

PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER
10 November 2024. 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year B2. Psalter 4

REMEMBRANCE

THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD,
AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD:
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM,
NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN.
AT THE GOING DOWN OF
THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“God does not have favourites”, Saint Paul tells us, but God always makes a special place for the poor, and those whom society would push into second place. In the traditions of Israel God invited the people to have special care for the “widows and orphans” - so the story we hear in today’s Gospel would have a particular resonance. The paradox of Christian faith is this: in giving, we receive. Christ gave everything, sacrificing his very life, and in return received a new and unending life. The widow in the first reading gave her last food for the prophet Elijah, and in return received an endless supply. This is a challenge to us in our turn: what are we invited or asked to give, and in what spirit will we do so, and what will be our reward?

Diocese of Salford Office for Liturgy

MASS TIMES

Sunday 10 November – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Remembrance Sunday – For all Victims of War

8.45am *For those killed in conflicts across the years*

10.45am *People of the Parish*

6.00pm *For the repose of the souls of Catenians and Catholics of Exeter killed in the 1939/45 war*

Tuesday 12 November – St Josaphat bishop, Martyr

6.30pm *The Evans Family*

Wednesday 13 November

9.30am *Private intention*

Refreshments in St Richard Reynolds Centre

5.30pm Holy Hour for the dignity of human life

Thursday 14 November

9.30am

6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 15 November

6.30pm

Saturday 16 November

9.30am

Sunday 17 November – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

World Day of the Poor

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am *Dan Docherty RIP*

1.45pm Syro Malabar Rite Mass

6.00pm

Tuesday 19 November

6.30pm

Wednesday 20 November

9.30am Holy Rosary after Mass. Refreshments in St Richard Reynolds Centre.

Thursday 21 November – The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9.30am

6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 22 November – St Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr

6.30pm *Private intention*

Saturday 23 November

9.30am

Sunday 24 November – 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Youth Sunday

8.45am *Young people of the parish*

10.45am *Peter, Teresa and Kieran McDonagh RIP
and deceased members of both families*

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

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? Please speak to one of the catechists.

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.

NEWS & EVENTS

Bishop-elect Philip Moger

The following is a statement from Bishop-elect Philip Moger regarding his installation: “In the very last few days, concerns have been raised of a personal nature to which I must attend immediately. This will take a little time. I have therefore agreed with all directly concerned to delay my installation as the new Bishop of Plymouth until these processes have been completed. I sincerely regret this delay and offer my apologies to all who are disappointed and inconvenienced. However it is important that everything is properly in place and due process observed. While this process takes place no further comment will be made.”

Canon Paul Cummins will continue in his role as Diocesan Administrator. The mission of the Diocese to proclaim the Good News will still go on as before, with your support. Please keep Bishop-elect Philip, our Diocesan Administrator and our Diocese in your prayers.

Dignity of Human Life

Holy Hour Wednesday 13 November 5.30pm

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has called for Catholics in England and Wales to join him, and the bishops of our countries, to pause for an hour at 5.30pm on Wednesday, 13 November to pray for the dignity of human life.

On that day, the bishops will pause for an hour in the middle of their autumn plenary meeting to kneel in front of the Blessed Sacrament for a holy hour in light of the bill passing through the UK parliament that seeks to legalise assisted suicide. Please visit the Conference of Bishops' website [here](#) for more details.

Opposing Assisted Suicide

The Bishop's Conference are calling on Catholics in England and Wales to unite in prayer and compassionate action to oppose assisted suicide. [Follow this link](#), where you will find resources laying out the Catholic position on assisted suicide, and what you can do to stop its legalisation. There is also a link to contact your MP via the Right to Life website. Please also see the posters in the porch.

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children

A Bill to allow assisted suicide will be laid before Parliament this month. If passed, it would cause a complete change in the way society deals with terminally and chronically ill people.

People must be treated as equal in value and dignity and not as lives 'not worth living.' Assisted Suicide would place pressure on vulnerable people. Most palliative care doctors denounce these measures. Palliative Care is the Cinderella of the NHS and will remain so if assisted suicide is introduced.

