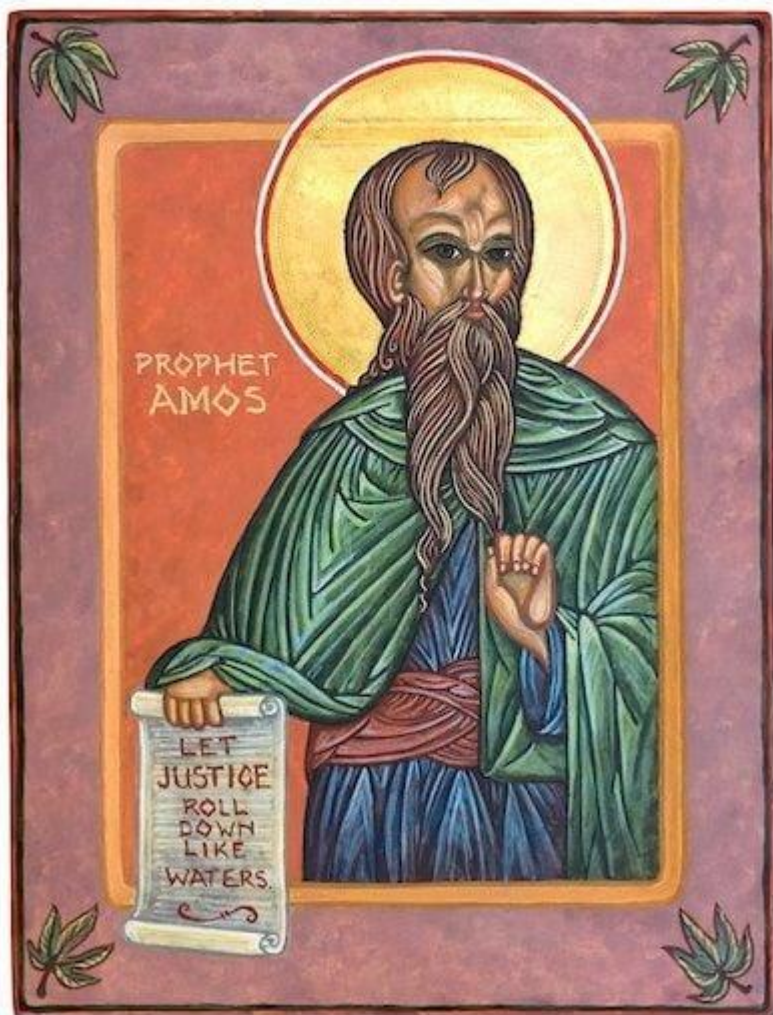


PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER
21 September 2025. 25th Week in Ordinary Time. Year C1 Psalter 1
28 September 2025. 26th Week in Ordinary Time. Year C2 Psalter 2



SEEK JUSTICE

How easy to take the words of Jesus out of context: “Use money to win you friends,” is one of those lines that sounds strange to us outside the context of the parable and the teaching in today’s Gospel. Even the parable itself can seem a little strange – is Jesus really recommending that we act like dishonest stewards? No, of course not! The point that reveals this is hidden halfway down: “The children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind...” Jesus in a way praises the effort of the dishonest steward, but wishes that it was directed less to worldly things, but to the things of heaven. And this is the message that we are to take: where do we direct our energies – to making money, fame, fortune and success, or to finding “friends in heaven”? *Salford Office for Liturgy*

MASS TIMES

Sunday 21 September – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday

8.45am *Peggy Webber RIP*

10.45am *Private Intention*

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

Tuesday 23 September – St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio), Priest

6.30pm

Wednesday 24 September – Our Lady of Walsingham

9.30am

Followed by refreshments in the St Richard Reynolds Centre

Thursday 25 September

9.30am

6.00pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

Friday 26 September

6.30pm

Saturday 27 September – St Vincent de Paul, Priest

9.30am

Sunday 28 September – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Education Sunday

8.45am *Adrian Jenkinson RIP*

10.45am *People of the Parish*

6.00pm *Giuseppe Giachino RIP*

Tuesday 30 September – St Jerome, Priest & Doctor of the Church

6.30pm

Wednesday 1 October – St Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin & Doctor

9.30am

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

Thursday 2 October – The Holy Guardian Angels

9.30am

6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 3 October – CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

6.30pm

Saturday 4 October – St Francis of Assisi, Religious

9.30am Mass at St Nicholas School, Ringswell Avenue

Sunday 5 October – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am

2.00pm

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.](#)

NEWS & EVENTS

Home Mission Sunday

This Sunday is Evangelii Gaudium Sunday which calls us to be joyous in proclaiming our faith. “Evangelii Gaudium” is Latin for “Joy of the Gospel”. It is a Sunday more commonly known as Home Mission Sunday, a day for us as the Catholic community in England and Wales to celebrate the beauty of our faith, and our shared commitment to witness to the fullness of life in Christ.

