

PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

18 January 2026. 2nd week in Ordinary Time. Year A. Psalter 2

25 January 2026. 3rd week in Ordinary Time. Year A. Psalter 3



There is no break between Christmas and Ordinary Time – one flows almost seamlessly into the other through the Baptism of Jesus. We ended our Christmas Season thinking about the “revelation” of the Son of God – people realising who this “Jesus of Nazareth” actually was – and this continues today, as we interject a passage from Saint John before we begin our weekly reading through Saint Matthew’s Gospel. New Year is about beginnings, and as we return to the beginning of Our Lord’s public ministry there is a sense of something exciting about to happen – even though we know the story, we dive into it once more, like returning to a favourite novel or film. So it is with joy that we stand in the country of the river Jordan, and recognise Jesus of Nazareth as the Chosen one of God, who offers himself to do God’s work.

Salford Office for Liturgy

MASS TIMES

Sunday 18 January – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am *Emma Bullous RIP*
10.45am *People of the Parish*
6.00pm *Bernadette Hartley RIP*

Tuesday 20 January – Weekday

6.30am *For all who need our prayers*

Wednesday 21 January – St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr

9.30am
Followed by refreshments in the St Richard Reynolds Centre
Holy Rosary after Mass

Thursday 22 January – Weekday

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

Friday 23 January – Weekday

10.30am *Funeral Mass – Bernadette Hartley RIP*

Saturday 24 January – St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Martyr

9.30pm *For all who need our prayers*

Sunday 25 January – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

World Leprosy Day

8.45am *Private Intention*
10.45am *For all who need our prayers*
6.00pm *People of the Parish*

No weekday Masses this week.

Thursday 29 January

6.00pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

Saturday 31 January – St John Bosco, Priest

9.30pm

Sunday 1 February – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Racial Justice Sunday

8.45am *For all who need our prayers*

10.45am

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

Confessions Saturdays after 9.30am Mass or by appointment.

Adoration Thursdays 6.00pm in church.

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

World Leprosy Day

Sunday 25 January marks World Leprosy Day, which aims to raise awareness of a disease that many people think no longer exists. Each year 200,000 people are diagnosed with leprosy and there are millions more who are living with the damaging consequences of delayed leprosy treatment because of the stigma that still surrounds the disease.

St Francis Leprosy Guild (SFLG) which is the UK's only Catholic leprosy charity has been caring for people with leprosy for 130 years. Through shared values and faith, we encourage our community to support SFLG's vital work and keep people with leprosy in your prayers. Any donation, large or small, takes us a step closer to a leprosy free world. Thank you. [Click here to donate to St Francis Leprosy Guild](#)

Find out more about the work of St Francis Leprosy Guild by clicking [here](#).

Parish Pilgrims Men's Prayer Group

We are looking for some more men to join our Parish Pilgrim's group. We meet at 7.30pm on Thursday evening at the St Richard Reynolds centre every three weeks. The meetings last about an hour where we read the Gospel together, discuss it and finish by praying together. Why not come along and give it a go, we are a very friendly group and you would be most welcome. Next meeting Thursday 29 January.

Christmas cards

There are still a number of Christmas cards for parishioners in the box in the porch. Please check to see if there are any left for you. Thank you.

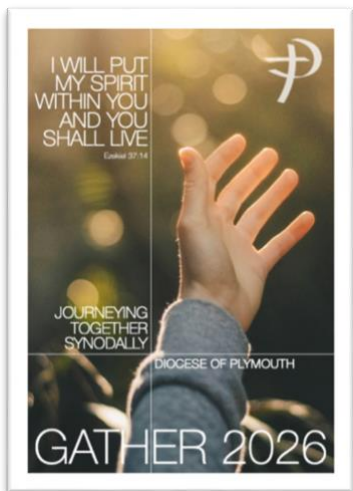
Dilexi Te – The Burning Heart of the Church's Mission

A day of reflection with Bishop Nicholas Hudson

21 February 2026, 11am-4pm, Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre

Join Caritas and CAFOD this Lent for a diocesan day to reflect on Pope Leo XIV's powerful Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te*, which calls us to return to the Gospel and reminds us that love of the poorest of our sisters and brothers is part of the "burning heart of the Church's mission".

Hear from our inspirational Speakers: Rt Rev Nicholas Hudson, Bishop of Plymouth; Christine Allen, CAFOD Director; Raymond Friel OBE, CSAN Chief Executive Officer; Fr. Richard Finn OP, University of Oxford. [Click here to register](#) or email: caritas@prcdtr.org.uk



GATHER Conference 2026

We look forward to welcoming you to our annual GATHER conference Friday 20 – Sunday 22 March at Livermead Cliff Hotel, Torquay.

This year's theme is 'I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live' and our speakers include Avril Baigent (School for Synodality) and Fleur Dorrell (The God who Speaks). Pauline Books will be bringing a selection of their excellent range for people to peruse and buy, and you can expect a warm welcome and a wonderful weekend of faith, formation and friendship.