Please write to your MP as soon as possible. More information can be obtained from the [SPUC website](#). This will give you information on what to include in your letter and invites you to enter your postcode which will bring up your MP and allow you to write an email which they will send. Alternatively, you can write a letter by hand and send it to your MP at: The House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA Get a disabled person's perspective on assisted suicide by watching Liz Carr's BBC Documentary: [Follow this link](#). Further info: Christine Hudson 07742320717

Right to Life

Want to be the first to know about pro-life developments? [Sign up here](#) to receive action alerts from Right to Life along with tools to help change hearts and minds.

Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) News

BINGO! – GIFT Youth Family Fundraising Eve

Friday 15 November 7.30–9.30pm at St. Nicholas School Hall. All welcome.

Cost of £7-50 per family. This event will be run by the young people in support of CAFOD. There will be prizes (including lots of chocolate), although the main prize will be the glory of victory. And there will be a performance by some of our talented young people in the interval. Tea, coffee and squash included in the entry price; cakes will also be on sale.

Free Flower and Vegetable Seeds: Get in touch!

A GIFT family are offering a variety of flower, vegetable and herb seeds leftover from the family business. They are happy to make up packs of 5 flowers and 5 vegetable seeds or give them away individually. If you would like to receive some seeds, please get in touch with Krzysztof: kwveggie@gmail.com Happy growing!

Sacramental Preparation

There are a number of Blessed Sacrament GIFT families currently preparing their children for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Please keep the Ajayi, Fitzpatrick, Jones, Lynde, Ngotho and Peri families in our prayers.

Love Christmas

For some people Christmas can be a very lonely time or a time of great sadness rather than joy. As in the last 2 years at Blessed Sacrament Church we're taking part in a national initiative, run locally, called 'Love Christmas'. Our aim is to bring joy where it's needed into the lives of people we know, or know of, who need a treat. This consists of a Bag of Kindness containing something special at Christmastime.

How can I help?

If you can spare a little money this Christmas to enable us to brighten up someone else's Christmas, please donate using any of the easy methods shown on the Love Christmas help cards in your pews or in the porch.

And if you think of someone who might welcome a Bag of Kindness - a friend or neighbour, someone alone or struggling financially, sick or disabled, a carer or housebound, please pop their name and address on the card and give it to the welcomers or pop it into the presbytery or parish office. We will do the rest. As one recipient said last year: *"I am just so grateful to receive the surprise Bag of Kindness given to me. It's so heartwarming to know that someone is thinking of me. I don't feel so alone now!"* Let's bring a little joy where it's needed this Christmas! Thank you.

An appeal for more Welcomers

Welcomers at Mass are crucial - they help people feel welcome and a part of the church community - which can create a positive experience for everyone. I am appealing for more people to come forward to join our lovely team. Information and training will be given. Call Jane on 07890 373617 if you'd like to join the team! Welcomers add so much to every Mass:

Create a sense of belonging Welcomers help people feel like they are part of the parish community.

Make people feel valued A friendly welcome can make people feel valued and appreciated.

Help newcomers feel at ease A warm welcome can be especially important for people who are visiting the parish for the first time or after a long time away.

Help people participate in the liturgy Welcomers can help people feel free to express themselves in the liturgy by creating a welcoming atmosphere.

Provide practical assistance Welcomers can hand out any information, help people into church if needed, and, of course, direct people to the toilets!

Force Christmas Fayre. Help needed

Jane and Gary are organising a Christmas Fayre in aid of Force Cancer Charity. This is being held in the URC church just down the road on Saturday 7 December 11.00am until 2.00pm. They would like some help please! Particularly lovely volunteers to work on stalls, but also donations of books, jigsaws, toys, games, bottles, tombola prizes and baked cakes. If you can help please call Jane on 07890373617.



Every trip to the mountains brings some kind of transformation, but my last trip to the Pyrenees was simply life changing. I'll be sharing my experience of encountering God in the mountains together with some stunning views that I brought back with me. Come and join me on the 29th of November at 7:15 pm in St Richard Reynolds' Centre. *Ola Godbeer*

Lament and Light

An ecumenical service will be held on Monday 25 November at 3.00pm, at St Mary's Church, Market Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 1QW. The service is being held to mark the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence (25 November – 10 December), which is a campaign for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. Fr Mark Skelton and Rev Lizzi Green will lead the service. Refreshments will be available afterwards. All welcome.

St Nicholas School News

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

Open Days We are also holding open days in November for prospective September 2025 Reception entry. These are on the 12th and 13th at 9.30am and the 14th at 6pm. P to Please contact admissions@stncls.uk to book.

