

# PARISH NEWS



## BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

14 December 2025. 3rd week of Advent. Year A Psalter 3

21 December 2025. 4th week of Advent. Year A Psalter 4

### **Sunday 14 December**

#### **Gaudete Sunday**

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

### **Tuesday 16 December**

Advent weekday  
6.30pm Special Intention

### **Wednesday 17 December**

Advent weekday  
9.30am Followed by refreshments.  
Rosary after Mass.

### **Thursday 18 December**

Advent weekday  
9.30am Clergy of Catholic Exeter

### **Friday 19 December**

Advent weekday  
6.30pm Employees of Catholic Exeter

### **Saturday 20 December**

9.30am Fr Jonathan

### **Sunday 21 December**

#### **4th Sunday of Advent**

8.45am  
10.45am Deceased members of the  
O'Halloran & Hardiman Families  
3.00pm Carol Service  
6.00pm People of the Parish

### **Tuesday 23 December**

Advent weekday  
6.30pm Special Intention

### **Wednesday 24 December**

#### **Christmas Eve**

6.00pm Vigil Mass  
11.30pm Vigil of Readings and Carols  
12.00am Midnight Mass

### **Thursday 25 December**

#### **Christmas Day**

8.45am Christmas Mass  
10.45am Christmas Mass



### **Friday 26 December**

St Stephen, Martyr  
9.30am Christmas Mass

### **Saturday 27 December**

St John, Evangelist  
9.30am Christmas Mass

### **Sunday 28 December**

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph  
8.45am Mass People of the Parish  
10.45am Mass  
Deceased members of McDonagh Family  
6.00pm Mass

### **Tuesday 30 December**

6.30pm Mass

### **Wednesday 31 December**

9.30am Mass  
6.00pm New Year Holy Hour

### **Thursday 1 January**

Mary, Mother of God  
12.00pm Mass People of the Parish

# ADVENT

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## A Child is Born – Concert with Catemos Choir

A Celebration of Christmas in Choral Music and Readings

Blessed Sacrament Church Thursday 18 December at 7.00pm. Free admission. There will be a retiring collection in support of St Petrock's, responding positively to homelessness in our city and beyond. All welcome, invite a friend!

## Blessed Sacrament Carol Service

Please join us on Sunday 21 December at 3.00pm as we gather to sing carols and reflect on the coming of Jesus at Christmas. All welcome.

## 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 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.

You can donate by card, using the cashless giving machine in the church porch, by bank transfer (details from the parish office – reference Colab) or by cash placed in an envelope and labelled 'Colab 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

## Parish Christmas Cards

We like to send and receive cards and greetings at Christmas but please do not leave cards lying around the church. There is a box provided in the porch which you can use to deliver cards. Don't forget to see if there are any for you!

## Christmas Offerings

Envelopes are available in the porch for the traditional Christmas Offering for our priests. Thank you.

## 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.

## World Day of the Poor – 16 December

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.

## Simbang Gabi – Traditional Filipino Mass

Join us on Saturday 20 December at 1.00pm at Blessed Sacrament Church to celebrate Simbang Gabi. Fr Bernie will be presiding and the Mass will be followed by a Christmas Party at Wonford Community Centre EX2 6NF. All welcome.

## CAFOD Fast Day Collection

There is a letter in the porch from CAFOD thanking the parish for raising £1,032.69 for the Harvest Fast Day. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

## Forming in Faith: Advent

On 15 December: we will gather our new understanding of synodality by beginning with Lectio Divina style prayer, followed by a 'Conversation in the Spirit'. Please join us after morning Mass from 10:30-12:00 in the lower room. Forming in Faith meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month in Sacred Heart Lower Room. Our first meeting in 2026 will be on Monday 5 January. All are welcome.

## GIFT

The next GIFT is on Saturday 10 January. We look forward to welcoming you then.

## GIFT tots

GIFT tots reconvenes on 12 January. GIFT tots is a family-friendly faith group open to all families with children between the ages of 0-4 years-old. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month, 10:15-11:15, in the Sacred Heart Lower Room. Get in touch with Maria to join us: [Exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:Exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk)

## GIFT Youth Socials

School Years 7-9. Join us on Friday 9 January; see you in the New Year!

## GIFT Youth Caritas

School Years 10-13. Our first meeting of 2026 will be on Friday 2 January from 19:30-21:30 in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. Come along to choose a focus for the new term.

## Youth Events newsletter

To receive the weekly newsletter [follow this link](#).

## St Nicholas School News

We are now in the midst of Christmas festivities here at St Nicholas. Our nativities are underway and it is a joy to see the tiny angels with tinsel halos, shepherds with tea towel headdresses and Mary and Joseph asking for room at the inn. We held an Advent liturgy and also a traditional carol concert. If you would like to find out more about your child joining St Nicholas please contact [admissions@stnics.uk](mailto:admissions@stnics.uk). Children entering Reception Class in 2026 need to apply to Devon County Council by the 15th January and also complete a supplementary form (obtainable from the school and to be submitted to the school) if you are applying under faith based criteria. If you have any questions please contact the school using the email above.

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

## THE WORD

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### 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?*

### Sunday 21 December – 4th Sunday of Advent

**First Reading** Isaiah 7:10-14 *Behold, the virgin shall conceive.*

**Psalm Response** *Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.*

**Second Reading** Romans 1:1-7. *Jesus Christ, descended from David, son of God.*

**Gospel** Matthew 1:18-24.

*Jesus was born of Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.*