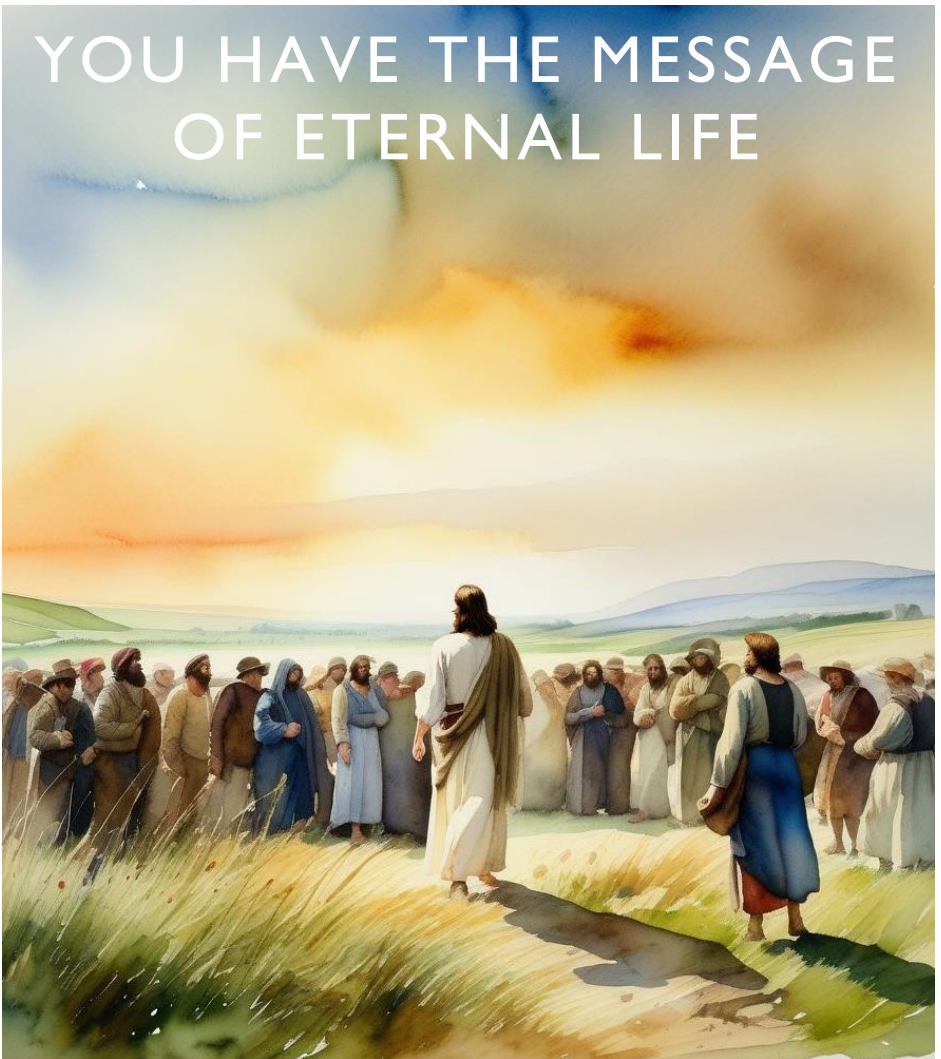


PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER
25 August 2024. *Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year B2. Psalter I*

YOU HAVE THE MESSAGE OF ETERNAL LIFE



Failure, rejection and isolation: these are the themes of today's remarkable Gospel - but they are not all. In the face of them we see perseverance, fidelity and trust. Above all there is an adherence to the truth that is truly amazing. Jesus speaks the truth to all who will listen, and if they find that truth "intolerable" they are free to leave, just as they are free to believe. No one who reads this passage could accuse Jesus of being interested in fame or fortune or the simple accumulation of followers. He didn't play the 'numbers game'. Even more amazing is that when his followers seem to be down to their lowest ebb, he turns to the Twelve and gives them freedom to go as well. Peter's reply, when he speaks of their belief, is the only answer that matters; it is spirit and life that replies, not the flesh, which has nothing to offer. *Diocese of Salford Liturgy Office*

MASS TIMES

Sunday 25 August – Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am *Dan Docherty RIP*

6.00pm *Private Intention*

Tuesday 27 August – St Monica, Patron of Mothers

6.30pm *Brendon de Sousa RIP*

Wednesday 28 August – St Augustine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

9.30am *Private Intention*

Refreshments in St Richard Reynolds Centre

Thursday 29 August – The Passion of St John the Baptist

9.30am *Chris Clatworthy RIP*

6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 30 August

10.30am Funeral Mass – June Szytko RIP

6.30pm

Saturday 31 August

9.30am *For those beginning a new term*

Sunday 1 September – Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am *Christ Clatworthy RIP*

10.45am *Michael Fox RIP*

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

Liturgy of the Word for Children

During term time at 10.45am Mass on Sunday.

