

# PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

4 May 2025. *Third Week of Easter Year C. Psalter 3*

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## FEED MY SHEEP



# MASS TIMES

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## **Sunday 4 May – Third Sunday of Easter**

8.45am *Mrs Sammon RIP*  
10.45am *In thanksgiving*  
2.00pm *Syro-Malabar Rite Mass*  
6.00pm *People of the Parish*

## **Monday 5 May – St Richard Reynolds Priest & Martyr**

9.30am *Vocations to the religious life*

## **Tuesday 6 May**

6.30pm *The election of a new Pope*

## **Wednesday 7 May**

9.30am *The conclave which begins today*

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

## **Thursday 8 May**

9.30am *Private intention*

## **Friday 9 May**

6.30pm *Private intention*

## **Saturday 10 May**

9.30am *Private intention*

Followed by Confessions

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

8.45am *Mrs Kelly RIP*  
10.45am *People of the Parish*  
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.](#)

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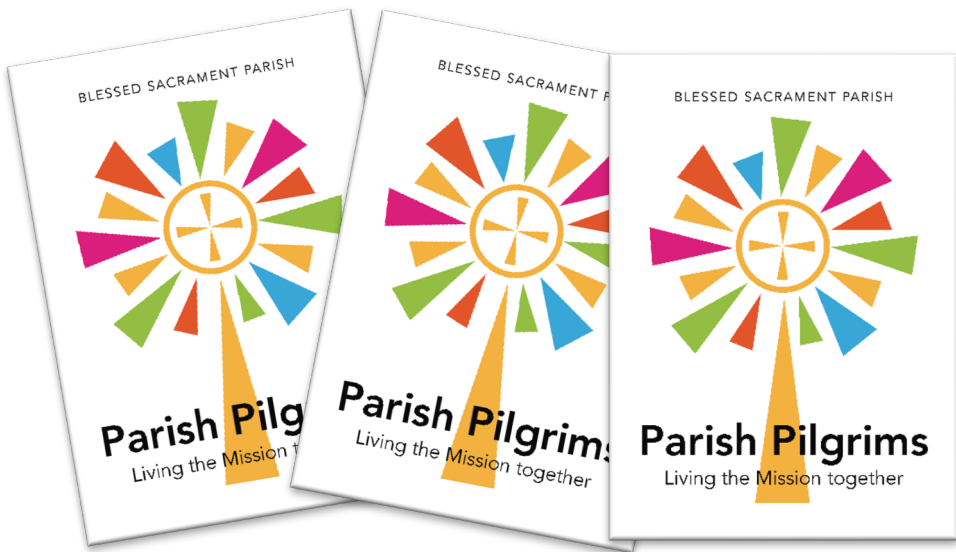
## **Our future Pope**

As we mourn the death of Pope Francis and give thanks for his shepherding the Church, we also look forward to the election of the next successor to St Peter.

There is, naturally, much speculation but at this stage we have no idea. We must trust in the Holy Spirit who will lead and guide the Cardinal electors to make the right decision. Whilst our new Pope could be any baptised male in the world (!) it is most likely that the new Pope will be one of those who will attend and vote in the Conclave which begins next Wednesday 8 May. The last two conclaves have taken only two days to make their choice. We should remember that Pope Francis was an outsider. [To read biographies of the Cardinal electors please follow this link.](#)

# NEWS & EVENTS

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## 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.

# Vocations Sunday

Next 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.

## Parish Pilgrimage to Lynton – Sunday 11 May

The Sisters of Mary Morning Star have once again kindly invited Blessed Sacrament parishioners to join them for the day next Sunday.

The day will start at 10.00am for Lectio Divina before Mass at 11.30am. This will be followed by a picnic lunch on the patio (please remember to take your lunch) and then a walk, for those who wish, to the Valley of the Rocks. The day will end with praying the Rosary at the convent grotto and then, for those who wish to stay later, Adoration at 5.00pm followed by vespers at 6.00pm.

Please let Catherine in the parish office know by 5.00pm Wednesday 7 May if you would like to come so that we can pass numbers on to the sisters. Could you also let her know if you are willing to drive or if you need a lift.

This was a wonderful opportunity to share the contemplative life of the sisters in 2023 and we hope that some of you will take up the offer again.



## Flores de Mayo Festival

We were delighted that the Filipino community in Exeter celebrated the annual Flores de Mayo procession and Mass at Blessed Sacrament on Saturday afternoon (3 May). This annual celebration in the month of May honours the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The celebration began with a Rosary Procession in the grounds of the church followed by the celebration of Mass. Fr Jonathan was particularly honoured to be asked to be the celebrant at the Mass which was very well attended.

