

# PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

21 April 2024 Fourth Sunday of Easter. Year B. *Psalter 2*

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## The Lord is my shepherd

Today is traditionally called Good Shepherd Sunday because of the Gospel narratives (from John 10) read each year, in which Jesus talks of himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his flock.

A general 'theme' to the Scriptures is the person of Jesus and what he has achieved by the Paschal Mystery (his dying and rising): the first reading talks of his name, and the power of the name of Jesus to save: one of the results of the 'power of this name' is that in him we are all God's children, and are promised an eternal reward.

All this is summed up in the Gospel, in which Jesus talks of himself as the real shepherd, who is prepared to do anything for his flock, even to the point of giving his life.

This he said before his passion, but in Eastertide we read it with the benefit of hindsight. His words are true, and by his dying and rising he has truly saved his flock.

*Salford Office for Liturgy*

# MASS TIMES

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## **Sunday 21 April – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

### **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**

- 8.45am *Mrs Sammon RIP*  
10.45am *Jenny and Patrick Mason RIP*  
Followed by refreshments in St Richard Reynolds Centre  
6.00pm *People of the Parish*

## **Tuesday 23 April**

- 6.30pm *Fr Michael Cole RIP*

## **Wednesday 24 April**

- 9.30am *Special intention of Joan Ware*

## **Thursday 25 April**

- 9.30am *Margaret Nicholson RIP*  
7.00pm Adoration

## **Friday 26 April**

- 6.30pm *Mgr George Hay RIP*

## **Saturday 27 April**

- 9.30am *Pat Hunt RIP*

## **Sunday 28 April – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

- 8.45am *Jenny and Patrick Mason RIP*  
10.45am *People of the parish*  
6.00pm *Rod Richards RIP*

## **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.

# OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

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## Lesley has retired!

As you may be aware, Lesley retired 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.

## World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday. It is an opportunity to pray for vocations and to encourage those who may be considering ordained or religious life. The Diocese of Plymouth also asks for your assistance in supporting our seminarians through their training and formation, both through prayer and financial support. If you are able to contribute to our **Seminarians' Fund**, either as a single donation or through regular giving, please pick up a leaflet or click [here](#)



## Forget-me-not Bereavement Café

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 on **Saturday 27 April**. We look forward to seeing you.

## Pro-life prayer chain

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.

## Rosary on the Coast

### **Saturday 11 May Corbyn Head Torquay**

You are invited to come and pray the Rosary on the Coast in reparation for the unborn babies aborted since the Abortion Act was passed in Parliament in 1967. Join with others as families gather around the Home Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of Unborn Children, at Corbyn Head, Torquay seafront, at 11am on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May. Join with the S.P.U.C. and the Torbay Order of the

Knights of St. Columba in offering Our Lady a wonderful bouquet of prayer. Let Life Flourish! There will be a shared table lunch afterwards at Holy Angels Church Hall, Chelston, Torquay.

## 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](#).

## Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse

**30 April 2024**

The Bishops of England and Wales have set aside the Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter as a Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse. This is a day of prayer for those who have been abused, during a season of hope and new life. This year's focus is on communities who have been directly affected by allegations or convictions related to abuse – especially, but not exclusively, within the Church.

### **Prayer for a culture of openness and loving support for survivors of abuse.**

*We pray for those who have come forward to speak of the abuse they have suffered, and for those who are not yet able to. May the Spirit help us to offer a response that is rooted in the love of Christ and to be a community in which they can continue to feel believed and safe as the search for truth and justice unfolds. God of justice and healing; Hear our prayer.*

If you have experienced abuse and would like to speak to someone about this please contact: The Safeguarding Office – Please call us on 01364 645430 between Monday to Friday, from 9:00am to 4:30pm for a confidential conversation.

## Safe Spaces

A free and independent support service for anyone who has experienced abuse, however long ago, in relation to the Church of England, the Church in Wales or the Catholic Church of England and Wales.

Telephone 0300 303 1056 (Monday - Friday 9:00am - 9:00pm, Saturday 9:00am - 1:00pm, Sunday 1:00pm - 5:00pm.) e-mail: [safespaces@firstlight.org.uk](mailto:safespaces@firstlight.org.uk)

You can also make a referral via their [website](#)

You can also visit the Safeguarding pages of the diocesan website to find contact details for local and national services that can support you [here](#).

## CAFOD

Blessed Sacrament Church have received two letters of thanks from Cafod, for your kind and generous support in 2023/2024, a total of £3780.27.

The letters are displayed in the porch.

Join Cafod at an online meeting with other parishioners from around the country to find out more about how your parish can reach out to local candidates and use its

voice. With over five million Catholics in the UK, the next general election is an opportunity to draw attention to the issues we care about.

**Thursday 25 April, 6:30pm-8:30pm**

**or Saturday 4 May, 11:00am-1:00pm**

[Register](#) to join us.

## Flores de Mayo & Santacruzán

The Filipino communities of our diocese invite you to join them to celebrate the Twelfth Flores de Mayo and Santacruzán on May 12 2024 at Plymouth Cathedral.

### **Flores de Mayo**

Traditional Marian devotion of Mass, procession, devotion and flower offerings.