Live stream Mass [Access the parish YouTube page at this link.](#)

Confessions Saturdays after 9.30am Mass or by appointment.

Mass intentions

If you would like a Mass to be offered for a special intention – perhaps someone you know is sick or has died, perhaps you would like to give thanks to God for graces received – contact the Parish Office and we will find a suitable date. It is traditional to make an offering at the time. There are some small brown envelopes in the church porch to facilitate this.

NEWS & EVENTS

Welcome

We welcome to Blessed Sacrament Parish all who are visiting us at this time. We pray you have a good holiday/visit. We also pray that those of our community who are enjoying holidays will return refreshed and invigorated by their time away.

Spreading love

A Catholic Response to Migrants and Refugees can be found [here](#)

Catholic Children's Society Annual Appeal 24/25 August

Believe, Love, Share -Transforming Lives-Putting All Children First: please give generously today towards the work of the Catholic Children's Society and keep them and their beneficiaries in your prayers. Your love, kindness and generosity will make a difference to many children and their families. Thank you so much and please remember to Gift Aid your donation if you can!



Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)

The latest "Children First" **newsletter** can be found in the church porch.

Recycle your ink cartridges and help support CCSP. Please pop your used ink cartridges in the box situated in the Baptistry at Blessed Sacrament. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept toner/laser cartridges. Thank you.

Orange Box. De-clutter and help the children in our Diocese. There is an orange box in the St. Richard Reynolds Centre 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 banknotes, precious metals, medals and badges, costume jewellery, metals, watches, keys and locks. Also collected are small antiques and collectibles, anything unusual, contact CCS if not sure. In addition, scientific and photographic items can be donated, but please contact CCSP first. CCS@prcdtr.org.uk, 01364 645420

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

These sessions are aimed at those wanting to learn more, desiring to receive Baptism or Confirmation in the Catholic Church. If you would like to discover more, join our RCIA course which will be starting in September in the Lower Room at Sacred Heart. If you are interested, please send your details to Coral at exeter-sacredheart@prcdtr.org.uk.

Adore Spiritual Mini Retreat

31 August 10.00am – 1.00pm “BEAR THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT – our transformed lives will help other people.” Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Maria Heath.

Please register for the Zoom meeting in advance [here](#). More information [here](#). Also please see the poster in the porch.

Farewell to Fr Albert

Fr Albert will be leaving Sacred Heart in September. We would like you to join us in celebration of his time with us. This will be held at St Nicholas School Hall on **Sunday 8 September at 2.30pm**. Please confirm your attendance for catering purposes by contacting Coral Mortier, Parish Secretary at South Street 01392 642389, exeter-sacredheart@prcdtr.org.uk.

Holy Cross Parish Topsham

"Thanks to the generosity of Monsignor Keith and Fr Gerard we will be able to continue with Mass at Topsham at 11.00am on Sundays. Both priests are retired, and so although we expect that Mass will take place most weekends, it may be that on occasions neither will be available. If that happens it will not be possible to have Mass at Holy Cross but let us see how things go to start with. From September there will be no weekday Mass at Topsham." *Father Petroc*

Forget-me-not Bereavement Café

The café is held once a month on a Saturday morning (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 28 September**. We look forward to seeing you.

Youth Rally 2024, Saturday 28 September

Please join us at St Rita's in Honiton for the annual Youth Rally on **Saturday 28 September 2024**. As usual there will be many activities for all to join in, including an obstacle course, penalty shoot-out and various inflatable activities. Young people from 6–16 are welcome to form teams of six to compete against others. Don't worry if you can't form a group of six, you can be combined with another parish. For booking and further questions please contact, Saskia: youth@prcdtr.org.uk
Please also see the poster in the porch.

Right to Life

Ask your MP to protect life in the new Parliament.

We are likely to face threats in the new Parliament on both beginning and end-of-life fronts. Ask your local MP to protect the most vulnerable.

Take action: Email your MP today by visiting [here](#).