## 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](#).

## 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!

Our Yr 3/4 children had a lovely sunny day to go to Plymouth last week for a boat trip around the Sound and to then Sleep with the Sharks at the aquarium. It was certainly a trip to remember!

## Pilgrim Virgin Statue and Fatima Relics

The Cathedral Church of St Mary & St Boniface will host the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco on 10 May 2025, in commemoration of the Centenary of the Five First Saturdays devotion.

The day will include a procession and enthronement of the Fatima statue, followed by Mass and opportunities to venerate the saints' relics. Participants will pray the Rosary for world peace and attend informative talks and videos about Fatima's messages. A book table with devotional materials will be available, and attendees can enrol in the Brown Scapular devotion. The event concludes with a Holy Hour and Benediction. For further details about Fatima, visit [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.

## Marriage help – Retrouvaille

Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: 20-22 June [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) Tel: 0788 7296983

## 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 at the Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Boniface, Plymouth PL1 5HW. Marriage enriches us all. 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)

## 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)

## 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.

## Exeter Foodbank

Donations of priority items are especially needed: Tinned meat meals, tinned vegetarian meals, pasta/noodle snacks, tinned potatoes, tinned fruit, 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

### Volunteers at Devon County Show

The Mission Tent at this year's Devon County Show will be a prayer and conversation space for anyone visiting the show. The Devon Churches Show Committee has adopted Psalm 23 as its theme for 2025, and so we're hoping to make full use of this amazing and well-known scripture. The Mission Tent will be transformed into an interactive Shepherd's Tent. Through prayer stations, information about our churches, and a warm welcome we hope to be able to talk about the Christian faith, introduce people to Jesus through the words of Psalm 23, and signpost people to their nearest church.

Would you like to help us? We're looking for volunteers to chat and pray with people, and for anyone with some interesting shepherding-related craft skills, like wool spinning, wool dyeing, knitting, crochet or whittling to spend some time showcasing their skills at the tent. If this is you, we'd love to hear from you!

If you are interested in supporting the Mission Tent please complete the enquiry form: [please complete this enquiry form](#). Please get in touch with Mission Enabler Revd. Jeremy Putnam on [mandm@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:mandm@exeter.anglican.org)

# GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

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## Forming in Faith

Please note that we will not meet on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May due to the Bank Holiday. We will reconvene on Monday 19 May every fortnight until Monday 28 July to watch and discuss Bishop Robert Barron's Mass film series. Join us in the Lower Room, Sacred Heart from 10:30-12:00.

## 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 9 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. Next GIFT session: Saturday 10 May 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 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

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### St Richard Reynolds

Richard is thought to have come from Pinhoe in Exeter and was a Bridgettine monk of Syon Abbey on the banks of the river Thames. He suffered martyrdom at Tyburn on 4 May 1535 for refusing to take the oath of royal supremacy under Henry VIII.

He was known for his personal holiness and was one of the forty martyrs canonised by Pope Paul VI in 1970. Syon Abbey, one of the great medieval monasteries, was dissolved by Henry in 1539. The expelled community moved from place to place in France and Spain, finally settling in Lisbon in 1594. This same community then moved from Lisbon to England in 1861, settling first at Spetisbury, Dorset, then in Chudleigh, and finally in South Brent where they remained until the closure of Syon Abbey in 2011.

The stone pillar, which stands in the Martyrs Chapel of Blessed Sacrament Church was part of the gatehouse of the original Syon Abbey. The community took it with them wherever they travelled before donating it to our parish for safe keeping.

Mass will be celebrated on Monday 5 May at 9.30am at Blessed Sacrament.

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

Charlotte O'Neil, Nuno Toczek-Hopson and Ruah Vivera who will be baptised this weekend. Please offer a prayer for them, their parents and Godparents. May they 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 Worldwide Prayer Network- Thank you Francis

Every month, you have invited us to pray with you for the challenges of humanity and the mission of the Church, teaching us to learn compassion for others from the heart of Christ. Thank you, Francis, for your life and your witness.

[The Pope Video](#)

## THE WORD

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### **Sunday 4 May – Third Sunday of Easter**

**First Reading** Acts 5: 27b-32, 40b-41

*We are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit.*

**Psalm Response** I will extol you, Lord, for you have raised me up.

**Second Reading** Revelation 5:11-14

*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth.*

**Gospel** John 21:1-19

*Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish.*

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

**First Reading** Acts 13:14, 13a, 14b-17

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

**Psalm Response**

Alleluia, alleluia. I am the good shepherd, says the Lord. I know my sheep and my own know me. Alleluia.

**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.*

# 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](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.