Celebrating 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea, the theme for this year is “I believe...” as the heart of mission. More details about this can be found on the Bishops’ Conference website at this link: [evangelii-gaudium-sunday](#). The second collection this weekend is to support the work carried out by the Bishops’ Conference Mission Directorate. Through this directorate, we support our Church in a wide field of service and mission here in England and Wales.

Please hold this important work in your prayers and give as generously as you can. Thank you, *Abbot Hugh Allan, Director of Mission at the Catholic Bishops’ Conference*

Season of Creation

1 September was the beginning of the Season of Creation, which ends on 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. For more information and inspiration, visit the diocesan website at this link: [Season of Creation-Diocese of Plymouth](#)

Fr Jonathan's Silver Jubilee. A big Thank You!

Didn't we have a lovely celebration of Fr. Jonathan's Silver Jubilee?! I want to thank you all for coming to celebrate at the Mass and at the after party. It was good that so many of us were able to come together to show our appreciation to Fr Jonathan and to give thanks to God for his ministry.

Our thanks are also very much due to those who worked together in advance, behind the scenes and on the day to bring the celebrations to fruition - I'll list you all here with my apologies if I've missed anyone:

The liturgy planners, altar servers and musicians for enhancing the Mass,

The flower arrangers for beautifying the church and the party venue,

St Nicholas School for the use of the school,

The welcomers (and car park supremo) at Mass and at the party who were on their feet all day always wearing their smiles!

The speech makers,

The party planners for their initiative and organising skills,

The seamstresses for bunting and tablecloths,

The Michelin starred cooks and the people who served the food,

The cake bakers (next stop Great British Bake Off?!),

The refreshment servers who worked their socks off in the kitchen,

The entertainers – on the day and for all their rehearsing,

The multitude of helpers who decorated, set up and tidied at the end of the party,

Everyone who donated prayers, time and money for our gifts.

We couldn't have done it without you all!



I'm sure you'd like to know that our parish gift was a beautiful sculpture of The Eucharist, pictured here to the left, skillfully crafted by nuns from the Monastery of Bethléem in France, and a cheque for £2,000 to buy a piece of art of his own choosing. Fr Jonathan was delighted to say the least!

With love, Sheila and all the planning team. 😊

Overwhelmed!

I would like to add my sincere gratitude to you all for the celebration of my Silver Jubilee. It far exceeded my expectations (and that's saying something because my expectations of this community are very high!). It was a wonderful day, filled with emotion. As usual I was unable to contain the tears, but that wasn't a surprise, was it? Sheila has thanked everyone individually who contributed so I don't have to! I can simply **thank you all** for making me proud and grateful to be part of such a wonderful community. I'm immensely privileged to have been called to serve as a priest and thrilled that I was able to celebrate this jubilee with you all. May God continue to bless us. Thank you. *Fr Jonathan*

Memories of a special day...



Thank you!





CAFOD Family Fast Day

Friday 5 October

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection to share God's abundant gifts with our

global neighbours as they find lasting solutions to poverty and climate challenges.

Your generosity offers "signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year, helping build more water tanks in communities like Waré's in Ethiopia where women have to walk for hours to get water. Use the CAFOD

envelope in church, donate online at [//cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFOD to 70560 to donate £10.



Stop assisted suicide – further action needed!

As the assisted suicide Bill progresses through the Lords, Peers have made it clear that receiving physical letters will have the most influence at this stage of the process. Right To Life UK has launched a new *EasyAction* tool that creates a personalised letter to be sent in the post to a Peer highlighting a key concern with the Bill, selects a Peer to receive it, and customises the letter so that it is addressed from you.

Please take action now and [visit this link](#) to send a letter to Peers asking them to oppose assisted suicide.

Catholic Women's League

The next meeting of the Catholic Women's League will be on Tuesday 23 September at 2pm in the Parish Room Sacred Heart Church South Street. This meeting after the summer break is to plan for the future and any anyone who is interested in joining the League will be very welcome.

RCIA Journey in Faith

Are you, or is someone you know, interested in becoming a Catholic? We regularly have requests from people who want to know more about the Catholic Faith because they are experiencing a call to be a part of the Church. They come from all walks of life and are different ages. The Holy Spirit is at work!