Society for the Protection of the Unborn (SPUC)

This year's annual petition focuses on the two-child benefit cap, which you may have heard about in the news. Sadly, one of the biggest drivers of abortion in the UK is **poverty**, and one particular policy which penalizes families and contributes to poverty is the current policy on Universal Benefits. The two-child benefit cap targets the poor and vulnerable. Please help mothers to choose life and overturn the cruel and punitive two-child benefit cap by signing the cards in the back of the church. Alternatively, sign the online petition [here](#). Signatories must be over 18.

March for Life

March for Life UK happens in London on **Saturday 7 September**. There are many attempts at the moment to further liberalise abortion in the UK and to silence those offering any alternative viewpoint whether that's "pills by post abortions", decriminalization, buffer zones or censorship on pro-life students at universities. The dangers of these situations are being highlighted by the theme for this year's March for Life which is "Abortion isn't Healthcare".

Join thousands at this family-friendly event. Coach pick up from the bottom of Exeter Services at 8.00am. Depart Westminster at 5.30pm. £25 per seat. Assisted places are available. For more information please contact Christine Hudson Tel 07742320717 email: chrishud78@talktalk.net

See the poster and flyers in the porch or find out more [here](#).

Eucharistic Congress 2024

Saturday 14 September Oscott, Birmingham

A coach will leave our diocese to take pilgrims from across our five deaneries to this faith-affirming national event. It will include talks, the celebration of Mass and a procession. If you would like to join us please phone 01202 746539 or email christopher.findlay@prcdtr.org.uk asap.

Caritas Diocese of Plymouth July Newsletter

Please click the link to read this month's newsletter about upcoming events and news of love in action around the diocese [here](#) or visit [this link](#).

Diocese of Plymouth Newsletter

The current newsletter can be accessed by [following this link](#).

A version with black and white text [can be found at this link](#).

Catholic Bishops' Conference

The latest news from the Catholic Bishops' conference can be accessed [here](#).

Bible Alive

There is a free copy of the latest edition of this publication in the church porch. Help yourself. To contribute, put your money in the wall box marked 'books'.

Catholic South West

Catholic South West is a monthly newspaper for Catholics in the Plymouth, Clifton and Portsmouth Dioceses. Copies are in the porch. Please put your money in the wall box marked "newspapers" (50p)

St Nicholas School

Please contact Mrs Brockson admissions@stncls.uk for information about joining our school community.

School Transport grants for the academic year 2024-25

The Diocese of Plymouth is now taking applications from parents/guardians wishing to apply for grants for transport to a Catholic or Catholic/CofE school situated in the Diocese of Plymouth. Applications for the academic year 2024-5 must be submitted in writing and be signed by the Parish Priest. Families will be notified at the start of the Autumn term if their application has been successful.

There are limited funds and not all applications may be successful.

You can obtain an application form from the parish office.

Plymouth CAST – We need you!

Plymouth CAST is a Catholic multi-academy trust of 34 schools and one nursery, spanning the Diocese of Plymouth. Our mission is to be a community of outstanding schools in which our pupils flourish in safe, happy, and stimulating environments and leave us with the knowledge and skills, personal qualities, and aspirations, to make the world a better place, inspired by the Gospel.

Plymouth CAST is currently recruiting to expand its Board of Directors. We are particularly interested in hearing from you if you have skills and experience in Finance, HR, and/or Education. Please contact the Clerk to the Trust Board for further information, Mrs Leah Paiano lpaiano@plymouthcast.org.uk

Would you like to help Build Babies' Brains?

Exeter Family Hub

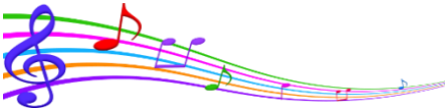
Become a Building Babies' Brain Champion by joining us on our fully funded series of workshops to support you to increase your knowledge of baby brain development, bonding and resilience, and be confident in "passing on" this information to parents/carers/communities. Please see the poster in the porch.

Laudato Sí – Exeter

The Diocese is reminding us of Pope Francis's Letters, Laudato Si' and more recently Laudate Deum. The Holy Father uses words from the great Canticle of St Francis of Assisi to ask us to consider our care for the Earth and its diversity of life, and for people threatened by the very serious environmental problems we face together.

We propose to reflect on the Pope's teaching documents and what they might mean for our lives and wider social responsibilities, drawing on the strengths of all three Parishes. If this interests you, can you please share your name and contact details with Coral Mortier, Parish Secretary at South Street 01392 642389, exeter-sacredheart@prcdtr.org.uk. Your support will help us organise a combined Laudato Si' meeting for Exeter. Watch this space for more details.

