anyone who has suffered a bereavement of any kind, at any time, to come along to our **Forget-me-not Bereavement Café** for a cup of coffee/tea, cake and a chat. The café will be held once a month on a Saturday morning (every fourth Saturday of the month) at 10.30am in the St Richard Reynolds Centre.

Come along, and maybe bring a friend with you who you think would also benefit from making contact with others in a friendly relaxed café. There is no need to book just come along to our first morning on **Saturday 23 March**. We look forward to seeing you.

Catholic Women's League

The next meeting of the CWL is on Tuesday 27 February at 2.00pm in the Parish Room at the Sacred Heart, South Street. This is an important planning meeting for the coming year. Anyone interested in joining us will be very welcome.

A French Au Pair?

A young French girl would like to spend some time in England to improve her English. She will be in Exeter between 10 and 28 June and can help with your children. She has three little brothers and sisters and regularly babysits. She has friends in Exeter who can mentor and help her with any journeys. If you can help her please get in touch with the Parish Office who can then put you in touch with her.

Romero Trust and CAFOD Joint Event in the Diocese

Friday 8 March. Mass at 6.30pm followed by the talk at 7.15pm in the St Richard Reynolds Centre, Blessed Sacrament Church

This March marks the forty-fourth anniversary of the martyrdom of Archbishop and Saint Oscar Romero in 1980. The Romero Trust commemorates the life and legacy of St Oscar Romero annually with a keynote talk at St Martin in the Fields in London. This year CAFOD and the Romero Trust are pleased to be able to host a talk here in the Diocese of Plymouth. The keynote speaker will be international speaker Raymond Perrier, Director of the Denis Hurley Centre in Durban, South Africa. Raymond is an inspirational speaker and will be speaking on 'Prayerful & Prophetic Resilience in the Face of Injustice: Archbishops Oscar Romero and Denis Hurley'.

Men's Walk for Hospiscare

Taking place on Saturday 9 March. Details can be found [at this link](#)

Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)

Would you like to win some free tickets totalling approximately £180 thanks to the generosity of Exeter Chiefs, Torquay United and Exeter Racecourse?

The Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) have teamed up with local sporting clubs and grounds to offer one wonderful prize for one lucky winner. All proceeds raised from the prize draw will enable CCSP to continue to support families of all faiths and none living in our Diocese.



The lucky winner will receive the following sporting bundle -
Exeter Chiefs - 2 standing tickets in the North Terrace for the game against Newcastle Falcons on Saturday 23 March
Torquay United - 4 seats in the family stand for the game against Havant and Waterlooville on Saturday 20 April
Exeter Racecourse - 2 complimentary tickets for a race day of your choice in the 2023/24 season.



Please visit [this link](#) to purchase tickets - £10 for one entry or buy two entries for £20 and receive a third entry for free. Or scan this QR code to be taken directly to our Crowdfunding Prize Draw page.



Thursday Lunch Club

Spaces are available 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.

Extra helpers are also needed so if you feel you that 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. 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.

Right to Life

are campaigning to reduce the abortion time limit to 22 weeks. Although the date of the debate has not yet been confirmed, it looks like it will be the beginning of March. This amendment would reduce the abortion time limit from 24 to 22 weeks in England and Wales. If passed, it will likely save a number of lives and will be the first positive change to our abortion law for a number of years. How can you help?

Ask your MP to support the abortion time limit reduction amendment to reduce our abortion time limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law.

Take action: Collect a postcard today from the church porch and post it to your MP urgently in support of this amendment!

The Great Devon Breakfast

In aid of Force Cancer Charity



Bacon butties, cereal, fruit, coffee, tea and other lovely breakfast goodies.

Join us for a lovely morning including a raffle and lots of chat!

Friday March 22nd 10.00am

Donations please - Cash only

Phone Jane on 07890 373617 to reserve your table

The Richard Reynolds Centre,
Blessed Sacrament Church, Heavitree Exeter EX1 2QJ

St Nicholas School News

Despite the rain the children are enjoying being back at school after a week off. Much is happening at St Nicholas this term. Two more classes start swimming lessons and a trip to Torquay Museum is being planned for our Yr 3 and 4 children to visit Roman artefacts. The children have started to learn to play tennis and our school rock bands have their first rehearsal this week. We held our Ash Wednesday liturgy this week and were pleased Fr Jonathan and Mrs Quinn joined us to officiate.

To find out about joining our school community please contact admissions@stnics.uk.

World Day of Prayer

This women-led, global, ecumenical movement holds its annual service on the first Friday of March each year.

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.

Diocese of Plymouth Newsletter

The diocese is publishing a regular newsletter with items of interest from across the diocese as well as further afield. To access the February newsletter click [this link](#) And here is [the link](#) if you would like to sign up to receive the next newsletter directly to your in box.

Saying Goodbye

Exeter Cathedral at 12.30pm on Saturday 2 March. www.sayinggoodbye.org

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. Babies and children are also invited to come with their families, as the Saying Goodbye service is truly a family event for all.

Lourdes Pilgrimage Appeal

Don't forget that Sian will be selling her delicious brownies after the morning Masses on Sunday 25 February. Money raised will help with the funding of her trip as a young helper to Lourdes. Sian is also happy to take your petitions with her.

Please bring them along and place in the basket on that Sunday or hand in to the Parish office marked 'FAO Sian – Lourdes'. If you are happy to make a donation to support her pilgrimage she will be very grateful. Thank you for your support.

Exeter Foodbank

Donations of the following priority items are especially needed: tins of meat, pasta sauce, small jars of coffee, small bags of sugar, biscuits, custard, tinned vegetarian meals, deodorant, shower gel and shampoo. 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](#).

Going into Hospital

Because of the Data Protection Act chaplains may now only visit you if they have your permission. Please let the parish office or one of the priests know if you are going into hospital or if one of your family is admitted so that your details can be passed to the hospital chaplain so that you/they can be visited and ministered to. You may also wish to receive the Sacrament of the Sick before you go into hospital.

Holy Communion or a visit 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 Blessed Sacrament please tell the Parish Office or Fr Jonathan and a visit can be arranged.

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.

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.

We commend to the Lord...

the souls of Maragret Maunder and Deacon John Connors. Please keep them and their families and friends in your prayers. May they rest in peace and rise in glory

World Day of Prayer - Friday 1 March

For governments and legislators that they may protect and establish the dignity and equality of women in society. For all women who follow Christ, may they be guardians and advocates for the seamless garment of life.

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

GIFT tots

Next session: **Friday 8 March at Blessed Sacrament. 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.

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 15 March.** 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 to GIFT Youth have registered them before they come to GIFT Youth Socials and GIFT Youth Saturdays. This helps ensure everyone's safety.

[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 26 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 25 February – 2nd Sunday of Lent

First Reading Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

Psalm Response:

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Second Reading: Romans 8:31-34 *God did not spare his own Son.*

Gospel Mark 9:2-10 *This is my Son, the Beloved*

Sunday 3 March – 3rd Sunday of Lent

First Reading Exodus 20:1-17

The Law was given through Moses.

Psalm Response:

You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 *Here we are preaching a crucified Christ, an obstacle to men, but to those who are called, the wisdom of God.*

Gospel John 2:13-25

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.



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](#)