Autumn Term This term is always an exciting one for the children at St Nicholas. Not only is it the run up to Christmas but we also look forward to celebrating St Nicholas day on the 6th December, preparing for nativities, Christmas jumper day and also taking part in a Reindeer Run to raise funds for Hospiscare.

Reading with children If any parishioners would be interested in coming in each week to read with children or are interested in Teaching Assistant job vacancies at the school please contact head@stncs.uk for more information.

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)



Dear Parishioners, during these colder months, your small SVP team plans to support our Exeter homeless with SVP Vinnie Packs. These cold weather packs cost £4.50 each and contain a woolly hat, gloves, socks, toiletries, pen and an information sheet. We have distributed 150 packs over the past three years. In addition, we plan to offer shopping vouchers to some of our needy families over the Christmas period. As you know, we rely totally on parishioners' donations to fund our work. Please do consider whether you could fund a Vinnie pack or two this winter. There are SVP gift envelopes at the back of church for your offerings no matter how small. Please pop them through to the parish office.

Thank you so much in advance for your support and prayers. Your SVP team.

Sacred Heart Arts Group Evening

Join the Arts Group for an evening of entertainment and fun. Members of both parishes are invited to the Sacred Heart Parish Rooms, South Street, Exeter.

Saturday 16 November at 7.00pm or Sunday 17 November 3.00pm.

Net proceeds to be split between Society of St. Vincent de Paul and Kenyan Educational Sponsorship. Tickets minimum £5, including drinks and nibbles. Available from: Gerry Hinton 07970 04264 | e-mail gerryhinton@aol.com or Dorf Ruscoe 01404 822689 or by contacting any member of the Group.

Catholic Children's Society

The Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) are looking for new members to join their 50:50 club – Helping Hands. Half of the money raised by subscriptions each month is retained by CCSP and the other half is returned to members as prize money. For example, if we had £200 in subscriptions each month, £100 would be used to help a child in need and the other half would be distributed as prize money e.g., £50 for first prize, £30 for second and £20 for third. It costs £12 a year for one entry into all 12 monthly draws and you can enter each draw more than once so £24 for 2 numbers, £36 for three and so on. Call our office on **01364 645420** or email [here](#) to request an application form.

THANK YOU from the CCS

To the parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Exeter. Thank you so much for your collection of **£258.52** for our 2024 Annual Appeal '**Believe, Love, Share:**

Transforming Lives – Putting All Children First' held on 24/25 August 2024.

So many parishes really are rallying round to support our small charity whether that be the Crib collection, our Annual Appeal, our orange box scheme, our ink cartridge recycling scheme, joining in with the Great Big Diocesan quiz or organising their own events to help with our fundraising. We are also hoping to recruit a Parish Volunteer, or small group of volunteers in each parish, to help promote the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth). If you would like more information on any of these activities if your parish is not already involved, please do get in touch.

Please keep our work and the children we help in your prayers.

With much appreciation, **Andrea Rodgers**

Acting Chair of the Trustee Directors, Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)

Safeguarding Sunday

On Sunday 17 November we will join other churches across the UK to highlight the importance of protecting children, young people and adults at risk. Safeguarding Sunday is also an opportunity to celebrate those who work behind the scenes to make our church a safer place for all. The theme for this year is 'Let's talk about it'. It is a time to have open and honest conversations about what we have got wrong and what we are getting right. It is also an opportunity to talk about how we can work together to prevent abuse and create a world where every child and adult can feel and be safe.

Compassionate God, our refuge and strength, defender of the weak, the weary, and the oppressed, we come to you with humble and thankful hearts. As your children, you call us to be like you, to speak up for the rights of all who are vulnerable. Help us as we strive to be a place of safety for all. May we listen to those who are hurting, learn from Jesus' example, and love one another as you first loved us. Amen.

Advent Retreat. Jesus is coming. Why?

Saturday 7 December 2024 St Rita's Centre, Honiton led by Fr Jonathan Bielawski. The day will begin with coffee/tea on arrival at 9.30am. The talk will start at 10.00am. post-talk questions – reflections will be at 11.05am. Adoration in silence (with an opportunity for Confession) will be at 12.00pm. Lunch will be served at 1.00pm. Mass will be celebrated at 2.45pm. Depart at 3.30pm. Cost including lunch £25.00. Book by phone, email, or online [by following this link](#).

