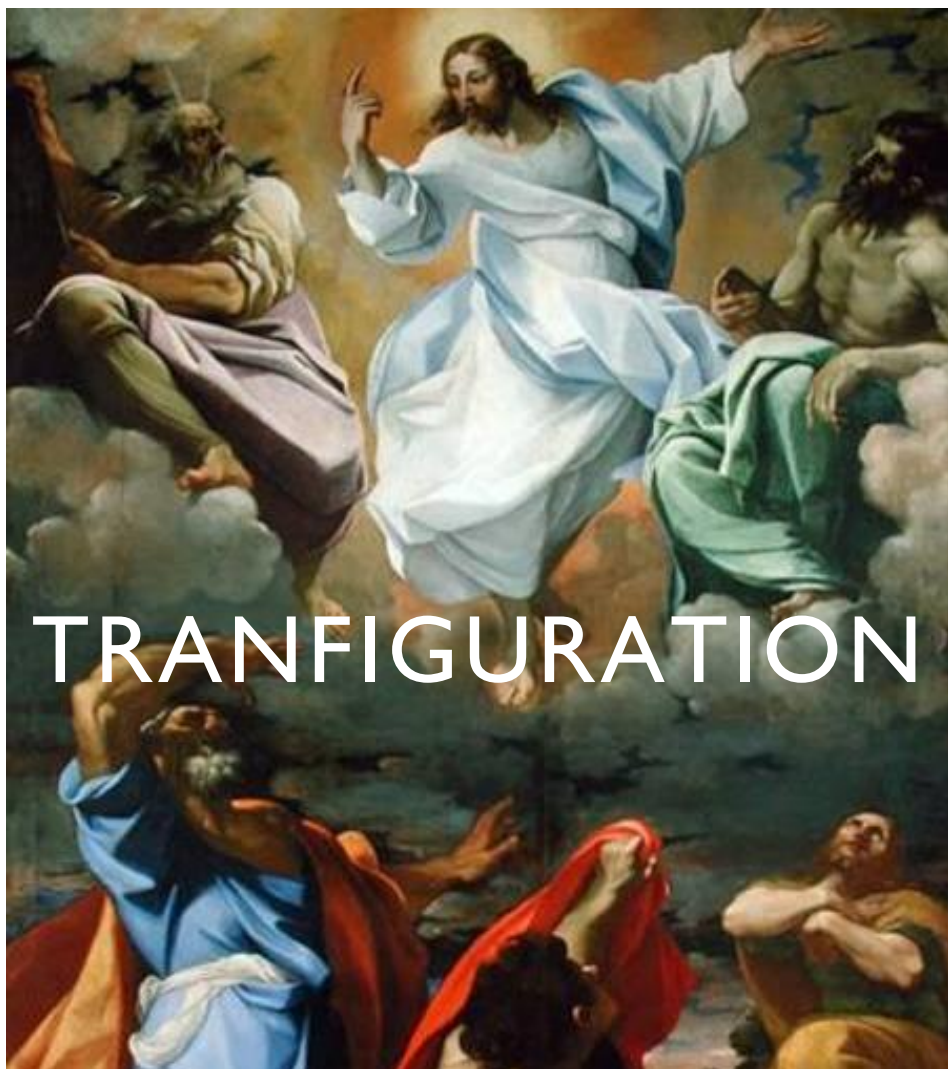


# PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

16 March 2025. *Second Sunday of Lent. Year C. Psalter 2*



Every year, on the Second Sunday of Lent, we hear about the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain top. Why? Jesus revealed his glory to the three apostles in order to strengthen them for the journey ahead – the journey to Jerusalem, Gethsemane and Golgotha. The same vision is offered to us, to strengthen us in our Lenten journey of faith. Last week we heard about temptation: this week we are driven onwards by a vision of glory that will be ours – the goal of our lives of faith and all that we do as Christians. The Transfiguration represents the final destination of our lives, if we are faithful in resisting temptation and living each day as faithful members of Jesus Christ. In our journey of renewal and new commitment through Lent, we are spurred on and encouraged by today's vision to see why the effort is worth it. *Salford Office for Liturgy*

## MASS TIMES

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### **Sunday 16 March – Second Sunday of Lent**

8.45am *People of the Parish*  
10.45am *Private Intention*  
2.00pm *Syro-Malabar Rite Mass*  
6.00pm

### **Tuesday 18 March**

6.30pm

### **Wednesday 19 March – St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

9.30am *Mrs B Billson RIP*  
*Followed by refreshments in St Richard Reynold Centre.*  
*Holy Rosary after Mass*

### **Thursday 20 March**

9.30am *Private Intention*  
6.00pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

### **Friday 21 March**

6.00pm *Stations of the Cross led by the Catholic Women's League*  
6.30pm *John Landers RIP*

### **Saturday 22 March**

9.30am  
5.00pm *Syro-Malabar Rite Mass*

### **Sunday 23 March – Third Sunday of Lent**

8.45am  
10.45am *Dan Docherty RIP*  
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.

