

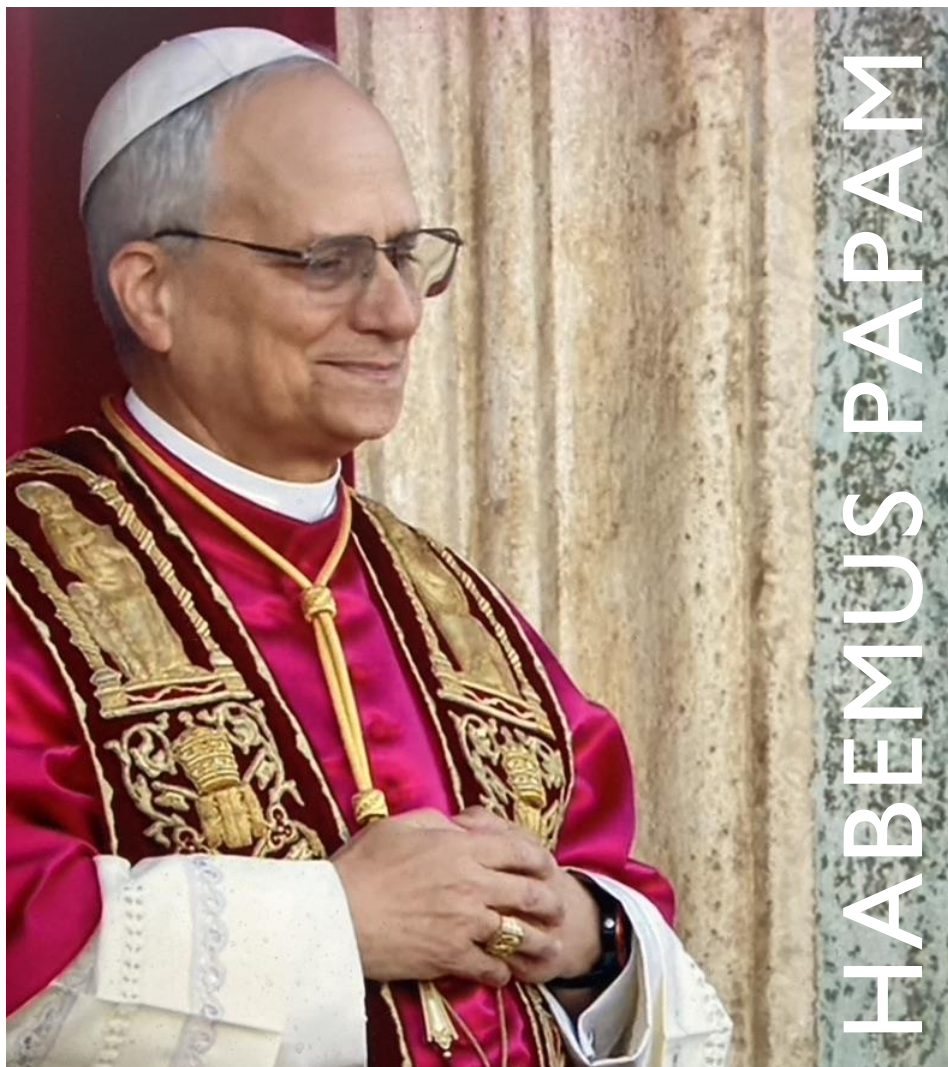
# PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

11 May 2025. *Fourth Week of Easter Year C. Psalter 4*

---



# MASS TIMES

---

## **Sunday 11 May – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

8.45am *Mrs Kelly RIP*  
10.45am *Teresa, Peter and Kieran McDonagh RIP*  
6.00pm *People of the Parish*

## **Tuesday 13 May**

6.30pm *Private Intention*

## **Wednesday 14 May – St Matthias, Apostle**

9.30am *Private Intention*  
*Followed by refreshments in St Richard Reynold Centre.*

## **Thursday 15 May**

9.30am *Kath Jenkinson RIP*  
6.00pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

## **Friday 16 May**

6.30pm *Pope Leo XIV*

## **Saturday 17 May**

9.30am *Vocations to the priesthood*  
*Followed by Confessions*  
5.00pm *Syro-Malabar Rite Mass*

## **Sunday 18 May – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

8.45am *People of the Parish*  
10.45am *Pope Leo XIV*  
2.00pm *Syro-Malabar Rite Mass*  
6.00pm *Victims and Survivors of abuse*

## **Tuesday 20 May**

**No Mass**

## **Wednesday 21 May**

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

## **Thursday 22 May**

9.30am *Sr Ellen McCarthy FCJ RIP*  
6.00pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