We are delighted that we will also be joined by Bishop Nicholas as we journey together synodally - we'd love you to join us too!

Booking forms are available from the parish office or by [following this link](#) or emailing plymouthgather@yahoo.com

Towards a synodal church – Conversations in the Spirit



How do we listen to each other well?

How do we step back from our own agendas to be attentive to where the Spirit is moving? How can we make better decisions

about organising ourselves as Christian communities? How do we enrich our parish communal life with enriching conversations? The Synod process has emphasised the importance of listening and good conversations in our community life. However, these are not always so easy in practice!

Blessed Sacrament Exeter are hosting a one day face-to-face facilitator training workshop with Fr Matthew Nunes, Director of the School for Synodality.

This Conversations in the Spirit workshop will run on Saturday 21 February and will introduce the principles of holding prayerful, truthful and safe conversations which

value gracious listening and courageous speaking. It is suitable for all levels of experience, including people who have not been involved in the Synod process so far. All parishioners from across the diocese are very welcome to attend. Email exeter-heavittree@prcdtr.org.uk to let us know you're coming.

We're asking for a contribution of just £10 per person to cover costs – pay on the day. Please bring a packed lunch.

Saturday 21 February 9.30am tea and coffee for a 10.00am start, 3.30pm finish, St Richard Reynolds Centre.

Catholic Children's Society, Plymouth (CCSP)

Thank you to all who have placed their old ink cartridges in to the re-cycling box at the back of the church. A donation has recently been made to the CCSP.

Did you know that you can donate your unwanted items through the CCSP's Orange Box recycling scheme for CCSP? Items which can be donated include:

- Any stamps, used or unused. Please leave a5 to 8 mm border around stamps.
- Coins and bank notes
- Precious metals, including broken jewellery, old trophies, gold, silver, costume jewellery
- Metals and badges
- Watches- quartz or wind up, working or not
- Small antiques and collectibles

See the full list of what can be donated on the box in the St Richard Reynolds Rooms. Contact vicki.dunstone@ccsplymouth.org.uk for more information.

SVP Report of Activity

Dear friends, this year your small group of SVP volunteers has again been busy on your behalf. Here are some of our highlights.

We offered befriending and practical support to 22 individuals and families within the wider Exeter community. We did this through face to face visits at home, care homes or in hospital, providing transport and company well attending hospital appointments.

We continue to welcome, support, nourish and befriend anyone off the street who walks into our weekly Outreach Chatter Café . Over the months and years these individuals have begun to see the Café as more than just somewhere for a cuppa and a slice of cake, but rather somewhere to form friendships and share stories.



**St Vincent
de Paul Society**
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Thanks to your generosity, this year we have been able to offer support to 14 young families in difficulty over Christmas, as well as funding our school shoes project which continues to help children at St Nicholas School.

We have already delivered 50 Vinnie Packs for Exeter's homeless community. We continue to fund bus tickets to enable 20 migrant mothers living in the airport hotel,

to reach the Heavitree cultural kitchen at the Parklife centre, where they are able to prepare meals for their families.

We have purchased furniture and warm clothing for some families. Throughout this year we have continued to network and collaborate with other agencies within Exeter who care for our vulnerable and deprived communities.

In collaboration with other SVP Conferences in the Diocese, we have been able to support three small start up projects in our twinned parishes in India.

On behalf of all our beneficiaries and the entire team at Exeter Parishes SVP I want to thank you for your generosity in the past and pray that you will continue to support us in the future. Yours in St.Vincent, Peter Schranz President, Exeter SVP

Free Filing Cabinet

4 drawer wooden giling cabinet, with keys, available free to a good home. Please see catherine in the parish office. The cabinet will need to be collected by Friday 30 Jan.

MAKE A WILL, MAKE A DIFFERENCE – IT'S A GOOD IDEA !

Provide security for you, your loved ones
and the children of the future

CCSP WILLS WEEK - w/c
23 February 2026



We have teamed up with **Tozers Solicitors**, who have three offices in Exeter, Newton Abbot and Teignmouth and who have a long history of being legal advisers to CCSP

- Writing a will may seem complicated but it doesn't have to be, and it is vitally important because it makes our relatives' grief journey a little easier to navigate when we are gone
- Making a will can be costly but if you need to make one, or need to make an adjustment to an old will, please join in our Wills Week
- You will benefit from the expertise of **Tozers** free of charge – we just ask you to make a small donation to CCSP as a thank you
- Perhaps you could include a legacy for CCSP which doesn't have to be a large sum of money. A gift in a will, however large or small, plays an important part in continuing the work of our charity. CCSP is the only Catholic charity in the Diocese exclusively supporting children and families

TOZERS

To request more information, or to book an appointment to make a simple will with a member of the team from **Tozers** in one of their offices, please email enquiries@tozers.co.uk or call **01392 207020**. Please allow up to 5 working days for a response

Stay Awake! Saturday 2 May

Tickets are now available – book yours today at www.stayawakejc.com

Taking place at The Thomas Hardy School, Dorchester, from 10.00am – 6.00pm, finishing with Holy Mass and optional free pizza until 7.00pm. Inspiring talks and workshops for all, with children's groups, meaning fun & fellowship for all ages! Could this be part of your New Year's resolution, to come closer to the Lord as a family, individual, and community?

