

PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

22 September 2024. 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year B2. Psalter 1



The tone of the Gospel begins to grow darker: Jesus is now on his way to Jerusalem, where he will be arrested and killed. Despite this, both this week and next week, there is a lighter contrast in the children that Jesus welcomes and blesses. Perhaps this tells us something about Jesus and his mission: despite the gathering clouds, (and possibly even because of that) he is still the manifestation of God's love for all his children, a love that will be most clearly displayed when he faces that death for our sake. There is one quite chilling phrase which links these together, in the first reading, where the plotters against the good man say, "Let us test him with cruelty and torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his." The cold calculation of this is not far removed from the plotting of those who saw in Jesus a threat to their positions – with all his purity of worship and faith, with all his "reproaches for our breaches of the law." There is indeed a storm gathering. But the last line of the first reading, though meant mockingly, will come true: "God will look after him - we have his word for it." And three days after his death he will rise again. *Diocese of Salford Office for Liturgy*

MASS TIMES

Sunday 22 September – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am *For the Repose of Souls of the Irvine Family*

10.45am *People of the Parish*

6.00pm *Margit Ghajdosova RIP*

Tuesday 24 September – Our Lady of Walsingham

6.30pm *Kath Franklin RIP*

Wednesday 25 September

9.30am *For young people to return to the Church*

Refreshments in St Richard Reynolds Centre

Thursday 26 September

9.30am *Peggy Webber RIP*

6.00pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

Friday 27 September St Vincent de Paul, Priest

6.30pm *Private Intention*

Saturday 28 September

9.30am *June Szytko RIP*

Sunday 29 September – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am *For the Jenkinson Brothers*

10.45am *People of the Parish*

6.00pm *Margaret Leonard RIP*

Liturgy of the Word for Children

During term time at 10.45am Mass on Sunday. Please register as you arrive at church.

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 an intention, 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

World Day of Migrants and Refugees

The 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees is celebrated on **Sunday 29 September**. [Pope Francis' message](#) invites us to 'see in the migrants of our time, as in those of every age, a living image of God's people on their way to the eternal homeland'. For this reason, the encounter with the migrant, as with every brother and sister in need, "is also an encounter with Christ". As Christians we are called to welcome the stranger and look for opportunities to welcome those are migrants, refugees or seeking asylum in our local communities.

Caritas Diocese of Plymouth will be holding an event in Exeter at Sacred Heart Parish rooms on **Thursday 26 September** from 6.00-8.00pm which will explore how we can create a culture of welcome. We are pleased to be joined by Yogi Sutton from the [Catholic Association for Racial Justice](#). All are welcome to attend. Registration is essential and you can do so [here](#), or phone 01364 645360.

Please also see the poster in the porch. A Catholic response to migrants and refugees can be found [at this link](#).

Catholic Women's League

Calling all ladies who want the Catholic Women's League to continue.

Sadly, we have lost two of our officers this year and other members are no longer able to be very active because of health problems. If you can spare just a small amount of time each month, attend one meeting, say a daily prayer and assist with some fund raising and social activities and supporting our priests. Please come along to the next meeting on **Tuesday 24th September at 2.00pm** in the Parish Room at Sacred Heart, South Street. We do sometimes have speakers and events and cake. For more information call Frances on 01392 209542.

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.

WELCOME

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Parish is a welcoming, lively and inclusive faith community where all are known and loved, and inspired and encouraged to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

We are committed to uplifting worship, generous giving, serving those in need and the joyful proclamation of the Gospel.

BLESSED SACRAMENT
CATHOLIC PARISH

Parish Vision Team Update

Who we are: The team is made up of volunteers from the parish and the Parish Priest:

Angela Bosley (Chair), Fr Jonathan, Chris Jones, Sheila Hosker, Maria Quinn, Ola Godbeer, Angela Folland, Ann Wright, Nick Gill, Ellen Gill and Sreya Paul.

What we do: Keep alive the vision of the parish and encourage and support its implementation.

The team has met several times this year to discuss how we can bring our Parish Vision into Action.

We've been considering 5 main areas of parish life:

Worship, Evangelisation, Community, Ministry and Discipleship.

These have been identified as being particularly relevant for parish renewal, moving from a community principally concerned with Maintenance to one which is focused on Mission.

The team met on Wednesday evening and

discussed priorities for the future. Three things emerged: House groups, The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) and Parish Website & Welcome pack/booklet.