## **Friday 23 May**

6.30pm *Vocations to the religious life*

## **Saturday 24 May – St Aldhelm of Sherborne, Bishop**

9.30am  
*Followed by Confessions*  
5.00pm *Syro-Malabar Rite Mass*

## Sunday 25 May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

8.45am

10.45am *People of the Parish*

3.00pm Syro-Malabar Rite Mass

6.00pm

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

## 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.](#)

---

## Habemus Papam! We have a Pope!

On Thursday evening we were greeted with the wonderful news that a Pope had been chosen as the 267th successor to the Apostle St Peter. Cardinal Robert Prevost emerged on to the balcony of St Peter's Basilica and we were told that he would be known as Pope Leo XIV. What great joy for the whole Church. Thanks be to God!

As time goes on, we will learn more about Pope Leo, but for now we must hold him in our prayers and ask the Lord to strengthen him in his ministry. As shepherd of the Church he is also a spiritual leader for the world, and we pray that he will administer his charism with generosity, kindness and with a pastoral heart.

Pope Leo called for peace and so we pray that the world may be a place of peace, where the dignity of all humanity may be respected and cherished. God bless you Pope Leo. May you too find consolation and peace.

## Vocations Sunday

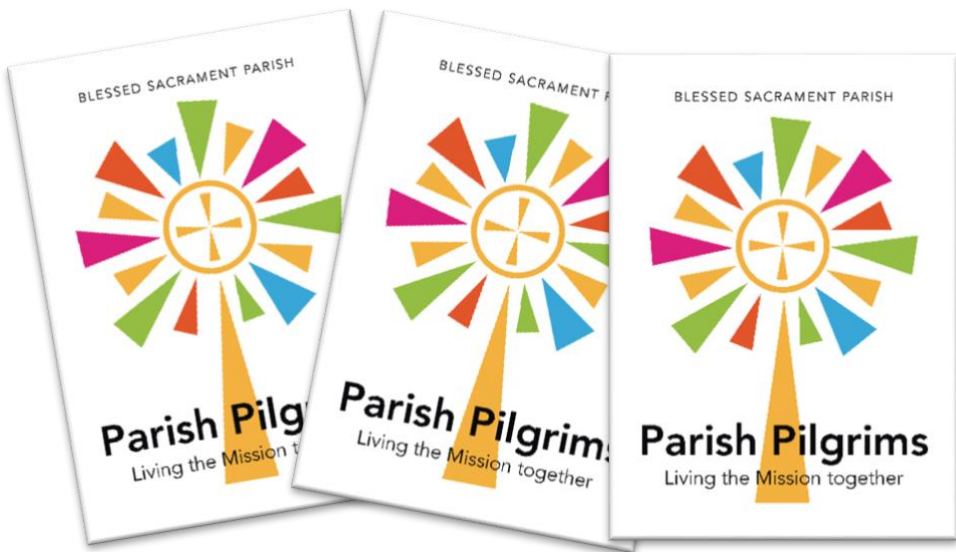
This Sunday 11 May is the annual day of prayer for Vocations. We are all called, as St John Henry Newman reminds us, 'to some definite service' in the Church. It is part of our baptismal dignity, and we pray that God will reveal to us what it is he wants us to do for him and for one another.

On this day we pray especially for vocation to the priesthood and the religious life. We are blessed that we currently have several men in formation for priesthood for the Diocese of Plymouth; three of whom are at Allen Hall seminary, and one is in a propaedeutic year (pre-seminary) in Valladolid in Spain. We also have one man who will be making an application this summer.

The likely cost of training these five men to serve in our diocese will be £150,000 a year. Are you able to offer something to help fund their training? If so, please take a leaflet as you leave church. Envelopes are available if you are able to GiftAid your contribution. With gratitude in anticipation for your generosity. Please continue to pray for Juan, Sam, Julian, Hugo and Andrius, that the Lord will strengthen their vocation and accompany them with his Holy Spirit.

# NEWS & EVENTS

---



## Parish Pilgrims – Living the Mission Together

**Do you want to grow in your faith?**

**Do you want to get to know new people?**

**Do you have friends or family who are not practicing Catholics?**

**Do you want your faith to be more than just coming to Mass on Sunday?**

At Blessed Sacrament Parish, as part of our Vision to be known and loved, we are establishing groups which we are calling Parish Pilgrims. The groups will begin small (6-8 people). The hope is that they will grow through invitation and encouragement. Once they reach a certain number of people, new groups will be formed.

