

PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

30 November 2025. 1st week of Advent. Year A Psalter 1

7 December 2025. 2nd week of Advent. Year A Psalter 2



ONE WILL
BE TAKEN
AND ONE LEFT

MASS TIMES

Sunday 30 November – 1st Sunday of Advent

8.45am *Bishop Nicholas Hudson*
10.45am *People of the Parish*
2.00pm *Syro Malabar Rite Mass*
6.00pm *Diocese of Plymouth*

Tuesday 2 December – St Osmund of Salisbury, Bishop

6.30pm *Bishop Nicholas Hudson*

Wednesday 3 December – St Francis Xavier, Priest

9.30am *Followed by refreshments in the St Richard Reynolds Centre.*

Thursday 4 December – Advent weekday

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

Friday 5 December – Advent weekday

6.30pm

Saturday 6 December – St Nicholas, Bishop

10.00am *Staff & families of St Nicholas School*

GIFT Mass at St Nicholas School. All welcome

Sunday 7 December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

8.45am *Bishop Nicholas Hudson*
10.45am *People of the Parish*
6.00pm

Monday 8 December – The Immaculate Conception

9.30am *Private Intention*

Tuesday 9 December – Advent weekday

6.30pm *Special Intention*

Wednesday 10 December – Advent weekday

9.30am *Followed by refreshments in the St Richard Reynolds Centre.*

Thursday 11 December – Advent weekday

9.30am *Clergy of Catholic Exeter Parishes*
6.00pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

Friday 12 December – Advent weekday

6.30pm *Employees of Catholic Exeter Parishes*

Saturday 13 December – St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

9.30am *Fr Jonathan*

Sunday 14 December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

8.45am
10.45am *Krzysztof Jasinski RIP*
6.00pm *People of the Parish*

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.](#)

ADVENT

For many, “advent” means a countdown to Christmas. Whether we are thinking about the chocolates in our Advent calendar or buying presents and decorating our homes, Advent marks a happy season of celebration.

The word “advent” comes from the Latin *adventus*, which is about a “coming” or an “arrival.” The New Testament uses *adventus* to describe God's Son arriving on Earth, born as Jesus of Nazareth. Still, throughout Church history, Advent has more traditionally referred to Jesus' future arrival, when he comes to complete his work of restoring all creation.

The Advent season leads to the celebration of Jesus' birth and also emphasizes his future arrival. It's a season that includes prayer and worship and giving to those in need. It reminds us that we're living during the time between Jesus' first and second advents. We lament the hardships we experience in a still-broken world, while being formed into people who wait with longing for the world to be renewed.

Celebrating Advent means living it by practicing a generous way of love and care for our neighbours as we join with Jesus to bring peace on earth. Happy Advent!

Advent Confessions

Wednesday 17 December 6.30pm and Saturday 20 December 10.00am

During these times several priests will be available in the church to hear confessions. Please take this opportunity to receive the wonderful Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

Advent Retreat Day

From Captivity to Freedom: An Advent Journey of Hope

Saturday 6 December St Rita's Centre Honiton

led by Deacon Kelvin Russell and Fr. Jose Romero OAR

Arrivals and refreshments 9.30am. First talk 10.00am. Second talk 11.00am.

Adoration (with an opportunity for Confession) at 12.00pm. Lunch 1.00pm. Mass

2.45pm. Depart 3.30pm. Cost including lunch is £25.00. To register, please complete the application form and let us know of any dietary requirements. You can contact St Rita's Centre by phone at 01404 42635, by email at admin@stritascentre.org, or via our website: [register online here](#). Payment can be made in advance or on the day.



Advent Tree of Kindness

For the last few years during Advent we have been collecting for Exeter Foodbank. Our Tree of Kindness is once more in the church. Please take a tag, purchase the item listed, bring it back to church and place it under the tree. We will arrange for all your gifts to be delivered to the Foodbank.

You may like to replace the tag with a coloured ribbon in memory of someone you have loved and who has died. This transforms our tree into a tree of prayer.

Supporting Resilient Women

This Christmas, as a parish, we would like to raise money for the Exeter Colab Women's Centre Campaign and to bring a little joy at Christmas to those less fortunate than ourselves.

For the last few years we have given lovely gift bags, under the "Love Christmas" initiative, to ladies escaping domestic violence; gifts which are always received with delight and huge gratitude. We would like to do that again this year. In order to provide the Christmas bags and support the development of the Women's Centre, I'm appealing to you to please donate money, whatever you can afford to give.

You can donate by card, using the cashless giving machine at the church entrance, by bank transfer (details from the parish office – reference: Christmas fundraiser) or by cash placed in an envelope and labelled 'Christmas fundraiser'. You will make a difference - improving the daily lives of these less fortunate women in Exeter especially at Christmas!

Thank you for your generosity. Sheila x

Advent Festival

St Mary and St George Church, Totnes

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 December.

Saturday 6 December

10.30am Performance by the *Berry Pomeroy Handbell Ringers*. 3.00pm Music from *Gemstones*, a chamber wind group. Hot drinks and cakes available.