House Groups Living as a faithful Catholic Christian in today's world is increasingly challenging. We all need support to grow in faith and to be more confident disciples of the Lord. Praying with others, sharing our faith and supporting each other when we face challenges are all important. We already have several small groups of parishioners, and others, who meet regularly to do just this. We would like to offer more opportunities for others to meet and we will be looking at ways in which this could become a reality.

The SVP We already have an SVP group within the parish. A small group of dedicated parishioners support those in our community, and beyond, who need help and friendship. The membership of the group is getting older and needs to be bolstered by new faces. In other parishes there are also Youth SVP groups. We would like to promote the work of the SVP, get others involved and consider inviting our young people to offer themselves for this ministry.

Website and Welcome We have a [fantastic parish website](#). It's informative, friendly and welcoming, but it's a challenge to keep it up to date and relevant. It's often how people are introduced to the community, so we want it to reflect who we are and what we do. We would also like to create a welcome/information pack which lets people know what's going on in the parish and how they can get involved.

Please keep all these things in your prayers. We'll keep you up to date with developments and we're always really pleased to hear your ideas.

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)

On this feast day of St Vincent de Paul this coming Friday (27/9), please pray for our small but dedicated SVP team who continue to reach out to many in our community and on the margins of society.

Could you spare three hours a month? If so, do consider volunteering at our outreach Chatter Cafe on a Wednesday morning at Sacred Heart Lower Rooms. You will help prepare and serve refreshments while our team supports and cares for some of our more vulnerable guests. For more details contact Peter Schranz at pschranz5@gmail.com

Diocesan Youth Rally 2024 – Saturday 28 September

Please join us at St Rita's in Honiton for the annual Youth Rally.

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.

Blessed Sacrament Music Collective

The next Collective 'jams' are on: **Saturday 5 October 10.30am – 1.30pm** in the St 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 8.45am, 10.45am, 6.00pm, or a mixture.

To find out more email angelajfolland@gmail.com or angela.bosley@btinternet.com

Care of Creation Photography Project

As we prepare for the year of Jubilee, Caritas Diocese of Plymouth would like to invite you to reflect on Care for Creation and how we live this out in our churches and communities today. To explore this issue Caritas would like to collect and share photographs by parishioners of people and places in the diocese. We would like to explore three themes that call to mind the reflected glory of the Lord in the beautiful world we are asked to care for. The themes are Beauty, Good Choices and Humanity. To find out more please follow [this link](#)

Caritas Diocese of Plymouth

To subscribe to the Caritas newsletter click [here](#).

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

These sessions are aimed at those wanting to learn more about the Catholic faith or 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

The Bereavement Journey

12 October 2024 10.00am

A series of films and discussions 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 contact the Parish Office on 01392 274724 or email exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk. See the poster in the porch.

Dei Verbum – The Word of God

“How can we know anything about God with certainty? Why should we trust what the Church tells us about God? How do we make sense of the Bible?” In preparing for the Jubilee year 2025, Pope Francis has asked us to explore the key documents of Vatican II and one of those documents is Dei Verbum. Come and join us with Sister Hyacinthe, who as a Dominican, will guide us through the text and inspire us with a love of God’s Word. The day will take place at Schiller Hall, Buckfast Abbey on **Saturday 19 October** 10.00am (tea/coffee) 10.30–3.00pm. Mass at 12noon.

To reserve a place contact: deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk or [click here](#).

The Safeguarding Office - Support for victims of abuse

The Diocesan Safeguarding Office provides advice and support to all victims of abuse, regardless of whether this is something that is happening currently or that happened in the past. We work with anyone who has been abused, both those who were abused within the church, as well as those who have been abused in other settings. We are here to help you whether you were a child or adult when the abuse took place. We are not here to blame, judge or make excuses for the abuser, we are here to help all those who have experienced abuse or are still in an abusive situation, in any way we can.

The Safeguarding Office can provide you with support, advice, and signposting to relevant organisations. Our dedicated team of safeguarding professionals work closely with other agencies both locally and nationally including the Police, Probation, Social Services, and to standards that are set out by the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency.

Please contact us for a confidential conversation. Call us on 01364 645430 (Monday to Friday from 9.00am – 4.30pm) or e-mail safeguarding@prcdtr.org.uk

Trustees of the Catholic Children's Society

We have a small Board of Trustees, made up of enthusiastic volunteers, who meet four times a year at St Boniface House in Ashburton. Each trustee is passionate about making a difference and each one brings a different skillset to the board.