Nourished by the Holy Spirit and the Eucharist and encouraged by the fellowship of the members of the group, they will support our growth and development as Catholic Christians as we strive to live as 'Missionary Disciples'; people with faith who are confident in sharing that faith with others.

**How often will the groups meet?** Once a fortnight.

**How long will the meetings last?** 90 minutes.

**What will happen?** Prayer, Faith-sharing, Conversation, Friendship.

**Where will the meetings be?** In people's homes.

To make this a reality we need you! If you're interested in finding out more, take one of the leaflets after Mass and complete the short form or scan the QR code. We look forward to hearing from you. We will be in touch with more information. Please keep this initiative in your prayers, that we may support one another through prayer, friendship and the love of God.

## Assisted suicide Bill – Take action now

Report Stage of the assisted suicide Bill is 16 May. It is vital that you contact your MP urgently about this issue.

Please take action now and [follow this link](#) to email your MP – it takes just 30 seconds! If you have the time, please also visit your MP. You can arrange a meeting now by [following this link](#).

## Evangelisation – the heart of the Church's Mission

In the light of the death of Pope Francis, we recall that his first major encyclical to the Church was on the necessity to proclaim the Gospel and the mission to evangelise. The aim of this day is to explore the nature of this mission and how we can put it into practice in our daily lives.

This day will be of particular interest to all who are already endeavouring to share their faith or who would like to know how to get started. This event will be held at Buckfast Abbey conference centre on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 10am-3pm. (Dart View Room 4). There is an opportunity to go to the Abbey mass at noon. Booking is essential and needs to be done through [plymouth-crownhill@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:plymouth-crownhill@prcdtr.org.uk) Enquiries: 01752 701660. We look forward to seeing you at this inspiring day.

## Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of abuse

This year's day of prayer will take place on Tuesday 20 May and the focus is the theme of "The Empty Chair". Many of us are saddened by reducing numbers in our churches. This is happening for a wide variety of reasons, but our thoughts are on those who are not there because they have suffered abuse in a church setting and cannot face being here.

They may be the families or friends of survivors. They may be former members of a community affected by allegations or convictions for abuse. They may be people who are simply so disgusted or ashamed by what they have heard about abuse within the Church that they no longer want to be part of it. All these groups and others are represented by "The Empty Chair".

If you have been impacted by abuse and would like to speak to someone, please contact the Safeguarding Office: 01364 645430 (Monday to Friday, 9:00am - 4:30pm).

## Prayer for Victims and Survivors of abuse

God of expansive and unconditional love, you offer so much to those whom you have created and whom you love with an everlasting love. We are conscious of how many do not know this – whose experiences in our Church have been hurtful and damaging. We are aware of the many empty chairs where your people should be – and acknowledge that we have not always shown your hospitality or made our Church the safe haven it should be. But we bring this knowledge into your mercy, trusting that, with our willingness and with your grace, we can be among those who follow Jesus' example, embracing the weary, the heavy-burdened and those in need of rest and strength for their souls. May God be present to those most in need of knowing this love. Amen.



## Kenyan Educational Sponsorship

What's going on here?

### Two Exhausted Deacons

I, Deacon Kelvin Russell, 70 years old this year, am currently training to run the Great West Run, a half marathon on 25 May, with my fellow Deacon Brian Bargent. We will be running to raise funds for Kenyan Educational Sponsorship, which is dedicated to helping young people in Kenya achieve their academic potential, enabling them to realise their

ambitions and make the most of life. Currently we are sponsoring 10 high school students (4 boys and 6 girls). Four of these students are aiming to study medicine next year, three wish to become civil engineers, one a dentist, one a pharmacist and the other is yet to decide. Without the help of Kenyan Educational Sponsorship these students would be unable to study at all.

Please [click on this link](#) or use the QR code to sponsor us.

There is also a paper copy of the sponsorship form and leaflets in the church porch. many thanks for your support.



## Marriage help – Retrouvaille

Considering separation or are already divorced? If you are open to trying again Retrouvaille could be the solution. Ring 0797 338 0443 for more information or visit our website at [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

## Smart Loving Marriage Preparation

To celebrate the Jubilee Year which is marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God and one another, Catholic marriage ministry, SmartLoving, is offering its BreakThrough online course as a free gift.

The course is designed to help an individual to understand the struggles they are facing in their marriage, and to equip them with powerful tools to restore love, communication, and connection.

