

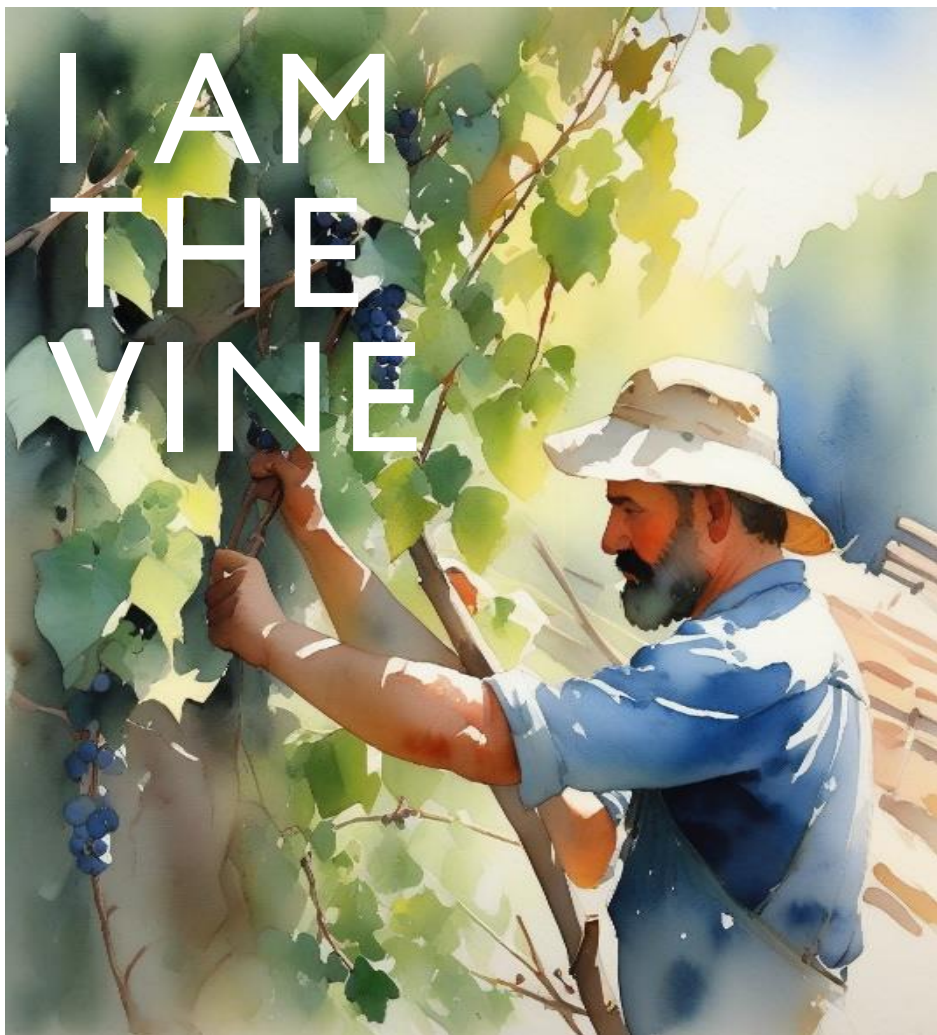
PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

28 April 2024 Fifth Sunday of Easter. Year B. Psalter I

I AM
THE
VINE



Last week it was sheep: this week, the vine. Jesus offers us another (agricultural) image to explain the mystery of his offering of himself, and our belonging to him, our being part of him, which comes about through the sacrament of Baptism.

This is, as was stated earlier, the period of Mystagogy, when the newly baptised are helped to see what life in Jesus Christ really means.

Today this comes out strongly for all of us, with two of the three readings emphasising the moral aspects of life in Christ: it is not simply enough to “belong” to him: our belonging must be shown by the works we do, by the fruits we bear - while remembering of course that we cannot bear fruit except in him.

Salford Office for Liturgy

MASS TIMES

Sunday 28 April – Fifth Sunday of Easter

8.45am *Jenny and Patrick Mason RIP*

10.45am *People of the Parish*

Followed by refreshments in St Richard Reynolds Centre

6.00pm *Rod Richards RIP*

Tuesday 30 April

Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse

6.30pm *Mo Bedford*

Wednesday 1 May

9.30am *Ihimekpen Family*

Thursday 2 May

9.30am *Mgr George Hay RIP*

7.00pm *Adoration*

Friday 3 May

6.30pm *Fr Sean Flannery RIP*

Saturday 4 May

9.30am *Stella Landers RIP*

Sunday 5 May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am *Jenny and Patrick Mason RIP*

6.00pm *Ihimekpen Family*

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.

NEWS & EVENTS

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 and Sunday 1:00pm - 5:00pm.)

E-mail: 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](#).

Safeguarding Training – Saturday 11 May 2024

Rob Kingdon from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team will be providing Safeguarding Training for parishioners from Blessed Sacrament, Sacred Heart and Topsham between 10.00 am and 4.00pm on Saturday 11 May 2024 in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. Drinks will be provided. Please bring your own packed lunch.

Who should attend this training?

