

PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER
24 March 2024 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. Year B. Psalter 2



HOSANNA!

In the Cycle of Sunday Readings, the oldest are those of Year A in Lent – these Gospels have accompanied the Church for many centuries. We must realise why: Lent was originally the time of immediate preparation of candidates for Baptism at Easter (something which has been reintroduced to the Church by RCIA): those already baptised used it as a time to prepare for the renewal of Baptismal promises. This is why so much of the Scripture in Lent is about Baptism, New Life and Salvation. What is the new life of Baptism? What are we set free from? What is sin? We begin Lent by hearing about sin and temptation; the Gospel will tell us of Jesus' own temptations, something he shares with us, though he did not sin. The other Scripture readings prepare us for the Gospel, in which Jesus, the new Adam, triumphs over temptation. *Salford Office for Liturgy*

MASS TIMES

Sunday 24 March – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8.45am *Peace in the Holy Land*

10.45am *Dan Docherty RIP*

Followed by refreshments in St Richard Reynolds Centre

3.00pm *Syro Malabar Rite Mass*

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

Tuesday 26 March -Tuesday of Holy Week

6.30pm *Fr. Kieran Kirby RIP*

Wednesday 27 March -Wednesday of Holy Week

NO MASS

12.00 Noon *Chrism Mass Plymouth Cathedral*

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Thursday 28 March – Maundy Thursday

7.00pm **Mass of the Lord's Supper**

8.30pm *Watching at the Altar of Repose until 10.30pm*

Friday 29 March – Good Friday Day of Fasting and Abstinence

9.30am-10.30am *Office of Readings and Morning Prayer*

10.30am-11.30am *Confessions*

3pm-4.30pm **Celebration of the Lord's Passion**

4.30pm-6.00pm *Confessions*

Saturday 30 March – Holy Saturday

9.30am-10.30am *Office of Readings and Morning prayer*

10.30-11.30am *Confessions*

9.00pm -00.00 *The Easter Vigil*

Clocks go forward one hour.

Sunday 31 March – Easter Sunday

8.45am *Kathleen and Adrian Jenkinson R.I.P and Family*

10.45am *People of the Parish*

6.00pm NO MASS

Monday 1 April-Easter Monday

NO MASS

Tuesday 2 April -Easter Tuesday

6.30pm

Wednesday 3 April-Easter Wednesday

9.30am

Thursday 4 April-Easter Thursday

9.30am *Zita Pniok R.I.P.*

7.00pm Adoration

Friday 5 April-Easter Friday

6.30pm

Saturday 6 April-Easter Saturday

9.30am

Sunday 7 April -Second Sunday of Easter- Divine Mercy Sunday

8.45am

10.45am

2.30pm Confessions

3.00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

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.

Confessions

Saturdays after 9.30am Mass.

There will be other opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Tuesday 26 March at 7.00pm (after 6.30pm Mass); **Good Friday** at 10.00am (after Morning Prayer) and at 4.00pm (after the Lord's Passion liturgy); **Holy Saturday** at 10.00am (after Morning Prayer).

Easter Offerings

Your gift to the priests of the parish. You can make your offering by using one of the envelopes available in the church, if you are a planned giver by using the envelope provided in your box, or by placing your offering directly in the collection. If you usually offer by standing order why not make a bank transfer: put 'Easter Offering' in the narrative. Thank you.

SEASON OF LENT

CAFOD Big Lent Walk

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.

Lenten offering for Palm Sunday and Holy Week

[here](#) is a link to the final Lenten offering.

Passion for Exeter

Good Friday 29 March at 10.00am at Exeter Cathedral.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Lesley is retiring!

As you may be aware, Lesley will be retiring at Easter. We invite parishioners to join us to say farewell and thanks, with Mass at 6.30 pm on Friday 26 April. This will be followed by a farewell get-together in the St. Richard Reynolds Centre. We wish Catherine well as she takes over the reins in the Parish Office.

Caritas Diocese of Plymouth Upcoming Events

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

Youth Adventure Residential Weekend

Save the date – 24 – 26 May at Grangehurst, Buckfast Abbey. A time to get to know others in the diocese and explore your faith. For further information contact youth@prcdtr.org.uk. For more news of youth activities see [this link](#).

End of Life Debate

In light of the calls being made for the legalisation of assisted suicide we are sharing links to Bishop Sherrington's statement on this topic as well as the ten-point summary on the CBEW webpage [click here](#).
10-point summary on assisted dying [click here](#).

Catholic Women's League AGM /Annual Review

This review will take place at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 26 March at the Parish Room South Street. There will be a speaker from St Petrock's Day Services followed by refreshments. All ladies from both parishes will be very welcome. We urgently need a secretary and a treasurer if we are to continue.

Baby Grand Piano

Free to a good home. Contact the Parish Office for more details.

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.

Exeter Foodbank

Donations of the following priority items are especially needed: tins of meat, tins of vegetables, tins of fruit, noodle and pasta snacks, jams and 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

Hello Everyone, I just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported my brownie sale – I hope that you enjoyed eating them! I raised over £200 for the HCPT pilgrimage, so I'm very grateful for all of the donations.