Use Coupon code: Jubilee2025 for FREE access to breakthrough. The offer is available from now until the Feast of Pentecost. Visit: [www.smartloving.org/jubilee](http://www.smartloving.org/jubilee)

## Mass for Marriage 2025

Saturday 31 May 12.00pm Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Boniface, Plymouth. Let us know your anniversaries or intentions, or when your wedding will take place. For information contact [deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk) and see the poster.

## Vacancy in the Diocese of Plymouth

We have a vacancy for a Parish Secretary role at the Parish of the Assumption of Our Lady in Torquay. Please see the advertisement in the porch. Closing date: 12 May.

# CAFOD Jubilee Reflection Day & Diocesan Launch of the Worldwide Church Debt Campaign

Venue: Buckfast Abbey, Schiller Hall, Saturday 31 May, 10.30am - 3pm

Join us to pray and reflect on CAFOD's Jubilee themes and be inspired to take action on the worldwide Church debt campaign, with a *live* Link to Kenya!

In the last year of his life, Pope Francis repeatedly spoke about the global debt crisis impacting many of the world's poorest countries. Calling for urgent action to be taken in this Jubilee Year, he said, "More than a question of generosity, this is a matter of justice". At his request, the Church has launched a worldwide debt campaign. Join CAFOD to find out more about the campaign and what you can do to answer Pope Francis' call to action.

Keynote speaker live from Kenya: Fr Charlie Chilufya SJ, Jesuit priest based in Kenya, who is an expert on the debt crisis and on the human suffering that this is causing in Kenya. Fr Charlie is Director of JENA (Jesuit Justice and Ecology Network, Africa) he fosters and coordinates the Jesuits' work in economic, social, migration, juvenile, gender, and climate justice in Africa. He speaks globally at the African Union, United Nations, G20, and IMF/World Bank meetings, advocating for debt relief, climate justice, and economic systems that serve people over profit.

All welcome. Booking not necessary, but appreciated: Email:

[plymouth@cafod.org.uk](mailto:plymouth@cafod.org.uk) or Tel: 01752 268 768

## St Nicholas School News

We have spaces in our Nursery for 3 - 4 year-olds from September. We offer 15 and 30 hours (extended) funding and additional hours are only £5.50 per hour. We can also offer wraparound care in our Breakfast and After School Club. Please contact the school on 01392 445403, to find out more about our Nursery provision and to book a tour!

## Catholic Bishops of England and Wales

For the latest news from the Bishops' Conference [please click here](#)

## Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) (CCSP)

'Rise to Our Cause' on Ascension Thursday for the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)

Following the success of our two previous CCSP Ascension Day fundraisers, last year at St Mary's in Poole and the previous year at Buckfast Abbey, this year's 'Rise to Our Cause' event is being held at St Cuthbert Mayne in Launceston on Thursday, 29 May 2025. St Cuthbert Mayne Church in Launceston is a sacred site of pilgrimage for the Jubilee Year, and pilgrims can get their pilgrim passport stamped, and venerate the relic of Cuthbert Mayne.

The event will start with Holy Mass in the church at 12.30pm, followed by a two-course hot lunch kindly prepared for us by the parish. Following lunch, our Guest Speaker this year will be Phil McCarthy, the Hearts in Search of God project lead, who will describe his own walking pilgrimages to Rome and Istanbul and reflect on



what it means to be a pilgrim of hope in this Jubilee year. To read more about Phil and the work he does promoting the Cornish pilgrimage, visit [this link](#)  
Tickets cost **£15** and can be ordered by emailing [vicki.dunstone@ccsplymouth.org.uk](mailto:vicki.dunstone@ccsplymouth.org.uk), calling the CCSP office on 01364 645420, or visiting the parish office at St Cuthbert Mayne

All proceeds from this event will go towards helping vulnerable children and families living in our Diocese. There will also be a raffle on the day to help raise money for CCSP to enable us to continue helping families of all faiths and none living throughout Devon, Cornwall and parts of Dorset.

## CCSP Spring Newsletter

Copies of the latest edition of our 'Children First' newsletter are in the porch.

## Diocese of Plymouth Youth Events

### Heatree May 23– 25.

Heatree Activity Centre is situated on Dartmoor TQ13 9XE. This residential is aimed at young people aged 10-12 years old. They will explore the Sunday scripture whilst building rafts and climbing the high ropes. It's a great chance to meet other young Catholics from across the Diocese. Cost £90, which can be paid in installments. For further information contact Saskia: [youth@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:youth@prcdtr.org.uk)

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

Proclaim is aimed at young adults aged 18-30ish. It aims to encourage young adults to explore their faith and respond to God's call. Speakers include: Storyteller Martin Shaw, who will talk about the Celtic saints; Daniella Stephens and singer, song writer Jamaiah Paine. You will need to register. Contact Saskia: [youth@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:youth@prcdtr.org.uk)

Please 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. Saskia Hogbin [youth@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:youth@prcdtr.org.uk)

## Exeter Foodbank

Donations of priority items are especially needed: Tinned meat meals, tinned vegetarian meals, pasta/noodle snacks, tinned potatoes, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, biscuits, small jars of coffee. 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.