- Anyone who has not attended Diocesan approved in-person or on-line training in the last three years and is currently: a Gift Catechist; Adult serving at the altar; Parish visitor; Eucharistic Minister in church and/or taking communion to hospital, care homes, private homes; Children's Liturgists and Catechists, Youth Workers/Helpers.
- Anyone who is thinking of volunteering to undertake one of the above roles.

- Any member of the parish who would like to understand more about Safeguarding would be welcome to join us.

Please give your name to *Catherine Odams in the Blessed Sacrament Parish Office* if you plan to attend. Thank you.

CAFOD

Sudan Crisis Appeal

The people of Sudan need our help urgently. Cafod are launching an [emergency appeal](#) for donations to get aid to them on the biggest scale we can muster.

When violence broke out last year in Sudan between government and paramilitaries, most aid agencies evacuated. Now, humanitarian workers are struggling to get back into Sudan to help, meaning severe delays in getting aid to the people, and the challenges of getting into areas where fighting is still going on remain. Many borders are shut as the government say they need to keep weapons out.

The situation has gone from serious to desperate very quickly. The UN is calling it 'the world's worst displacement crisis'. At least 8 million people have had to flee their homes; famine looms.

But the Church and our local partners are still there. Please, stand with them today.

A Year of Encounter

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, provides practical support to people and communities in need around the world. As part of its mission CAFOD also encourages Catholics in England and Wales to respond to the call of the Church to promote the common good. We are all invited to play our part in creating the social conditions necessary to build a world that reflects the Kingdom of God.

With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies.

A Year of Encounter is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see [here](#) for more information, including an online session on Saturday 4th May to learn more.

Thank You

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.

St Richard Reynolds Pillar

There will be the first showing of a brief video about St Richard Reynolds' pillar after the morning Mass on Saturday 4th May in the Centre. The pillar was part of the gateway to the medieval Syon Abbey, and 'The Pillar's Tale' is narrated by Sister Anne Smyth, O.Ss.S., the last Abbess. Light refreshments will be served.

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 to gather around the Home Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of Unborn Children, at Corbyn Head, Torquay seafront, at 11am on Saturday 11 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 John 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](#).

joyful celebration of thanksgiving.. During the procession, the ladies represent some Biblical personalities.

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 10am-6pm 29 June.

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 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!

Diocesan Newsletter April 2024

April is a month liturgically dedicated to The Holy Spirit. It can be accessed [here](#).

St Rita's of Cascia Feast Day

Wednesday 22 May 2023 at St. Rita's Centre, Honiton.

Principal Celebrant: Father John Dockerty.

The day will begin with Mass at 12 noon followed by the blessing and distribution of roses for the sick. Two shops will be open that day for sale of religious articles; you can also make your orders on our website www.sritascentre.org and collect your items on site on the feast day. Hot drinks will be available all day, but visitors should bring a packed lunch. The day will conclude with Benediction at 3.00pm.

We would advise early arrival as car parking can be difficult if you arrive after 11.30am. Car parking stewards will be on duty to help you and there will be a small army of volunteers working in various places helping to ensure a smooth running of the day and a happy feast day for everyone.

Plymouth Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

26 July for 6 nights. Please see the poster on the notice board in the porch.

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.

Rise to Our Cause on Ascension Thursday

Following the success of our inaugural CCSP Ascension Day fundraiser last year at Buckfast Abbey, this year's 'Rise to Our Cause' event is being held at St Mary's in Poole on Ascension Thursday, 9 May 2024.

The event will start with Holy Mass in the church at **12 noon**, followed by a buffet lunch in the church hall before this year's Guest Speaker, the hugely popular David Wells, who has talked at many events in the past all across the Diocese. There will also be a raffle to help raise money for CCSP to continue to help families of all faiths and none.



Tickets are now on sale for £10 with all proceeds going towards helping vulnerable children and families living in our Diocese. To purchase tickets, [please use this link](#).

Or visit the events page of our website – www.ccsplymouth.org.uk or scan this QR code. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the office on **01364 645420** or email andrea.rodgers@ccsplymouth.org.uk

Flores de Mayo & Santacruzán

Once again, the Filipino communities will celebrate the Twelfth Flores de Mayo and Santacruzán on May 12 2024 at Plymouth Cathedral.

Flores de Mayo- a traditional Marian devotion of Mass, a 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.

Caritas Diocese of Plymouth Upcoming Events

Please [click here](#) 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](#).

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 to find out how you can help.

PRAYER & LITURGY

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

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 Michael Dorrian, Roger Swift and Stella Landers.

Michael's funeral will take place at 2.00pm on Tuesday 5 May at the Crematorium.

Roger's funeral will take place at 11.00am on Friday 10 May at Blessed Sacrament Church, followed by interment at Topsham Cemetery.

A funeral Mass for Stella will be celebrated at Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday 15 May at 1.00pm. Her body will be received into church on Tuesday afternoon.

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. Next: 2 May.

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

GIFT tots

Next session: **Friday 10 May 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 11th 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

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.

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 20th May.

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 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 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 3:18-24

His commandments are these: that we believe in his Son and that we love one another.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.

Sunday 5 May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 10: 25-26. 34-35. 44-48

The Holy Spirit has been poured out on the pagans too.

Psalm Response: *The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.*

Second Reading: John 4:7-10

God is love.

Gospel John 15: 9-17

A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

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 *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](#)