UNBOUND Prayer Ministry available in this 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 for information.

Churches Together in Exeter

St Petrock's Service of Hope & Remembrance

Sunday 25 January, 4.00pm

This simple annual church service is an opportunity to gather and seek hope for all those without a home, while honouring people from the homeless community who we've lost over the past year. All are warmly welcome to attend.

The service will be in St Stephen's Church on the High Street with refreshments afterwards in St Petrock's centre. Thank you for all your care and support for people without a home in Exeter.

Week of Christian Unity

Monday 19 – Friday 23 January each day 9.00am – 4.00pm. Drop in to the prayer room and pray for Exeter and its ministries. Kindly hosted this year by The Mint Methodist Church, Fore St, Exeter EX4 3AT.

FORMING IN FAITH

Forming in Faith

2025 marked the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea (325 AD), the foundational event for the Nicene Creed. Beginning on Monday 15 January, we will watch and discuss Bishop Robert Barron's 6 episode series entitle 'Creed.'

Please join us after morning Mass from 10.30am-12.15pm in the Lower Room.

Forming in Faith meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month in Sacred Heart Lower Room. All welcome.

GIFT

The next GIFT meeting is on Saturday 7 February. All welcome.

[GIFT Registration Form](#)

Gift tots

GIFT tots reconvened 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 2nd and 4th Monday of every month, 10:15-11:15am, in the Sacred Heart Lower Room. Get in touch with Maria to join us: Exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

GIFT Youth Socials

School Years 7-9. We are going bowling on Friday 13 February. This social needs an RSVP. Please get in touch with Maria to RSVP. More details will be forthcoming; keep an eye on your email.

GIFT Youth Caritas School Years 10-13

Our focus this term will be on learning about the 'Ripple Effect' charity and the issues surrounding it. [Find out more at this link.](#) Fundraising ideas include a car boot sale with cakes after Sunday Mass in March. If you are in school years 10-13, we'd love you to join us on the first Friday of every month. Next meeting Friday 6 February. If anyone in the parish has ideas regarding issues/charities that this group can focus on, please get in touch with the Parish Office: exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk

GIFT Youth Registration

For either of the GIFT Youth groups [register at this link.](#)

Diocesan Youth Events newsletter

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

St Nicholas School News

Happy New Year from St Nicholas School!

After the excitement of Christmas we have settled back into school well. We have just celebrated a member of staff, Mrs Burgoyne, who has been working at St Nicholas for 30 years(!) this January and really is at the heart of the school.

If you would like to find out about vacancies in Nursery to Yr 6 or wish to come and see the school please contact admissions@stnics.uk. We have some Nursery spaces left in Summer term and can offer 15 and 30 hours funding plus wrap around care.

Community involvement

Working with Mr Marlow, our Year 6 children, who were in Year 5 at the time, created artwork which was used to create a mural unveiled at Honiton Road Park and Ride to celebrate the completion of recent improvements of the site and the launch of the new electric bus fleet.

Designed using the theme 'Greener Futures', the children shared their ideas about the future of buses and the environment in Exeter ahead of the arrival of the new fleet of electric buses later this year through the Devon Bus Enhanced Partnership. Our Pupil Chaplains attended the unveiling of the mural by Devon County Council and Stagecoach. Read the full article [at this link](#)

PRAYER & LITURGY

We commend to the Lord...

...the soul of Bernadette Hartley who has died. Her funeral will be celebrated at Blessed Sacrament Church on Friday 23 January at 10.30am. May she rest in peace and may her family and friends find comfort and consolation.

Praying the Rosary

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

The Pope's Intention for January

Let us pray with Pope Leo that the Word of God may be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

THE WORD

Sunday 18 January – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Isaiah 49:3, 5-6. *I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.*

Psalm Response Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.

Second Reading I Corinthians 1; 1-3

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel John 1; 29-34 *Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.*

Sunday 25 January – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Isaiah 9:1b-4, *In Galilee of the nations the people have seen a great light.*

Psalm Response The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Second Reading I Corinthians 1;10-13, 17

I appeal to you that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you.

Gospel Matthew 4 12-23

Jesus went to Capernaum so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled.

Sunday 1 February – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Zephaniah 2 :3; 3;12-13

I will leave you in your midst a people humble and lowly.

Psalm Response Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Second Reading I Corinthians 1:26-31 *God chose what is weak in the world.*

Gospel Matthew 5; 1-12a *Blessed are the poor in spirit.*

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.