## Christians Together Across Exeter

### Christian Aid Week

There will be a sale of plants, cards, cakes and a Bring and Buy at South Street Baptist Church on Tuesday 13 May 11.00am with free coffee, for Christian Aid. Please see the poster in the porch. If anyone can contribute items for sale, please bring them along on the day, or in advance to the Palace Gate Centre during any morning.



# FORMING IN FAITH TOGETHER

---

## Bishop Robert Barron's The Mass

Join us for Bishop Robert Barron's six-part film series: The Mass. This fascinating and highly informative series explores the Mass in wonderful detail, opening up the treasures of what we understand as the source and summit of our faith.

The meetings will be fortnightly, and the episodes will be shown at two locations:

**Monday morning** 10.30am-12.00pm in the Lower Room at Sacred Heart beginning on Monday 19 May and ending on Monday 28 July.

**Tuesday evening** 7.15-9.00pm at St Richard Reynolds Centre at Blessed Sacrament beginning on Tuesday 3 June and ending on Tuesday 12 August.

## Baptism Preparation Courses 2025

Next Courses: 14 and 21 June 2025 and 11 and 18 October 2025, 10.10am to 12.15pm. Godparents are especially welcome to attend the course as their role is explored. Click [Baptism Enquiry form](#) to register. 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.

## 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 tots

Our next session will be on Friday 23 May 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.

## GIFT Family and Youth Pilgrimage

Our next GIFT on the 7 June will be on pilgrimage to the St Boniface Shrine, Crediton. Join us at 10:00 to journey around the St Boniface Trail, Crediton at your own pace. The trail ends at the St Boniface Shrine, located in the St Boniface Catholic Church, where we will gather at 12:15 for GIFT Mass with Fr Jonathan. All are welcome. Information will be sent via email. If you aren't registered with GIFT to receive our emails, get in touch with Maria who will ensure you have all the information needed for a smooth and enjoyable family pilgrimage.

[Exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:Exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk)

Register for GIFT and GIFT Youth at these 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 Socials

Next social is on Friday 16 May 7.30–9.30pm in the St Richard Reynolds Centre.

## GIFT youth – SPREE Festival Weekend

Westpoint Arena Exeter. 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 – 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

---

### We welcome into the life of grace...

Blaire Briones who will be baptised next weekend. Please offer a prayer for her, her parents and Godparents. May she grow in knowledge and love of the Lord.

## Book of Intentions

The Book of Intentions will be on the table at the back of the church. You are invited to enter any prayer intentions you may have. At each Mass it will be brought with the gifts and placed on the altar. In this way all our prayers are brought to the Lord together as we celebrate.

## Praying the Rosary

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

## Pope's May Prayer Intention

### For working conditions

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

[The Pope Video](#)

## THE WORD

---

### Sunday 11 May – Fourth Sunday of Easter

**First Reading** Acts 13:14, 43b-52. *Behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.*

**Psalm Response** We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

**Second Reading** Revelation 7:9, 13a, 14b-17

*The Lamb will be their shepherd and will guide them to springs of living water.*

**Gospel** John 10:27-30. *I give eternal life to my sheep.*

### Sunday 18 May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

**First Reading** Acts 14: 21b-27

*They declared to the Church all that God had done with them.*

**Psalm Response** I will Bless your name for ever, my God and king.

**Second Reading** Revelation 21:1-5a. *God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.*

**Gospel** John 13:31-33a, 34-35

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another.*

### Sunday 18 May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

**First Reading** Acts 15:1-2, 22-29. *It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements.*

**Psalm Response** *Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.*

**Second Reading** Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

*He showed me the holy city coming down out of heaven.*

**Gospel** John 13:23-29

*The Holy Spirit will bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

# CONTACT US

---

## 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](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](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@stnics.uk](mailto:admin@stnics.uk)  
[www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk](http://www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk)

Head Teacher Mr Damian Railston



**DIOCESE OF PLYMOUTH**

Blessed Sacrament Parish is part of the Diocese of Plymouth.