We are looking for new trustees to supplement our existing team and are particularly interested in people with professional skills in areas such as HR, business/finance and social care. This is a voluntary position, rewarding and challenging.

We are also looking for **youth trustees** to bring the views of young people to our work. Maybe you are at university or have just completed your studies and think you would enjoy making a difference to some of the most deprived families in our Diocese? This volunteering role offers good business experience, an ability to find out how a small charity works, knowledge of safeguarding, as well valuable experience working as part of a diverse team. You will need to be aged 18+.

If you are interested in having a chat with one of the team, please call **01803 645420** or email ccs@ccsplymouth.org.uk. Our next Board meeting is on **Monday, 21 October 2024 starting at 10.30am at St Boniface House in Ashburton** and you would be more than welcome to pop along to observe.

Catholic Children's Society Orange Box update

So far this year, we have raised almost £3,500 through our Orange Box recycling scheme, but we would love to beat last year's record set at just over £5,500.

Please remember to bring in all your unwanted items and pop them in our parish's Orange Box which is located in the St Richard Reynold Centre.

Items that can be donated include: stamps, coins and banknotes (UK old and current plus foreign currency), medals, gold, silver and precious metals, jewellery and costume jewellery, small household items (including cutlery and old kitchen utensils), ornaments, watches, (working or not) and Catholic memorabilia such as rosaries, crucifixes, pendants etc. Your continued support means everything to us, and we cannot continue to do what we do to help families and children without you all. Thank you for thinking of the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth).

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 11am 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, and if that happens it will not be possible to have Mass at Holy Cross, but let us see how things go to start with." *Father Petroc*

Fr Gerard Wilberforce has generously offered to celebrate a weekday Mass as before on Thursday at 10am, unless unable to do so. Should there be a major feast day during the week it may be possible for him to celebrate Mass and honour the feast.



CAFOD Family Fast Day – Harvest Appeal

Friday 4 October is the Cafod Family Fast Day. This is a day when we can pray, give, and eat simply in solidarity with our global family.

Daniel, a young man in Democratic Republic of Congo, is carving a better future for his family with carpentry skills he learned in a CAFOD-funded training centre. Give to CAFOD and you'll fund

training, tools, equipment and safe spaces so more people like Daniel can learn new skills and fulfil their God-given potential.

Thank you for your support of previous fast days, and for your prayers and generosity for our sisters and brothers across the world. Use the envelope in church, the above QR code, or give online at [CAFOD's website](#).

We will be welcoming Simon Giarchi, Cafod's Co-ordinator for the Diocese of Plymouth, at all Masses on **29 September** to speak on behalf of the charity.

University of Exeter Catholic Chaplaincy

If you are going to be studying at the University of Exeter this year, we would like to invite you to come to our Catholic Chaplaincy, located at Boniface House, Glenthorne road, between Moberly and Birks Grange Village halls of residence. You can find more details and directions

here: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/students/chaplaincy/catholic/>

We have a very lively and faith-filled community. Exeter Catholic Society meets weekly at the Catholic Chaplaincy for a range of activities throughout the year, from various socials to talks and society trips, in a friendly environment where students can grow in faith while having fun and making new friends. Masses at our Catholic Chaplaincy are celebrated during term time on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. (followed by a free lunch), Tuesdays at 12 p.m. (followed by a free lunch) and Thursdays at 5 p.m.

For further information on Exeter CathSoc and the events at the Catholic Chaplaincy, please go to our Facebook page at [@ExeterUniCatholicSociety](#) or get in touch with the Chaplaincy Assistant, Dr Maria Giannone, at m.g.giannone@exeter.ac.uk We look forward to meeting you!

Vacancies in the Diocese of Plymouth

There are two vacancies for Apprentices in Plymouth Diocese: one for Business Management and one for Finance and Accounting.

Please see the adverts in the church porch. The closing date for both vacancies is Monday 30 September.

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](#)



Synod 2021-2024

You are invited to a Synodal Day
Buckfast Conference Centre
Saturday October 26th 2024
10.00am - 3.15pm

A day exploring 'Conversations in the Spirit' which is one of the fruits to have emerged out of the current synodal journey. The day will be facilitated by Sarah Adams who is Director of Adult Education and Evangelisation for Clifton Diocese.