Sunday 7 December

9.30am: Parish Mass. 3.00pm: *Carol Service* featuring the *Totnes and Bridgetown Community Choir*. Afterwards, enjoy mince pies and mulled wine.

Throughout the weekend, visitors can admire our beautiful display of family cribs, browse craft tables with handmade goods, and take part in our raffle.

Everyone is warmly invited to come along and join in the festive fun!

NEWS & EVENTS



We have a Bishop!

Yesterday, on the feast of St Cuthbert Mayne our diocesan patron, at a wonderful Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady and St Boniface, Bishop Nicholas Hudson was installed as Bishop of Plymouth.

It was a truly glorious occasion, celebrated by the people and clergy of the diocese as well as Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop Buendia the Papal Nuncio, and many of the bishops of England and Wales. Also present were guests of Bishop Nicholas and dignitaries from Devon, Cornwall and Dorset, the three counties which comprise the diocese. It was a true celebration of the Church in the South West.

Please keep Bishop Nicholas in your prayers as he begins his ministry amongst us. May he be supported by the grace of the Holy Spirit and the love and prayers of the wonderful people of our diocesan family.

Please also pray in thanksgiving for the dedication and care which Canon Paul Cummins has shown during his time as Diocesan Administrator.

[To watch the Installation Mass online please follow this link.](#)

World Day of the Poor. Sunday 16 November

In this year's celebration we are invited to reflect on the words of [Pope Leo XIV's message for the World Day of the Poor the Day](#) and his recent, and first, [Apostolic Exhortation: Dilexi te](#) ("I have loved you"). He reminds us that true faith in Christ cannot be separated from love for those who suffer, and that the Church is called to recognise in the poor not simply recipients of our help, but in some way our teachers in the Gospel.

On this day let us open our hearts and our parish life more deeply to the cry of the poor, mindful that in serving them we serve Christ himself.

Prayer for World Day of the Poor

Loving Father, you gaze with compassion on all who are poor and vulnerable; fill our hearts with your love, that we may see your face in every brother and sister who lacks. Inspire us to a love that reaches out, a faith that acts, and a Church that walks humbly with the poor. Grant us courage to bear witness to your justice, and the grace to share our gifts with generous hearts. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thank You for Your Generosity

We are deeply grateful for the continued generosity of our parishioners. Your support enables our parish to thrive and serve the community in so many ways. As we look to the future, we encourage those who are able to consider switching to bank Standing Order or the Sum Up machine for their donations. This helps us plan and steward our resources more effectively.

If you are a UK taxpayer, pay sufficient* tax and haven't yet signed up for Gift Aid, we invite you to do so. Gift aid allows us to claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give, at no extra cost to you. It's a simple way to make your generosity go even further.

Bank standing order, Gift Aid donor forms and Information on how to donate via your mobile or computer are permanently available in the church porch.

** Guidance from HMRC: If the amount of Income Tax that you're due to pay for a tax year is less than the tax reclaimed for the year on your gifts by ALL the charities to which you've made Gift Aid donations, you may have to pay an additional amount of Income Tax.*

Ann Edwards, Parish Treasurer

GIFT Youth Caritas

The GIFT Caritas Youth Group want to thank everyone who attended their bake sale for St Petrock's homelessness charity last Sunday. Through your generous donations and purchases, the group raised over £500 between both parishes - enough to sponsor the sleeping bag several times over!

The GIFT Caritas Youth group are really inspired by your support and, after a social activity to celebrate, will be back to planning their next social action next term. All in school years 10-13 are welcome to join the group, which meets monthly in term time. Please register here: [GIFT Youth Registration Form](#)

Christmas Fayre in aid of Force Cancer Charity

We need your help!

Jane and Gary are organizing the fayre, which is being held in the United Reformed Church church just down the road on December 13 at 11.00am until 2.00pm.

They would like some help please! Particularly lovely volunteers to work on stalls, but also donations of books, jigsaws, toys, games, bottles, tombola prizes and baked cakes. If you can help please call Jane on 07890 373617.



Sacrament of Confirmation

What a wonderful celebration last week when 19 young people from across Catholic Exeter received the Sacrament of Confirmation. They are pictured here (*apologies to those who can't really be seen!*).

As we had no bishop at the time Fr Jonathan and Fr Petroc were given permission to confer the sacrament, a great privilege for them and a great joy!

Please pray for these young people. They have committed themselves to living as Catholic Christians and to putting Jesus Christ at the centre of their lives. May they be richly blessed and strengthened in their faith. Pray too for their families, sponsors and all who helped prepare them.

HCPT Group 141 Cake Sale

Many thanks for the support shown to Group 141 at their recent cake sale. They raised over £150 which will help fund a child to travel to Lourdes this Easter.

RCIA Journey in Faith

For more details about joining the Journey in Faith groups, please contact Sacred Heart Parish on 01392 642389. There are three groups meeting each week.

Key holders to church property.

We are required by the diocese to compile a list of everyone who has access to the church premises with a key, a fob or the code to the sacristy door. We are still waiting for a considerable number of you to let us know.