### **Santacruzán**

depicts the searching and finding of the Holy Cross by Queen Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, who was a new convert to Christianity. After the Holy Cross was found in Jerusalem and brought to Rome, it was welcomed with a joyful celebration of thanksgiving. During the procession, the ladies represent many Biblical personalities.

## 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](mailto:clydebish@hotmail.com) for any extra information. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Plymouth Diocese Catholic Charismatic Renewal

You are invited to the following event:

### **Jesus is in the house! (Mark 2:1) Come and encounter Him**

A day of encounter for all ages, at St Cuthbert's Conference Centre, Buckfast Abbey  
29 June 10:00am–6:00pm.

Experience joyful praise and worship, ways of connecting to God's voice, prayer from the heart, workshops, prayer ministry, Adoration, and Mass. Hot/cold drinks included, optional two course lunch or bring your own packed lunch.

Tickets available from Eventbrite [here](#). We want to make the day as accessible as possible for everyone so there is also a 'pay what you can' option for tickets.

Please contact [info@swccr.org.uk](mailto:info@swccr.org.uk) for more information or if you have any questions.

We're really looking forward to sharing the day with as many of you as possible!

## Caritas Diocese of Plymouth Upcoming Events

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

## Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)

**Recycle your ink cartridges** and help support CCSP. Please pop your used ink cartridges in the box situated in the Baptistry at Blessed Sacrament. Thank you.

**Orange Box.** De-clutter and help the children in our Diocese. There is an orange box in the St. Richard Reynolds Rooms where items can be placed and every box filled will raise much needed funds for the CCSP.

Items that can be collected in the boxes include coins and bank notes, precious metals, medals and badges, costume jewellery, metals, watches, keys and locks, small antiques and collectibles.

## 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](mailto:youth@prcdtr.org.uk). For more news of youth activities see [this link](#).

## Art Exhibition

Retrospective Exhibition of the work of Grace Furneaux Wood on Saturday 20th April 10-5 at Exeter Community Centre, St Davids Hill EX4 3RG Free Admission <http://gracefurneauxwood.co.uk> Grace had a deep faith which is reflected in the religious artwork section of this exhibition.

She particularly loved painting pictures of Our Lady and the Child Jesus as well as pictures for First Communion and Confirmation candidates, one of Saint Cecilia the patron saint of music and a mosaic of Saint Kentigern. Grace was a member of the SIAC, the International Society of Christian Artists. She painted large murals in a temporary church (a disused Nissen hut!) prior to a commission to make the Stations of the Cross for the new church of St John Vianney in Clayhall, Essex in 1965.

When Grace and her husband Leslie moved to Devon in 1967 they became active parishioners of the Church of our Lady of Saint Patrick in Teignmouth. There will be many families in this parish whose children attended Monica Furneaux's ballet school who will remember Grace.

## Exeter Foodbank

Donations of the following priority items are especially needed: tins of meat, pasta sauces, vegetarian meals, sponge pudding, biscuits, custard, small jars of coffee, deodorant, shampoo and shower gel.

There is a collection basket at the back of the church. Please email Mark at [info@exeterfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@exeterfoodbank.org.uk) to find out how you can help.

# PRAYER & LITURGY

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

For the role of women. Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.

## We commend to the Lord...

...the souls of Pat Hunt, Mary Nicholson and Michael Dorrian.

Pat's funeral will take place at 2.30pm on Wednesday 24 April at St Peter's Chapel, Exeter and Devon Crematorium.

The Graveside Service of Mary Nicholson will take place at 11.30am on Friday 26 April at Higher Cemetery.

Please keep them and their family and friends in your prayers. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

## Worship Thursdays

Adoration in church each Thursday 7.00-8.00pm. **With Taizé** on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Next: 18 April - just this month

# GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

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## GIFT tots

Next session: **Friday 10 April in the St 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 11 May 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 17 May**. 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](mailto:Exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk) if you would like to join or have further questions about how the session runs.

## 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 towards 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 8 April.

## 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 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](mailto:exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk). We are now taking bookings for the April 2024 course. [Baptism Enquiry form](#)



# THE WORD

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## **Sunday 21 April** – Fourth Sunday of Easter

**First Reading:** Acts 4:8 -12

*This is the only name by which we can be saved.*

**Psalm Response:** *The stone that the builders rejected has become the corner stone.*

**Second Reading:** John 3:1-21

*We shall see God as he really is.*

**Gospel:** John 10:11-18

*The Good Shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.*

## **Sunday 28 April** – Fifth Sunday of Easter

**First Reading:** Acts 9: 26-31

*Barnabas explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul on his journey.*

**Psalm Response:** *You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.*

**Second Reading:** John 2:1-5

*He is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's.*

**Gospel** Luke 24: 35-48

*I give you a new commandment; love one another.*

# CONTACT US

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## Blessed Sacrament Parish

29 Fore Street, Heavitree, Exeter EX1 2QJ

01392 274724

[exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk)

Parish Priest *Fr Jonathan Stewart*

Priest in retirement *Fr John Watkins*

Parish Secretary *Catherine Odams*

Pastoral Assistant *Maria Quinn* [exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk)

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

Gift Aid enquiries: [exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk)

Parish website [blessedsacrament.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@stnics.uk)

[www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk](http://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](#)