Sarah has been involved in the synodal journey at both diocesan and national levels and will take us through both the methodology and practise of Conversations in the Spirit and how we might apply it in a variety of settings.

For more information, email Fr Paul Keys at: synod@prcdtr.org

To attend this free event, click on the button below before 30th September (even if you have already replied so we can note access/dietary requirements)

[Register to attend Synodal Day](#)

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

A few weeks into the new year and we are back in the swing and planning for the year. The Yr 3 and 4 children are already booked in to sleep with the sharks at the aquarium and we are keeping our fingers crossed that our Yr 5 children will be able to Parliament in January.

If you would like to find out more about joining our school from Nursery to Yr 6, please contact admissions@stnics.uk.

We are also holding open days in November for prospective **September 2025** Reception entry. These are on the **12th and 13th at 9.30 and the 14th at 6pm**. Please contact admissions@stnics.uk for a booking form.

Exeter Foodbank

Priority items: tins of meat, tins of vegetables, tins of fruit, noodle and pasta snacks, jams and spreads, small jars of coffee, rice pudding, tins of fish.

There is a basket in the back of the church. [Exeter Foodbank Newsletter](#)

Franciscan at Home Autumn workshops

These will take place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays this term.
More information, dates, times and links to all sessions available on request.

Unlocking the Rich Treasure of the Catechism

Mondays at 7.30 starting on 9 September. 8 sessions.

This is one of a 4-part series on the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Conversion in Modern Culture

Mondays at 7.30 starting on 11 November. 5 sessions.

Catholic Social Teaching

Wednesdays at 7.00pm starting on 11 September. 7 sessions.

Hearing God's Voice Through the Scriptures

Wednesdays at 7.00pm starting on 6 November. 6 sessions.

For online and live workshops in Truro and Sclerder on Wednesdays and Thursdays,
please contact: Truro: pmcgovern1952@gmail.com. Sclerder: saltash@prcdtr.org.uk

Deborah van Kroonenburg *Franciscan at Home Diocesan Coordinator*

Individually Guided Advent Retreats

Ignatian silent and individually guided retreats are available locally in the Diocese of Plymouth for Advent 2024. For those who would like to step back from everyday life for a little while, to review their journey in faith and make a little extra space and time for God.

6–8 December (Friday – Sunday) Weekend Retreat £160

6–10 December (Friday – Tuesday) Extended Weekend Retreat £280

9–13 December (Monday – Friday) Midweek Retreat £275

6–13 December (Friday - Friday) 6-day retreat£475)

Venue: St Rita's Centre Honiton, East Devon, a well-appointed retreat house with comfortable ensuite accommodation situated in the Vale of Honiton.

Cost includes full board & lodging. Help is available for those who would like to go on retreat but have difficulties with the recommended donations.

Dates for similar 2025 Lent retreats of varying lengths: Friday March 7th - 14th 2025

For further details and bookings contact Plymouth Diocesan Ignatian Spirituality

Group at diocesan-ignatian-retreats@prcdtr.org.uk

or phone 01752 769164 or 07823 447637. Please also see the poster in the porch.

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

GIFT tots

Our next session will be on **Friday 11 October** in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. If you and your little one(s) would like to join us please register using this link: [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 at the links below:

[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 at exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk or 01392 274724. We are 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 September Prayer Intention

...is for the cry of the Earth, which "has a fever and is sick, just like anyone who's sick." As part of the Season of Creation – the annual period of time in which the Church traditionally mobilises itself to reflect on the care of our common home – it is a powerful call to "deal with the environmental crisis caused by humans."

[The Pope Video](#)

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.

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

THE WORD

Sunday 22 September – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Wisdom 2:12. 17-20

Let us condemn him to a shameful death.

Psalms Response: The Lord upholds my life.

Second Reading: James 3:16 – 4:3

Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Gospel: Mark 9: 30-37

The Son of Man will be delivered. If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself servant of all.

Sunday 26 September – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Numbers 11: 25-29.

Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets!

Psalms Response: The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

Second Reading: James 5: 1-6

Your wealth is all rotting.

Gospel: Mark 9: 38-43. 45. 47-48

Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your hand should cause it to sin, cut it off.

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

Head Teacher Mr D Railston

Useful links

[Bishops' Conference Updates](#)

[Churches Together Devon News](#)

[Churches Together Exeter News](#)

[Churches Together England News](#)