

PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

23 March 2025. *Third Sunday of Lent. Year C. Psalter 3*



MASS TIMES

Sunday 23 March – Third Sunday of Lent

8.45am

10.45am *Dan Docherty RIP*

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

Tuesday 25 March – The Annunciation of the Lord

6.30pm *Margaret and Joe Leonard RIP*

Wednesday 26 March –

9.30am *Tim David RIP*

Followed by refreshments in St Richard Reynold Centre.

Thursday 27 March

9.30am

6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 28 March

6.00pm Stations of the Cross led by PACT

No Mass

Saturday 29 March

No Mass

5.00pm Syro-Malabar Rite Mass

Sunday 30 March – Fourth Sunday of Lent- Laetare Sunday

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.

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

Confessions Saturdays after 9.30am Mass or by appointment.

Confessions during Lent

The Season of Lent is a time of personal reflection. It is a penitential season when we focus on what we need to change in our lives. It is a wonderful time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, especially before the celebration of Easter.

To facilitate this, as well as the regular Confessions on Saturday mornings, there will be additional opportunities for you to receive the Sacrament:

Thursday 3 April 6.00–8.00pm

Tuesday 15 April (Holy Week) 7.00–8.30pm

During these times there will be adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

NEWS & EVENTS

Catholic National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady

This 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](#).

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: 25 March and 1 and 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 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'.

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. Thank you!

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.](#)

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

Family Film Night

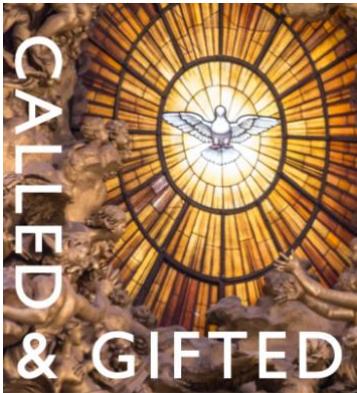
Friday 11 April St Nicholas Primary School 5.30–7.30pm

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



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'!



Easter Bonnet Parade

On Easter Day, at Blessed Sacrament at the end of the 10.45am Mass, we will have a traditional Easter Bonnet Parade.

The making and wearing of a specially decorated hat at Easter symbolises hope, joy, and new beginnings, and the promise of spiritual renewal and redemption.

Jane, Stephanie and Anne sported their hats at the recent Spring Fayre and look forward to young and old, male and female, joining them.

Adoration with Prayer and Praise Buckfast Abbey

On Monday 7 April you are invited to join us for Adoration with Prayer and Praise in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Buckfast Abbey. This will be held after the 12.05 Mass until 13.30. During Adoration there will be praise, silent prayer, scripture reading and reflection and intercessory prayers. Afterwards, there is the opportunity to gather in the Grange for lunch or drinks. Anyone is welcome to join us for all or part of this as commitments permit. *Maria & Alan McCarthy*

Diocese of Plymouth Vacancy

The Diocese of Plymouth currently has a vacancy for a Head of Caritas. Further information can be obtained by emailing recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk. Please also see the advert in the church porch.

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

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

The Lenten offering for this week includes a reflection on the readings for the Third Sunday of Lent by Monsignor Robert Draper, and CAFOD's intercessory prayer. [Please click here](#)

You are warmly invited to sign up [here](#) to receive our monthly diocesan newsletter and weekly Lenten reflections by Monsignor Robert Draper.

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](#) where you'll also find further information about the survey. The survey will close on **25 March**.



Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) (CCSP)

Time for a Spring clean?

It's that time of year when we start to look forward to the longer evenings and look to dust off the cobwebs of the Winter months by having a good old-fashioned Spring

Clean. Did you know that you can donate your unwanted items through the CCSP's Orange Box recycling scheme and turn clutter into cash for a very good cause?



In 2024 our Orange Boxes raised an amazing £5,970.51 compared to the previous year's record-breaking total of £5,534.23. We would love to set another record in 2025.