**Confessions** Saturdays after 9.30am Mass or by appointment.

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

# NEWS & EVENTS

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## The Season of Lent

Lent is the annual penitential season when we prepare spiritually for the celebration of Easter. As Jesus spent 40 days in the desert facing and resisting temptation, so we enter this season facing up to the reality of our sinfulness and committing to change. We know we cannot do this alone, so we pray for the grace of the Holy Spirit to enable us to ask for forgiveness and open our hearts to the love and mercy of God.

## We Dare to Hope – Sharing Faith in Lent

As part of the Jubilee Year, as Pilgrims of Hope, you are invited to join a faith sharing group to reflect on Hope and what it means to us as Christians. Themes for reflection will include Christian Hope, The Decision to Hope, The Prayer of Hope.

When: **Tuesdays in Lent: 18, 25 March and 1, 8 April.**

What time: **Afternoons at 1.30-2.45pm. Evenings 7.15-8.30pm.**

Where: **St Richard Reynolds Centre.**

We are using a resource prepared by the Archdiocese of Southwark. You can access the resource [by following this link](#). We look forward to seeing you there.

## Stations of the Cross in Lent

Join us on Fridays in Lent starting at 6.00pm as we follow Jesus on his final journey to the Cross. This moving devotion opens our hearts to understand more deeply the great sacrifice Jesus made for us and encourages us to follow his example of self-sacrificial love. Evening Mass will follow Stations each Friday.



## CAFOD Lent Lunch

The parish CAFOD group invite you to a Lenten Lunch on **Thursday 20 March 12.00 midday** in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. All welcome. Proceeds will be going to CAFOD's [Lenten Appeal](#), supporting families like Lokho's. Lokho and Wakera, CAFOD's local partner, are pictured.

## CAFOD Big Lent Walk

Marlen Siegert, one of the members of the Blessed Sacrament CAFOD group, is taking part in the **Big Lent Walk** and is raising money for CAFOD. Please sponsor her at: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising//marlens-big-lent-walk>

It will mean so much to her to know that she has the support of fellow parishioners and friends. Good luck and thanks Marlen.

## Walk With Me

A Lenten journey of prayer for Lent. Booklets are available in the church porch for a suggested donation of £1.00. Please put your offering in the box marked 'Books'.

## Lenten Zoom talks 2025

Fr Mark Skelton invites you to join the Lent Zoom Course for 2025 and take the opportunity to hear and reflect on different aspects of our faith during the incredibly important Lenten journey.

The speakers are each reflecting on one of the Holy Father's signs of hope for this Jubilee Year. Each talk is a separate presentation and although you can, of course, come to all five; they are not linked, each speaker talks from their own perspective. The talks themselves will not begin until 7.00pm but the Zoom call will be open from 6.45pm. [Join the Zoom meeting here.](#)

**20 March** – Debt Cancellation. **27 March** – Recognizing Hope. **3 April** – Peace. **10 April** – Jesus's Last Pilgrimage.

## Catholic National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady

Next Sunday, 23 March, there will be a special collection across parishes in England, dedicated to supporting the Jubilee initiatives and projects at the Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady at Walsingham. See the poster in the porch or [visit the website here](#)

## John Woods RIP Commemoration Mass

Following John's Requiem Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church in January, there will be a commemoration Mass on 21 March at 12.00 midday at St Teresa's Church, Liverpool. This will be followed by the interment of his ashes in the family grave.

## Men's Breakfast

We are intending to launch a Men's Breakfast group that will meet every three months. We will get together to share a full English or continental breakfast in a local hotel, with an after-breakfast faith related talk. This has run in the past and was very successful and popular. We are looking for someone who is able to take the bookings and contact venues and speakers. If you are reasonably good with event planning and handling bookings and would like to serve the parish community in this way, please contact Nick Gill on 07796686315 or email [drnickgill@gmail.com](mailto:drnickgill@gmail.com). Thank you!