I will be leaving for Lourdes on Easter Sunday, and so if you would like me to take a petition to the Grotto, please could you either give it to me if you see me at Mass before then, or hand it in to the office clearly marked for Sian – Lourdes petition, before Good Friday.

With best wishes from Sian.

SPUC

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children is holding its annual Pro-life Prayer Chain by the **Blue Bridge on the A385 Ashburton Road, Totnes from 11.00am to 1.00pm on Saturday 27th April**. Please come and join us. We stand and pray in silence holding placards towards oncoming traffic. It is a powerful witness that we are against the killing of unborn babies. Please make this a priority and come along for as long as you wish, to show your support. Thank you.

Stay Awake

Stay Awake is taking place for the sixth year on **Saturday 13 April, 2024** from **10:00 – 19:00** at **All Saints Church of England Academy, Weymouth**.

Looking to go deeper with Jesus? Come along for some inspiring and thought-provoking talks, Holy Mass, kids' activities, praise and worship and pizza! This is an event for everyone and anyone. Tickets are free for those in Year 9 and under, £10.00 for those in Year 10 – 13, and only £12.50 for everyone else! Tickets available now, online from www.stayawakejc.com/stay-awake-2024

Mary's Meals Appeal

Our [emergency appeal for Ethiopia](#) continues as a response to the country's severe hunger crisis –the Tigray region, where Mary's Meals works, is one of the worst affected and 4.5 million people urgently need emergency food aid. Working with our local partner, we stand ready to further expand our programme to provide vital school meals to thousands more children. But we need your support to reach them.

PRAYER & LITURGY

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

For new martyrs. Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.



Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration

Sunday 7 April is Divine Mercy Sunday and Fr John Watkins will celebrate the Divine Mercy Chaplet at Blessed Sacrament at 3.00pm. Confessions at 2.30pm.

First Reading Acts 2:42-47 *The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common.*

Psalm Response: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Second Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9. *In his great mercy he has given us a new birth as his sons by raising from the dead.*

Gospel John 20:19-31 *Eight days later, Jesus came.*

Worship Thursdays

Adoration in church each Thursday 7.00-8.00pm.

With Taizé on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Next: 11 April

We commend to the Lord...

...the soul of Patrick Mason. Patrick's funeral will take place at 2.30pm on Monday 25 March at Blessed Sacrament. Please keep him and their family and friends in your prayers. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

The Call to Conversion

Explore how ordinary people in the bible, just like you, were met by Jesus where they were and called to a better life through Him. The common theme in each story is the turning of all one's attention and energy toward an ever deeper, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Join us every fortnight on Monday morning after the 10:00am Mass until 12:15 pm in the Lower Room Sacred Heart. Next meeting is Monday 25 March.

GIFT tots

Next session: **Friday 12 April in the Saint Richard Reynolds Room.**

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 13 April 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 19 April.** 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](#)

Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

Prayerfully Preparing for the Proclamation of Sunday's Gospel

Have you ever wondered what the Sunday Gospel message means for you personally? Lectio Divina is a way of becoming immersed in the scriptures very personally and is the basis of our weekly Wednesday Word Gospel sharing group. Every week from 2.00 -3.00pm via zoom, we set aside time together to pray, read, meditate and share our thoughts on the upcoming Sunday's Gospel. We are a friendly and inclusive group from different walks of life and we'd be delighted if you joined us. A weekly commitment is not necessary. Contact Maria Exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk if you would like to join or have further questions about how the session runs.

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: **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](#)

THE WORD

Sunday 24 March – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

First Reading Isaiah 50:4-7

I did not cover my face against insult - I know I shall not be shamed.

Psalm Response: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

He humbled himself, but God raised him high.

Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Sunday 31 March – Easter Sunday

First Reading Acts 10:34, 37-43

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection.

Psalm Response: This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

Second Reading: Paul 3:1-4

You must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Gospel: John 20:1-9 *He must rise from the dead.*

Sunday 7 April – Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

United, heart and soul.

Psalm Response: Give thanks for the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Second Reading: John 5:1-6

Anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world.

Gospel: John 20:19-31 *Eight days later, Jesus came.*

Easter Blessings

Easter is a time of great rejoicing for Christians throughout the world as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ from the dead. In this incredible moment God's love and mercy is revealed and the promise of new life for all who believe in his Son. I hope and pray that as we celebrate, your faith may be strengthened and renewed by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Let us at this time keep in our minds, our heart and our prayers, those Christians who are suffering because of their faith; those who are not able to celebrate as we are and especially those who continue to be victims of oppression and violence.

I would like to thank you all for the kindness, generosity and support you have shown throughout this year. As a parish priest I am blessed to be a part of this community of faith and to minister to you in so many ways. I know Fr John would want me to add his thanks and appreciation.

I wish you a very happy and holy Easter. May God pour out his blessings upon you and those you love today and always. *Fr Jonathan*

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/Catherine Odams*

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](#)