Payment can be made on the day.

St Rita's Centre Telephone 01404 42635 Email admin@stritascentre.org

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 7 & 14 March 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.

Caritas Diocese of Plymouth- Love in Action

Humanity –Where do you see God's love in action around you?

Caritas would like to see your photographs that depict your interpretation of Humanity. We know that many of our parishes are doing great things in and for their communities and we want to gather photos to illustrate this. Do you have an SVP group or similar that does home visits or offers help around the home? Are you working towards gathering Christmas donations for a little extra help for those who need it? You may have held a wave of light event to remember lost babies or are planning something similar for Novembers focus on our Holy Souls. Are you opening a warm space or planning some other act of solidarity and pledge of action? We would love to see your photos to share the wonderful ways in which God's love is being put into action in your area. Please share your photos by following [this link](#), or email caritas@prcdtr.org.uk

To subscribe to the Caritas newsletter [follow this link](#).

World Day of the Poor 2024

The Eighth World Day of the Poor is on **Sunday 17 November**. In his [message for this World Day of the Poor](#), the Holy Father reiterates that "*the poor hold a privileged place in God's heart*" and invites everyone to learn to pray for the poor and to pray together with the poor, with humility and trust.

We know that poverty is a significant issue both in the UK and globally. In the week running up to World Day of the Poor, we are all encouraged to pray, reflect and engage in concrete actions against poverty by deepening our encounter with the poor in our communities and considering how we can respond to their needs. We can all take small actions that together make a big difference.

CAFOD-DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal

The conflict in the Middle East is getting worse and the families affected need our help. Please donate today to the CAFOD-DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal and support our local Caritas partners in Gaza and Lebanon as they continue to provide essential food, water and shelter: [Follow this link to donate](#).

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)

Exeter Food Bank:

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

There is a basket at the back of the church for your donations.

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

Forming in Faith

Join us as we continue to journey through the Word on Fire series 'Priest, Prophet King'. Discover Jesus as the Anointed One: the ultimate priest, prophet and king foreshadowed throughout Scripture. All are welcome to our next fortnightly meetings on **Monday, 2 and 16 December** from **10:30-12:00** in the Sacred Heart Lower Room. Please note there will be no session on Monday 18 November.

Baptism Preparation Courses 2025

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: **15 & 22 February 2025** Godparents are especially welcome to attend the course as the role of Godparents is explored. Click on this link at the end of this article to register. If you have any problem accessing this, contact Catherine in the parish office at Exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk or 01392 274724. Click [here](#) to register for the February Course.

GIFT tots

Our next session will be on **Friday 13 December** 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.

Next GIFT session **Saturday 7 December 2024** at St Nicholas School.

Register for GIFT and GIFT Youth at the links below:

[GIFT Registration Form](#)

[GIFT Youth Registration Form](#)

GIFT youth socials

Please note 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.

Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

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. Contact Maria exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk if you would like to join us.

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

We commend to the Lord...

Welcome to the life of faith...

Dean, who was baptised on Friday and Ruari who will be next week. May they grow in knowledge and love of the Lord and be richly blessed. Please keep him in your prayers.

Pope's November Prayer Intention

For those who have lost a child [The Pope Video](#)

Let us pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community, and may receive peace of heart from the Spirit of Consolation.

Let us pray that the Church continue to sustain a synodal lifestyle in every way, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, communion and mission shared by priests, religious and laity.

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 After Mass every first and third Wednesday each month.

THE WORD

Sunday 10 November – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Kings 17: 10 -16

The widow made a little scone from her meal and brought it to Elijah.

Psalm Response: My soul, give praise to the Lord.

Second Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28

Christ offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself.

Gospel: Mark 12: 41-44 *This poor widow has put in more than all.*

Sunday 17 November – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Daniel 12: 1-13 *When that time comes your own people will be spared.*

Psalm Response: Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10: 11-14 *By virtue of one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying.*

Gospel: Mark 13: 24-32 *He will gather his chosen from the four winds.*

Sunday 24 November – 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Daniel 7: 13-14 *His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty.*

Psalm Response: The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.

Second Reading: Apocalypse 1: 5-8 *Ruler of the kings of the earth...he made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God.*

Gospel: John 18: 33-37 *It is you who say that I am a king.*

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 in England News](#)