We support those who want to join us by meeting regularly and discussing what it means to be a Catholic Christian in today's world. We call this journey RCIA – The Rite of Christian Initiation in Adults. Whilst it was originally formulated to receive those who had never been baptised, many of those who now come along have already been initiated into another faith tradition. We are all on a journey of faith. Our meetings are designed to support and encourage those who are not yet Catholic and to accompany them.

We are hoping to begin the meetings in the second week of October. If you are interested in knowing more, please contact Sacred Heart Parish on 01392 642389. Please watch this space for more details.

Missio Red Boxes

It is the time of year before Mission Sunday that the boxes are emptied again and counted so our parish can forward the money to Missio. The boxes can either be brought to the church or its office, or John Mitchelmore will be pleased to visit your home and collect them from you. His contact details are telephone numbers 01392 757199, 07714 936657 or email j_mitchelmore04@hotmail.com. Their autumn edition of Mission Today will be in the porch and all are welcome to pick up a copy, meanwhile they thank us for our support of their missionary work worldwide.

Parish Pilgrimage to Launceston

On Saturday 11 October you are invited to join a pilgrimage to St Cuthbert Mayne Church in Launceston, one of the four designated pilgrimage sites in our diocese this Jubilee Year. Canon John Deeny will welcome us to Mass at 11.00am before we have a chance to view the relic of St Cuthbert Mayne among others.

Find out about one of our region's patron saints, bring lunch to share in the parish centre, and follow an optional town trail around key sites related to St Cuthbert Mayne's life. And for those with Pilgrim Passports, you can add another stamp!

To register your interest and for more information, contact the Parish Office: exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk.

In keeping with the Jubilee theme of Care for Creation, we would like to arrange a car share. So please let us know if you require a lift or could offer a number of seats to your fellow pilgrims.

Talk: The Liberty Centre

Please join us in the Richard Reynolds Centre for a talk by Jeanie Lynch, Head of Service for Colab Women in Exeter, from 10.30am to 12.00pm on Saturday 27 September, starting with a welcome hot drink. Jeanie and her team have been supporting women at risk of homelessness and violence in Exeter since 2017. She's grateful to the support we at Blessed Sacrament have offered over the last 4 years. She now wants to tell us about her vision for an exciting new venture called the Liberty Centre which will be a new community support resource for all women in Exeter. [Click on this link](#) for more information if you want to have a look before coming to her talk.

Please do come along and learn about the opportunities for supporting this worthwhile new venture. Thank you, *Sheila (Hosker)*

Parish Accounts

A copy of the parish accounts comparing the income and expenditure for years ending 31/3/25 & 31/3/24 is available to view on the noticeboard in the porch. Copies and further information, if required, can be obtained from the parish office.

St Nicholas School News

It's been a fantastic return to school! The children have come in and settled well with their new teachers and we are concentrating on the development of our new curriculum. We are currently in the process of interviewing and appointing our School Chaplains from children in Year 6 – they contribute so much to the faith life of the school. We will hold a special mass to commission them later this month. We have new play equipment with more on the way and the children are enjoying hanging, climbing and balancing at play time! We are fundraising with our wonderful PTA team to buy even more equipment and to keep developing our play opportunities.

If you would like to find out about joining our Nursery or school, or are interested in becoming a Governor please contact the Senior Administrator, Mrs Brocksom by emailing admissions@stncls.uk.

University of Exeter Catholic Society (Exeter CathSoc)

We are based at Boniface House Catholic Chaplaincy, University of Exeter Streatham Campus, Exeter. We are a group of students living out the values of the Gospel through sharing our faith together and with others as a society. Each week we have a set number of services and events which take place at the Chaplaincy.

We are aware that many students might be living at home and travelling to University or simply haven't come across us yet. Please see the poster in the church porch detailing all events this term. We look forward to welcoming you.

The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA)

A call for information about survivor support

The CSSA are undertaking a thematic inspection of survivor engagement and support, and the Diocese of Plymouth has been chosen as one of the Dioceses to be involved in this project. Previously, known survivors of abuse were contacted and a call for information *from them* shared on the Diocesan website and Facebook.

The CSSA would now like to invite **anyone** involved in the Diocese of Plymouth, be that clergy, curia, parishioner, volunteer or any other connection to complete a similar survey, collating feedback around perceptions and understanding of survivor support in the Diocese.

While the primary focus is the period from July 2024 onwards, the CSSA do not wish to limit what people choose to share.