Items that can be popped into your parish Orange Box include • **Stamp collections**, first day covers or old envelopes and postcards pre 1950. • **Coins and banknotes** – any and all, old and new, from all over the world, obsolete or otherwise. • **Precious metals** including broken jewellery, old trophies, gold, silver etc. • **Metals** including ornaments, metal toys, keys and locks, metal cutlery – any age and any

condition. • **Costume jewellery**. • **Medals**. • **Small antiques and collectibles**. • **Watches** – digital, quartz or manual wind – working or not. • **Any Catholic religious memorabilia** such as rosaries, crucifixes, medals etc.

And don't forget you can recycle your **old ink cartridges** through our ink cartridge recycling boxes which also raised a fantastic £532.50 last year, having raised since the scheme was first started in July 2008. In 2024 alone, we have kept 42kg of cartridges from going to landfill.

Thank you to all parishes who maintain an Orange Box and to every generous donor who has contributed to this amazing amount of money raised for CCSP.

St Nicholas School News

Year 5/6 will be taking part in Walkability workshops over the next few weeks to provide them with the knowledge, awareness, and practical skills necessary for safer pedestrian practices, particularly during their journeys to and from school. Yr 3/4 will also take part later in the term. We have also just had some Dog's Trust workshops to teach children about looking after dogs and how to be safe around them.

Our children are also learning how to be eco-warriors and friends with our planet, especially as St Nicholas moves towards being a net zero school.

If any parishioners would be interested in becoming a Foundation Governor at St Nicholas please contact our Clerk to Governors, Mrs Brocksom, by emailing clerk@stncs.uk

If you are interested in your child joining our school community please email admissions@stncs.uk to book a tour or find out more!

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

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

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

Assisted Suicide- Hard Cases Don't Make Good Law

The Catholic Union is holding a [webinar](#) on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill on Thursday 3 April. Chaired by Baroness Hollins, President of the Catholic Union, it will give members and supporters the chance to unpick the Bill guided by three experts: Dr Matthew Doré; Dr Philip Howard and Professor Julian Hughes. Please register your interest on the above link. A Zoom link will then be shared with you in due course.



Stay Awake

Stay Awake is taking place for the seventh year on Saturday 5 April, 2025 from 10:00 – 19:00 at All Saints Church of England Academy, Weymouth. including Mass at 5.00pm, followed by a time of fellowship over free pizza. Looking to go deeper with Jesus? Come along for

some inspiring and thought-provoking talks, including kids' activities, praise and worship, workshops and the Sacrament of Reconciliation! This is an event for everyone and anyone. Tickets are free for those in Year 9 and under, £10.00 for those in Year 10 – 13, and only £12.50 for everyone else! Tickets available now, online from www.stayawakejc.com/2025. NB: Make sure you book by 1 April, 2025, please! We look forward to welcoming you!

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 to find out how you can help.

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

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 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, 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 25 April 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

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

Worship Thursday

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in church each Thursday 6.00–7.00pm.
Come and spend some time with the Lord in an atmosphere of prayer and peace.

Praying the Rosary

The Rosary is prayed at Blessed Sacrament Parish every first and third Wednesday after 9.30am Mass. All welcome.

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...

Pope Francis. He is still in hospital receiving treatment for double pneumonia. 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

Sunday 23 March – Third Sunday of Lent

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

Psalm 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.*

Sunday 30 March – Fourth Sunday of Lent. Laetare Sunday

First Reading Joshua 5:9a, 10-12.

The people of God entered the promised land and there kept the Passover

Psalm Response Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:17- 21. *God through Christ reconciled us to himself.*

Gospel Luke 15:1-3, 11-32. *Your brother was dead, and is alive.*

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-giftaid@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish website blessedsacrament.org.uk

Parish 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

*Maria Edwards 07870 696530
& Catherine Odams 01392 274724*

St Nicholas School

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Head Teacher Mr Damian Railston