Blessed Sacrament Music Collective



The next Collective 'jams' are: **Saturday 5 October - 10.30am - 1.30pm** in the Richard Reynolds Centre, **Saturday 23 November - 10.30am - 1.30pm** in the

church. We would love to hear from anyone who would like to play with us, whether you attend at the 8.45am, 10.45am, 6.00pm, or a mixture. We need your gifts and talents to help our parish lift their hearts and voices in praise and worship.

If you are interested in finding out more or coming to one of the 'jams', please email angelajfolland@gmail.com or angela.bosley@btinternet.com

Exeter Foodbank Summer Campaign

The demand for Emergency food has increased by 36% since last year, and we have noticed a decline in donations. Our store is struggling to keep up with demand and so we are asking local schools, churches and community groups to take part in a food collection for Exeter Foodbank in July.

The 3 items we are asking for this year, as we are particularly low, are **tinned meat, fish and vegetables**.

Collection basket at the back of the church. [Exeter Foodbank Newsletter](#)

You are invited to **Try Alpha**



Alpha has been changing people's lives around the world and has had a powerful effect on the lives of some of our parishioners. We would love you to share their experience of encountering Jesus Christ and the Church in a dynamic way.

The next Alpha starts on **Tuesday 24 September at 7.00pm in the St Richard Reynolds' Centre at Blessed Sacrament Church.** Come along and why not invite a friend to come with you.

To take part please register by 22 September by filling in this form:

[ALPHA Registration Form](#)

For more information contact Ola at ola.godbeer@gmail.com



Alpha Culinary Care

As the best conversations often start around food, we begin every Alpha session with a meal.

Would you consider being part of our Alpha Catering Team and supporting this vital ministry in our parish by preparing one of the meals?

Contact Ola ola.godbeer@gmail.com to find out more about what it involves.



Welcome to Called & Gifted The Next Step in Your Spiritual Journey

Each of us is created uniquely by God, in our time and place, for a purpose. When we understand and allow ourselves to be aligned with that purpose we are energised and fulfilled; and God's love and provision is able to flow more freely exactly where it is needed, through our spiritual gifts (charisms). Called and Gifted is the discernment process that helps us unlock our story, understand our gifts (charisms) and discover our unique mission. Called and Gifted has a rich history stemming from the Catherine of Siena Institute and the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth.

This autumn Called & Gifted is happening in Blessed Sacrament Parish and we are excited to offer **every Mass goer** the chance to take part. We believe Called & Gifted will play an important role in our personal spiritual development, the renewal of our parish community and our desire to become Missionary Disciples.

The first meeting will be on **Saturday 28 September at 1.00pm**, an introduction to the process and a teaching day. We hope that at least 30 people will want to join. The cost is £80 per head but the parish will sponsor any participant and pay half the cost. This covers the teaching day, a one to one spiritual conversation and some small group meetings. We do not want cost to be a barrier to taking part so if you would like to join, but can't afford it please just mention this to Fr Jonathan.

You'll need to sign up by **19 September** to take part; [please visit this link to complete the application form](#). We look forward to welcoming you.

More information can be found at the [Called & Gifted website](#).

A charism is more than a talent or personal quality. It is a grace, a gift that God gives through the Holy Spirit. Not because someone is better than others but rather so that he puts it at the service of others with the same gratitude and love with which he has received it. Pope Francis

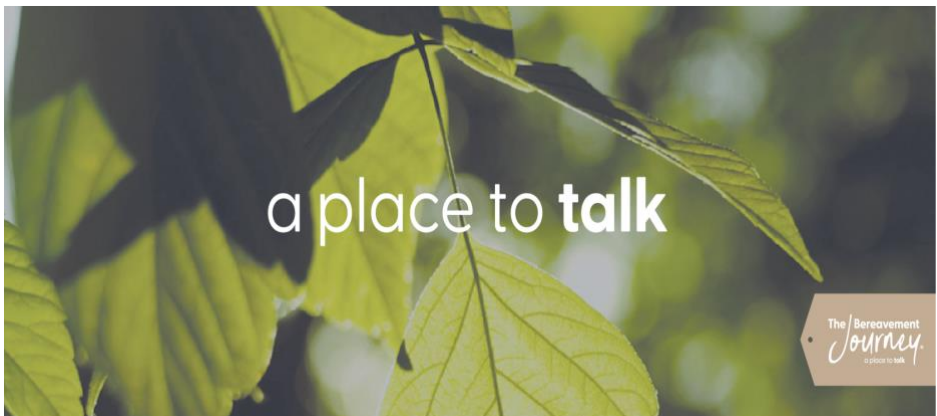
The Bereavement Journey[®]

a place to talk

The Bereavement Journey starts **12th October 2024 10.00am**

It is a series of films and discussion groups that gently guide people, bereaved at any time, through the most common aspects of grief and bereavement, enabling them to process the implications for themselves and discern next steps. If you have been bereaved and feel you may not have come to terms with your loss we hope you will join us on The Bereavement Journey in The St Richard Reynolds Centre.