Please complete a form, signed and returned to the Parish Office. You can collect a form from the church porch or the office. If you have any questions, please contact Catherine in the office on 01392274724, or exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.

Holy Boy: A Musical Nativity

Join us on Sunday 14 December at 4.00pm at Sacred Heart Church for a musical nativity performed by our young people: including music and songs from 'Holy Boy'; a Christmas Folk Oratorio by David Palmer.

St Nicholas School News

We have Nursery spaces for 3–4-year-olds from January 2026 and can offer both 30 and 15 hours funding and wrap around care in our Breakfast and After school Clubs. Contact admissions@stncs.uk for more information and to find out how to apply. Please see our school website [here](#) to find out more about St Nicholas.

UNBOUND Prayer Ministry...

... available in our diocese. If you feel in need of freedom and inner healing through prayer, and desire a deeper relationship with Jesus, we have ministers trained to help you. Please contact unboundprayerdop@gmail.co or see the poster in the porch.

Diocese of Plymouth latest Newsletter...

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



Unwrapping the Gift

You are invited to join us at St Nicholas School on Thursday 11 December 5.30-7.00pm for an Advent Family Gathering. We will celebrate the season of Advent through crafts, games, prayer food and fellowship.

Please reply to Maria and Jess by Sunday 7 December by emailing exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you there.
Happy Advent!

FILIPINO TRADITIONAL (*Símbang Gabi*) MASS

20 DECEMBER

1 PM

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

Heavitree, EX1 2QJ

Fr. Bernie, presiding (Filipino) priest

Christmas party to follow at
Wonford Community Centre
EX2 6NF



Caritas Plymouth Newsletter

[Click on 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

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

Catholic Bishops of England and Wales News [please click here.](#)

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.

A national tragedy: 58 years of the Abortion Act

Please take 30 seconds to share a commemorative graphic online to mark 58 years since the passing of the Abortion Act. This small act is a powerful way to remember the 10,880,563 lives lost and to raise awareness of the ongoing impact of abortion in our society.

Please visit <http://righttolife.org.uk/58years> to find out more and share a commemorative graphic on social media

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 14 and 28 March (split Saturdays), 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

'From Rome to Home'

Come along to our next session on Monday 17 November. We will watch and discuss the School of Synodality's interview with Bishop-elect Nicholas when he returned home from the Synod on Synodality in Rome. Please join us after morning Mass from 10:30-12:00 in the lower room. Forming in Faith meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month in Sacred Heart Lower Room. All are welcome.

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 6 December 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: New day and venue

From November, GIFT tots will meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month in the Sacred Heart Lower Room. Please get in touch with Maria if you would like to register and attend: Exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

GIFT Youth Socials: School Years 7-9

The next social will be on Friday 12 December in the St Richard Reynolds Rooms at the new time of 7.00pm - 8.30pm

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

GIFT Youth Caritas for School Years 10–13

Next session Friday 5 December 7.30pm -9.30pm Please register before attending.

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.

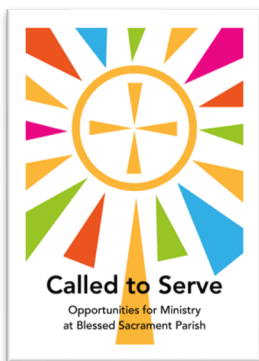
PRAYER & LITURGY

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

Pope's Prayer Intention for November

For the prevention of suicide

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life. [The Pope Video](#)



Called to Serve

Our parish is for EVERYONE and there is a place for you.

The fastest way you can feel at home is to get stuck in. Each of us has special gifts and talents that make us unique, and each of us is at our best when we are helping and serving other people. It's amazing how your own troubles can melt away when you focus on serving others. We are also following Jesus's example of service when we take on responsibility for our parish.

This booklet offers opportunities for you to use your talents to help other people in the parish and beyond

grow in their faith: these are called ministries. It's unlikely that you'll have the time, or the talents, to do everything, but we invite you to have a look through, pray, reflect and select one or two areas that you think might match your talents, skills and interests. The booklet is available in church or by [following this link](#).

THE WORD

Sunday 30 November – 1st Sunday of Advent

First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5

The Lord gathers all nations together into the eternal peace of the Kingdom of God.

Psalm Response Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Second Reading Romans 13:11-14a. *Salvation is nearer to us now.*

Gospel Matthew 24: 37- 44. *Stay awake that you may be ready.*

Sunday 7 December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10

With righteousness he shall judge the poor.

Psalm Response In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.

Second Reading Romans 15:4-9. *Christ saves humanity.*

Gospel Matthew 3:1-2. *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

Sunday 14 December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

First Reading Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10. *God himself will come and save you.*

Psalm Response Come Lord, and save us.

Second Reading James 5:7-10.

Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand

Gospel Matthew 11:2-11. *Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?*

CONTACT US

Blessed Sacrament Parish

29 Fore Street, Heavitree, Exeter EX1 2QJ
01392 274724 exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Priest *Fr Jonathan Stewart*

Assistant Priest *Fr Emmanuel Ozuma*

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

School Website 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