## Family Film Night

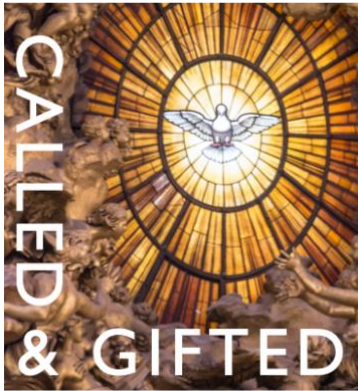
**Friday 11 April St Nicholas Primary School 5.30–7.30pm**

Come along to watch Dreamwork's animation of Moses' life: The Prince of Egypt. Bring your snacks and beanbags; you can even wear your pj's. Don't forget your cuddly toy! 🧸\_All children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult.

## Word on Fire – The Mass

You are invited to watch a new six-part series from *Word on Fire*, in which Bishop Baron teaches on the Mass, with an online group, **Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm during Lent and Easter.**

Each one-hour session consists of a half hour film followed by prayer and reflection. For a link or for more information contact [deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk)



## Called & Gifted

On Thursday evening last week those of us who took part in Called & Gifted in the parish gathered for the final meeting of this part of the process. It was a wonderful time of sharing in a spirit of friendship and love.

Called & Gifted encourages us to discern the charisms we have been given by the Holy Spirit. Each of us is different and the various charisms are given so that we can serve the Lord in unique and fruitful ways.

Clare Simpson, who has been involved with C&G for many years led our evening. She invited each of us – 25 people took part – to share which charism we had discerned and how the Holy Spirit is using them for our benefit and the benefit of the community. It was wonderful to hear the stories of discernment and the depth to which those who participated had been led.

Discerning our charisms and gifts can be a lifelong process. Many of us never truly know what God is calling us to, but this has been a wonderful opportunity to begin. We look forward to continuing our journey of discernment.

One of the things which has been particularly rewarding for us is meeting in small groups to support one another through the process. This has led to new and lasting friendships being formed. It encouraged a level of sharing and understanding which many of us have not experienced before. Some, if not all the groups wish to continue to meet and support each other. This is surely a sign of the Holy Spirit's work of inspiring, uniting and enlivening us.

We hope and pray that more of you will take part in the Called & Gifted process. We are planning to offer it to the parish again, so don't be surprised if you find yourself being invited! Say 'Yes'!

## Jubilee Year – Mass for Marriage 2025

Saturday May 31 12.00pm

The Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Boniface, Plymouth PL1 5HW. Marriage enriches us all, all are welcome. Let us know your anniversaries or intentions, or when your wedding will take place. For more information please contact [deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk)

## Exeter (Heavitree) Memory Café

First Wednesday of every month 2.00– 4.00 pm

The Friends of the Heavitree Doctor's Practice run a Memory Café in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. If you are caring for someone with memory loss or the early stages of dementia, come along and join us for two hours of fun and chat, with tea and cakes and a lovely, friendly atmosphere. The next meeting is on 2 April 2025.

For more information please phone Jackie Minto on 01392 277409

## Exeter Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP)

Dear friends, I write to thank you for your continued support of your small local SVP team, working across our three parishes in Exeter and Topsham. This year we offered 600 hours of practical support to 25 individuals within the wider Exeter community. We did this through face-to-face visits, at home, in care homes or in hospital, as well as contact through our weekly Chatter Café.

Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to support six families in difficulty over Christmas. This year we have been able to provide 100 Vinnie Packs for Exeter's homeless community, thanks to some fundraising from a local school's Mini Vinnies team. We fund bus tickets to enable 20 refugees and migrants living in the airport hotel, to reach the weekly Heavitree cultural kitchen, that allows them to prepare meals for their families. This project would not run without SVP's continued support.

We have, for many years continued to financially support two of our SVP twinned parishes in India. We could not do this without your continued prayers and financial support so thank you so much for helping us to help those who need us!

Peter Schranz – *President, Exeter Parishes SVP*

## Diocese of Plymouth Newsletter...

The latest newsletter includes a Lenten video message from Canon Paul, stories of hope and a list of upcoming events. It can be found on this on this link.

## Diocesan Weekly Lenten Offerings

These feature a reflection on the readings for the Second Sunday of Lent by Monsignor Draper, CAFOD's intercessory prayer, and prayers on the theme of hope from the pupil chaplains at Our Lady and St Patrick's Teignmouth. [Please click here.](#) Sign up [here](#) to receive newsletters and Jubilee 2025 related content.

## Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) Diocese of Plymouth Caritas March Newsletter

Click [on this link](#) for news from Caritas about love in action around the diocese. There are some paper copies of the newsletter in the church porch, as well as a special Jubilee edition about the environment. To subscribe to the Caritas newsletter please [follow this link.](#)

## Caritas Jubilee Lent resources

The theme of the 2025 Jubilee year is "Pilgrims of Hope". This is a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. The Pope has chosen six social action themes for prayer and reflection during the Jubilee Year: care for creation, food poverty, modern slavery, managing debt, forgiveness and rest. Caritas Diocese of Plymouth has created a resource on these six themes. It can be used by individuals or parish groups to discuss one or more of the themes. Caritas Plymouth can also provide support to parishes wishing to explore any of these themes in greater details.

Jubilee Parish Resources

## Jubilee 2025 Forgiveness

One of the themes of this year's Jubilee is forgiveness. Caritas Diocese of Plymouth have created a sheet with information and resources around the theme. Read it [here](#) There is also a paper copy in the porch.

## CSAN two-child benefit cap survey

CSAN is conducting a survey to understand the impact of the two-child benefit cap and the current economic climate on Catholic families in England and Wales. Please share your experience by completing the survey, which can be accessed at [csan.org.uk/news/familysurvey](https://csan.org.uk/news/familysurvey) where you'll also find further information about the survey. The survey will close on **25 March**.

## St Nicholas School News

We've seen some fantastic activities over the past few weeks. As well as the Y2 sleep over, we held PTA glow in the dark dodgeball and welcomed a multi-cultural storyteller who visited each class and told stories that represented all the different nationalities in school. We then had World Book Day and suddenly the school was full of princesses, wizards, superheroes and Where's Wallies!?

We are delighted to have been awarded a significant amount of funding to become a net zero school and we are starting to see things happen. Next week we are having EV chargers installed and over the next year we are looking forward to many other eco-friendly and exciting changes to the infrastructure of the school.

For information about joining our school community please email [admissions@stncls.uk](mailto:admissions@stncls.uk)

## Diocese of Plymouth Youth Events

### Heatree 2025; May 23– 25.

This residential is open to young people **aged 10 – 12**. It is a great chance for young people to meet others from parishes across the Diocese. During the weekend we will explore the scripture John 14:23, whilst we try things like high ropes and raft making, games around the campfire, along with other activities (activities will be confirmed nearer the time). Cost £90 per person. To book: For further information please contact, Saskia: [youth@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:youth@prcdtr.org.uk)

### Proclaim, Sclerder Abbey, 2025; June 20 – 22

This residential is open to young adults aged 18+ Proclaim is running for the first time this year. It is a Christian gathering for young adults in the South West, featuring talks, workshops, testimonies, prayer and worship. People are encouraged to camp but there are opportunities to stay in the Abbey. A contribution of £60 for those camping. For further information please contact, Saskia: [youth@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:youth@prcdtr.org.uk)

Please pray for our young people and youth ministry in our diocese.

Many people pray for our young people and youth ministry in our diocese. Please contact me if you would like me to keep you up to date with information and things to focus our prayers on, please contact me, Saskia Hogbin at [youth@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:youth@prcdtr.org.uk)



## Precious Memories

### Gathering Together in Remembrance...

...to remember children who have been lost and children who were longed for. You are invited to join us at St Mary's Church, St Mary Street, Weymouth on **Sunday 17 March 2024 at 2.00pm**. The gathering will last 1 hour with refreshments to follow. There will be music, readings, candles to light and time for reflection. For more information contact Elizabeth on 01305 833981. Please also see the poster in the porch.

## St Petrock's Big Night Out 25 April

St Petrock's Big Night Out is a unique event that allows anyone to raise funds for St Petrock's vital work supporting homeless people in Exeter. The event provides an opportunity to spend a night sleeping outdoors, wherever you choose, and reflect on the challenges faced by people who sleep rough not by choice, but out of necessity. Please click here for more information. [St Petrock's Big Night Out 2025](#)

## Exeter Foodbank

Donations of priority items are especially needed: tins of meat, pasta/noodle snacks, squash, toothpaste, household cleaning products. There is a collection basket at the back of the church. Please email Mark at [info@exeterfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@exeterfoodbank.org.uk) to find out how you can help.

## GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

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### Forming in Faith

Join us as we explore the richness of the Vatican II documents through video and discussion. We will finish our exploration of the 4 major constitutions of Vatican II on Monday 24 March, 10.30am-12.00pm in the Lower Room, Sacred Heart. All welcome.