We offer 15 films over 7 weeks. Guests are placed in groups of 6 - 8 for discussion following the films and volunteers guide them in exploring their loss, aided by a guest manual (for a suggested donation of £15). Anyone over 18 years is welcome.



For more information visit www.thebereavementjourney.org. Places need to be booked in advance so if you would like to register please contact the Parish Office on 01392 274724 or email exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk. Please also see the poster in the porch.

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

GIFT tots

GIFT tots will not meet throughout June, July and August. Our next session will be on **Friday 13 September** in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. If you and your little one(s) would like to join us please register using the link below.

[GIFT Tots Registration Form](#)

GIFT families and youth

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.

Register for GIFT and GIFT Youth:

[GIFT Registration Form.](#) [GIFT Youth Registration Form](#)

GIFT youth socials

We ask that parents of any young person wishing to come to GIFT Youth socials have registered them before they attend. Please use the link above. This helps ensure everyone's safety. If you've signed up for GIFT Youth, details of the next session will be sent to you.

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: **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 Catherine in the parish office on 01392 274724 or [exeter-](mailto:exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk)

heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk. We are now taking bookings for the October 2024 course. [Baptism Enquiry form](#)

Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

Prayerfully Preparing for the Proclamation of Sunday's Gospel

Wednesdays 2.00 – 3.00pm via zoom. We meet to pray, read, meditate and reflect 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 12.15pm in the Lower Room at Sacred Heart. The next meeting will be after a summer break on **23 September**.

Going into hospital?

If you, or someone you know is going into hospital for any length of time and would like the Chaplaincy team to know, please let the parish office know.

Getting Married?

Congratulations. If you are hoping to marry at Blessed Sacrament Church or any other place, including abroad, we require at least six months' notice. Please contact the parish office to arrange an appointment to meet with the parish priest.

PRAYER & LITURGY

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

In his prayer intention for the month of August, the Holy Father invites the faithful to join him in prayer "that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and the common good, taking caring of those who have lost their jobs and giving priority to the poorest.

Worship Thursday

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in church each Thursday 6.00–7.00pm.
Come and spend time with the Lord, opening your heart to all he has for you.

We commend to the Lord...

... Brendan de Sousa, Chris Clatworthy, June Szytko and Marcel Choules.
Brendan's funeral will be at Blessed Sacrament Church on Tuesday 27 August at 1.00pm. Chris' funeral will be on Wednesday 28 August at 10.30am at the Crematorium. June's funeral will be at Blessed Sacrament Church on Friday 30 August at 10.30am.

Please keep them in your prayers as we ask God to gather them into paradise and grant them eternal rest.

We pray for...

...all those awaiting results of public examinations; for our young people who are moving to new schools this autumn or making plans to go to colleges and universities around the country; for those struggling with addiction; for those who are sick and those who have received a diagnosis of terminal illness. May they all be strengthened by the Lord through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Rosary is prayed after Mass every first and third Wednesday. You would be most welcome to join us.

THE WORD

Sunday 25 August – Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Joshua 24: 1-2. 15-18

We will serve the Lord, for he is our God.

Psalm Response: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5: 21-32

The mystery has many implications for Christ and his Church.

Gospel: John 6: 60-69

Whom shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life.

Sunday 1 September – Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4: 1-2. 6-8

Add nothing to what I command you, keep the commandments of the Lord.

Psalm Response: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Second Reading: James 1:17-18. 21-22. 27

You must do what the word tells you.

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.

New Lectionary

The Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has confirmed the approval by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for the new Lectionary. The Lectionary, which includes the scripture readings for Mass and the sacraments, will come into use in Catholic parishes in England and Wales from Advent 2024.

Cardinal Arthur Roche, Prefect of the Dicastery, wrote to Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Bishops' Conference, confirming the new translation of the Lectionary, which has been done in collaboration with the Bishops' Conference of Scotland. He said: "The use of the English Standard Version – Catholic Edition, already in use in India, along with the Abbey Psalms and Canticles will help to ensure that the Word of the Lord reaches God's holy people without alloy.

The Lectionary was revised after the Second Vatican Council. Paragraph 51 of Second Vatican Council document *Sacrosanctum Concilium* said: "The treasures of the bible are to be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God's word."

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

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](#)