

PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

6 October 2024. 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year B2. Psalter 3



In today's Gospel we tackle the issue of marriage and divorce; Jesus is asked an awkward question about the legality of divorce. He lays down very clearly that what God intends for marriage is what is found in Genesis (where the "two become one" for all time) rather than the dispensation granted through Moses (permitting a writ of divorce) which was an exception, not the rule.

Here it is clear that Jesus abrogates this Old Testament procedure - a point emphasised when the disciples press him further on this issue on getting back home. While it is important for us to be sensitive and understanding towards those whose marriages have gone awry, we must be careful to let the teachings of the Lord speak for themselves.

Diocese of Salford Office for Liturgy

MASS TIMES

Sunday 6 October – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am *People of the Parish*
10.45am *Private intention*
6.00pm *Marghita Ghajdoshova RIP*

Tuesday 8 October

6.30pm *Canon Philip Dyson RIP*

Wednesday 9 October – St John Henry Newman, Priest

9.30am *Private intention*
Refreshments in St Richard Reynolds Centre

Thursday 10 October

9.30am *Peace in the world*
6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 11 October

6.30pm *Private intention*

Saturday 12 October

9.30am

Sunday 13 October – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am
10.45am *People of the Parish*
6.00pm

Liturgy of the Word for Children

During term time at 10.45am Mass on Sunday. For children aged 3 – School Year 3. Please register as you arrive at church.

Do you feel called to help our young children hear the Word of God and grow to love it? The please speak to one of the catechists or Fr Jonathan.

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 particular intention, please contact the Parish Office and we will find a suitable date. It may be that the date you would prefer is not available. It is not a requirement to make an offering, but if you would like to do so, please use one of the small brown envelopes found in the church porch.

Please note that the intention may be posted in the parish newsletter (GDPR law is such that permission must be sought to publish people's names unless they are deceased). The intention will not be announced during the Mass. The priest personally offers the Mass for the intention. Each member of the congregation comes to Mass with their own intention.



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.

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

We had the first of our annual RCIA course sessions on Wednesday. It was very well attended, with some very interesting questions being asked. If you would like to join us, **it is not too late**. These sessions are aimed at those wanting to learn more, desiring to receive Baptism or Confirmation in the Catholic Church. If you are interested, please come along at **6.30pm on Wednesday** in the Lower Room at Sacred Heart. Contact Coral at exeter-sacredheart@prcdtr.org.uk



Season of Creation Spring Bulbs

As the Season of Creation draws to a close, we invite you to stay after **10.45 Mass on Sunday 6 October** or come along to the RRC at **12.15 pm** to plant the bulbs kindly donated by our parishioners. Wear wellies and bring gardening tools and maybe your bulb planter.

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: [by following this link](#).

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 Chaplaincy, please go to our [Facebook page](#) or get in touch with the Chaplaincy Assistant, Dr Maria Giannone, at: m.g.giannone@exeter.ac.uk. We look forward to meeting you!



Prisoners Sunday 13 October 2024

Jesus said: "I was in Prison, and you came to me."

PACT – the Prison Advice and Care Trust is a national charity supporting prisoners, people with convictions, and their children and families, providing caring and life changing services at every stage of the criminal justice process: in court, in prison, on release, and in the community.

Their vision is of a society that understands justice as a process of restoration and healing, that uses prisons sparingly and as places of learning and rehabilitation, and that values the innate dignity and worth of every human being. They work for the common good of Society, taking a public health-based approach and work at the intersection of criminal justice, child and family welfare, mental health, wellbeing

provision and health and social care. They are a diverse, inclusive, modern, and collaborative charity.

There will be talks at all Masses at Blessed Sacrament on **Sunday 13 October 2024** and a retiring collection taken that day or [follow this link to make a donation](#); or use the QR code on the leaflet in the church porch. Gift aid envelopes are also available in the church porch.

To learn more about volunteering in HMP Exeter [click in this link](#).

The Prisons Week Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, You have come so that we may have life to the full,
Listen to our prayers for all in prison and their families. Touched by your spirit,
May they find newness of heart and be open to that new life that is found only in you.
May they know care and receive support from those around them.
May they find new purpose in serving you in their brothers and sisters. Amen

St Nicholas School

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.

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](#).

Save the date: Vocations Retreat 1-2 November

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

(Acts 1:8)

Honiton Retreat Centre, St Rita’s Centre, Ottery Moor Lane, Honiton EX14 1AP.

Are you called to witness as a Permanent Deacon, a Religious or a Priest? There is an opportunity to reflect on this with other discerners and others living out vocations as a Permanent Deacon, Religious or Priest. If you are interested please join us at our Reflection Day starting at 5pm on **Friday 1 November**. Day delegates are welcome to join on **Saturday 2 November at 9am**.

For more information and to register your interest please contact Fr Jacek Kostuch on jacek.kostuch@prcdtr.org.uk or vocation@prcdtr.org.uk

Our Story: Our Mission

Do you want to discover your true purpose, meaning and identity in your life with Christ? Are you aware of the part you are called to play in salvation history? In response to Pope Francis' call to be "Pilgrims of Hope" for this forthcoming Jubilee year, Fr. David Marsden will lead us through this inspirational day. Come to Schiller Hall, Buckfast Abbey on **Saturday 2nd November 10am** (tea/coffee) 10.30-3pm. (Mass at 12noon). To reserve a place [email here](#)
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

Diocese of Plymouth Newsletter first special edition

This has been created in the spirit of welcoming our Bishop-elect Philip Moger!

[To read this special edition newsletter please click this link.](#)

You are warmly invited to please sign up to the diocesan newsletter to receive the latest news about and from our Bishop-Elect!

We will be publishing further special editions in the lead up to his installation.

[To sign up for future newsletters please click this link.](#)

Caritas Diocese of Plymouth

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

Catholic Bishops' Conference

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

Catholic South West

Copies are in the porch. Please put your money in the wall box marked "newspapers" (50p)

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.

Conversion in Modern Culture

Mondays at 7.30 starting on 11 November. 5 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

Forming in Faith – Priest, Prophet, King

Bishop Robert Barron reminds us that the better we understand Jesus, the better we understand ourselves. As we journey through the Word on Fire series 'Priest, Prophet, King', come discover Jesus as the Anointed One, the ultimate priest, prophet and king foreshadowed throughout Scripture. All are welcome to join us for our next fortnightly meeting on **Monday 7 October 10:30-12:00** Sacred Heart Lower Room.

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

Parents of any young person wishing to come to GIFT Youth socials please register them before they attend by using 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

We look forward to supporting you in preparation for this important sacrament.

Courses are over two consecutive Saturday mornings 10.15-12.15 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.

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 [The Pope Video](#)

...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."

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 6 October – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Genesis 2: 18-24.

They become one body.

Psalm Response: May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.

Second Reading: Hebrews 2: 9-11

The one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock.

Gospel: Mark 10: 12-16

What God has united, man must not divide.

Sunday 13 October – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Wisdom 7: 7-11

Compared with wisdom, I held riches as nothing.

Psalm Response: Fill us with your love that we may rejoice.

Second Reading: Hebrews 4: 12-14

The word of God can judge secret emotions and thoughts.

Gospel: *Go and sell everything that you own and follow me.*

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*

Pastoral Assistant *Maria Quinn* exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Secretary *Catherine Odams*

Parish Office *Open Tuesday – Friday 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](#)