The direct link to the survey is here: [Public call for information-Clergy, Religious, Employees, Volunteers, Parishioners](#) and it will soon be in news section of the Diocese of Plymouth website.

If you haven't previously engaged with the Diocese of Plymouth safeguarding team but feel that it would be helpful to do so, please don't hesitate to contact the safeguarding office on 01364 645 430, or by emailing safeguarding@prcdtr.org.uk

We remain eternally grateful for those who are able and willing to share their experiences and reassure you that all feedback received helps improve safeguarding and survivor support in the future.

Year of Jubilee – Jubilee of Catechists

27 September at Buckfast Abbey 10.00am – 4.00pm.

A day for catechists and those interested in catechesis.

“My teaching is not mine, but His who sent me.” John 7:16

Speakers include: Dr Pat McGovern and the LIFT Team from Truro and Deacon Tim van Kroonenburg from Newton Abbot parish.

To book please contact plymouth-crownhill@prcdtr.org.uk. If you would like to share gifts and experiences, displays, posters or presentations, please contact deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk

News from Caritas – Love in Action

29 September – World Day of Migrants and Refugees

The Church has been celebrating the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) since 1914. It is always an occasion to express concern for different vulnerable people on the move, to pray for them as they face many challenges, and to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers. Caritas Diocese of Plymouth invite you to an online event on Thursday 25 September 6pm-7.30pm on Zoom to reflect on how our faith calls us to *Love the Stranger* and work for global change at a local level. [Please register here](#) to receive the details.

3 October – Anniversary of the publication of Fratelli Tutti

A good day to re-visit some of the key messages of this encyclical. There is so much to reflect on in this rich and inspiring encyclical, but why not have a look at paragraphs 215-221 on a new culture of dialogue and encounter? [Please click here](#)

4 October – Feast of St Francis of Assisi

St Francis is the Patron Saint of Ecology, described by Pope Francis as the example “par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology, lived out joyfully and authentically” (*Laudato Si*, 10). Pope Leo in his message for this year's Season of Creation urges Christians and all people of goodwill to recognize the urgent need for environmental and social justice in a world increasingly scarred by climate change, conflict, and inequality.

Caritas Plymouth Newsletter

[Click at this link](#) to read the latest edition of the Caritas Diocese of Plymouth newsletter, with news of love in action and upcoming events in our diocese

Catholic South West

September's edition is available in the porch, price 50p. Please put money in the box marked “books and papers”.

Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)

Fancy winning an air fryer bundle?

Thanks to HBH Woolacotts and The School Wear Shop in Plymouth who have donated an AFI40 Ninja Air Fryer and a £100 supermarket gift card of your choice, we are delighted to be running our third Crowdfunder prize draw to raise funds to help support our Essential Grants programme. Included in the bundle will be a cookbook - 'How to Make Anything in an Airfryer' by Hayley Dean with 100 quick, easy and delicious recipes.

You can enter as many times as you like and the more entries you purchase, the more chance you will have of winning. Tickets are priced at £10 for one entry or buy two entries for £20 and receive a third entry for free. The draw will close at 9am on Monday, 24 November 2025 so this could make a wonderful Christmas gift for a family member or friend.



To enter, please visit [this link](#). Alternatively, scan this QR code using your smart phone and you will be directed to our Crowdfunding page.

Bible Alive...

...is a Catholic scripture magazine which draws its strength, inspiration and direction from the liturgical cycle. The hope is that it invites a daily encounter with Jesus through the word of God.

There is one copy of the September/ October edition in the porch, price £6.00. Please put your money in the box marked "books and papers"

Diocese of Plymouth September Newsletter...

...can be read [at this link](#)

Vacancy in the Diocese of Plymouth

Human Resources Administrator

35 hours per week, permanent, full-time position. Location: St Boniface House Nr Ashburton. Closing date for applications: 6 October 2025. To apply, please contact recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk to obtain an application form and job description. Applications are by covering letter and application form.

Catholic Bishops of England and Wales

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

Marriage help – Retrouvaille

Holidays periods can be very stressful for marriages and couples often suffer in silence. Marriage support - Does your relationship need some TLC? Need help with deeper issues? Next programme starts 17 October, Email www.retrouvaille.org.uk or telephone 07887 296 983 for more details.



Pinwood Pipes Concert

What a lovely concert on Saturday evening from Pinwood Pipes. A rich tapestry of recorder music which entertained and delighted us. Thank you for gracing our church with your presence.