### Baptism Preparation Courses 2025

Next Courses: 14 and 21 June 2025 and 11 and 18 October 2025, 10.10 am to 12.15pm. Godparents are especially welcome to attend the course as their role is explored. If you have any problem accessing this, contact the parish office at [Exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:Exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk) or 01392 274724. Click [Baptism Enquiry form](#) to register.

### Grow In Faith Together (GIFT)

Join the team

We'd love you to help us; get in touch if you could offer one Saturday morning a month to join the catechist teams or volunteer to serve refreshments.

### GIFT Sacrament Families

We continue to pray for the Chacko, Ajayi, Fitzpatrick, Vingo, Wos, Specchia, Goldsmith, Adamik, Bisogno and DePaula families, as they prepare their children to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.



## GIFT tots

Our next session will be on Friday 28 March 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 5 April 2025 at St Nicholas School. Register for GIFT and GIFT Youth at the links: [GIFT Registration Form](#) [GIFT Youth Registration Form](#)

## Mark 10 Mission

This website offers short children's liturgy videos for both under 8s and 8-12 year olds to help families engage with the Sunday Gospel. You can use this to help your children prepare for and engage with the Sunday Mass. Check out the [website here](#).

## GIFT Youth – Sacrament of Confirmation

Growing in faith, attending GIFT Youth sessions and participating in Sunday Mass are all key elements of a deepening faith. If you are interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, please get in touch with the parish office.

## GIFT Youth Social

Next social is on Friday 21 March 7.30–9.30pm in the St Richard Reynolds Centre.

## GIFT Youth – SPREE Festival Weekend

Held at Westpoint Arena, SPREE is an exciting weekend festival for young people to build strong friendships and explore their Christian faith together. The festival is running from Friday 27 June–Sunday 29 June. Early bird tickets cost £80, and parishes have kindly offered to subsidise youth tickets by 50%.

Have a look at Spree's 60 second promotional video [here](#).

Please note all youth attending must register with GIFT youth. If you are interested in attending, please get in touch with Maria for more information: [exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk)

## 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](mailto: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

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### Worship Thursday

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in church each Thursday 6.00–7.00pm.

### Pope's March Prayer Intention – For families in crisis.

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Pope Francis – March 2025 [The Pope Video](#)

### Please pray for...

for Pope Francis. He is still in hospital receiving treatment for double pneumonia. On Thursday he celebrated the Twelfth Anniversary of his pontificate. May the Lord bless, support and encourage him and those caring for him at this time.

Please also continue to pray for a new bishop for our diocese. We have been waiting nearly three years, so ask the Holy Spirit to send us a new shepherd, and quickly! Pray too for Canon Paul Cummins who is doing a tremendous job leading us as Diocesan Administrator.

## THE WORD

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### Sunday 16 March – Second Sunday of Lent

**First Reading** Genesis 15: 5-12, 17-18

*God enters into a covenant with Abram, the man of faith.*

**Psalms Response** The Lord is my light and my salvation.

**Second Reading** Philippians 3:17- 4:1 *Christ will configure us to his glorious body.*

**Gospel** Luke 9:28b-36 *As Jesus was praying, the appearance of his face was altered.*

### Sunday 23 March – Third Sunday of Lent

**First Reading** Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15 *"I am" has sent me to you.*

**Psalms Response** The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12 *The way of life of the people with Moses in the desert was written down for our instruction.*

**Gospel** Luke 13:1-9. *Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.*

# CONTACT US

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Blessed Sacrament Parish 29 Fore Street, Heavitree, Exeter EX1 2QJ  
01392 274724 [exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk)

Parish Secretary *Catherine Odams*

Parish Office *Open Tuesday – Friday 10.00am–4.00pm*

Gift Aid enquiries: [Exeter-heavitree-giftaid@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:Exeter-heavitree-giftaid@prcdtr.org.uk)

Parish website [blessedsacrament.org.uk](http://blessedsacrament.org.uk)

Parish Facebook [Catholic Exeter](#)

**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](mailto:exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk)*

**Parish Safeguarding Representatives**

*Maria Edwards 07870 696530 & Catherine Odams 01392 274724*

## St Nicholas School

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School, Ringswell Avenue, Exeter EX1 3EG  
01392 445403. [admin@stncls.uk](mailto:admin@stncls.uk) [www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk](http://www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk)

Head Teacher Mr D Railston