The concert also raised money for Balloons a local charity which supports children and young people experiencing bereavement. We have received the following message from them:

Thank you so much for the lovely concert on Saturday. Please extend my congratulations to all in Pinwood Pipes, as it really was a lovely concert in such a beautiful setting. Also, I wanted to send thanks from the whole team here, as the event raised £351.31, which is a fantastic amount and, to give you an idea of how it could be spent, could buy 70 wooden memory boxes, which we use in cases, or pay for the transport costs for at least 7 cases. Very best wishes to you all, Nasim.

Churches Together in prayer for peace in the Middle East

A coalition of Christian agencies is coordinating an act Christian witness that speaks to a shared commitment to peace, reconciliation, and the dignity of all people. The call to churches across Britain to pray for peace on Sunday 21 September coincides with the UN World Peace Day and the global call to prayer from the [World Council of Churches](#).

The recent statement of Bishop Nicholas Hudson (Chair of the International Affairs Department) on Gaza and suggested prayers for peace [can be read here](#).

Exeter Foodbank

The top five items needed this week are: Tinned meat, small jars of coffee, vegetarian meals, pasta sauce, rice. The Bank is well stocked with pasta, baked beans and porridge. There is a collection basket at the back of the church. There's also a poster in the porch about the Harvest Appeal. Thank you. [Exeter Food Bank](#)

Going into Hospital?

Are you, or someone you know, going into hospital for any length of time, and would you 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.

FORMING IN FAITH

Baptism Preparation Courses 2025

Next Course: 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 or 01392 274724.

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.

Forming in Faith

The Church's recent Synod on Synodality has culminated in a document that summarises the Church's findings.

After four weeks of listening, discerning and writing in October 2024, the final day of the Rome Synod Assembly brought a dramatic surprise from Pope Francis - that the recommendations of the Assembly would become Church teaching. The three-year listening process was over, and it was now time to get on with implementing it.

Over the next 6 sessions, the School of Synodality will unpack a different section of the Final Synod Document, reflecting on its theological and practical implications, through recorded interviews with experts.

Come along to deepen your understanding of what synodality is and how it is a universal call for all of us to listen to each other and engage in conversation with the Spirit. The first session is entitled 'The Heart of Synodality'.

Sacred Heart Lower Room: Every fortnight on Monday from 10.30am-12.15pm beginning 8 September.

Blessed Sacrament: Every fortnight on Wednesday from 7.00pm-8.45pm beginning 10 September.

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

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.

The next session is on Saturday 4 October at St Nicholas School

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 tots

If you and your little one(s) would like to join us, please register using this link: [GIFT tots Registration Form](#)

We will be meeting every 2nd and 4th Friday in September, from 10.15am to 11.15am. Our next session will be on 26 September in the St Richard Reynolds Centre.

GIFT Youth Socials: School Years 7-9

The next social will be on Friday 10 October in the St Richard Reynolds Rooms.

If you haven't already registered, please register here: [GIFT Youth Registration Form](#)

GIFT Youth Caritas for School Years 10–13

Next session Friday 3 October. Please register before attending.

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 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.

PRAYER & LITURGY

We commend to the Lord...

Paul Poulter, who has died. May he rest in peace. Please keep Paul and his family in your prayers.

Rosary Blessed Sacrament Church, first and third Wednesday after 9.30am Mass.

Pope's September Prayer Intention

For our relationship with creation. Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect. [The Pope Video](#)

THE WORD

Sunday 21 September – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Amos 8:4 -7 *Against those who buy the poor for silver.*

Psalm Response Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.

Second Reading 1 Timothy 2 :1-8

Prayer should be made for all people to God, who desires all people to be saved.

Gospel Luke 16: 1-13 *You cannot serve God and money.*

Sunday 28 September – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Amos 6; 1a, 4 -7

The revelry of those who now stretch themselves out shall pass away.

Psalm Response My soul, give praise to the Lord.

Second Reading 1 Timothy 6: 11-16

Keep the commandment until the appearing of our Lord.

Gospel Luke 16:19-31

You received good things, and Lazarus bad things; now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.

Sunday 5 October – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Habakkuk 1: 2-3; 2: 2-4 *The righteous shall live by his faith.*

Psalm Response O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts!

Second Reading 2 Timothy 1: 6-8 , 13-14

Do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord.

Gospel Luke 17: 5-10 *If you had faith.*

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)

Parish Instagram [blessedsacramentexeter](https://www.instagram.com/blessedsacramentexeter)

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

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School,
Ringswell Avenue, Exeter EX1 3EG

01392 445403. admin@stnics.uk
www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk

Head Teacher Mr Damian Railston



DIOCESE OF PLYMOUTH

Blessed Sacrament Parish is part of the Diocese of Plymouth