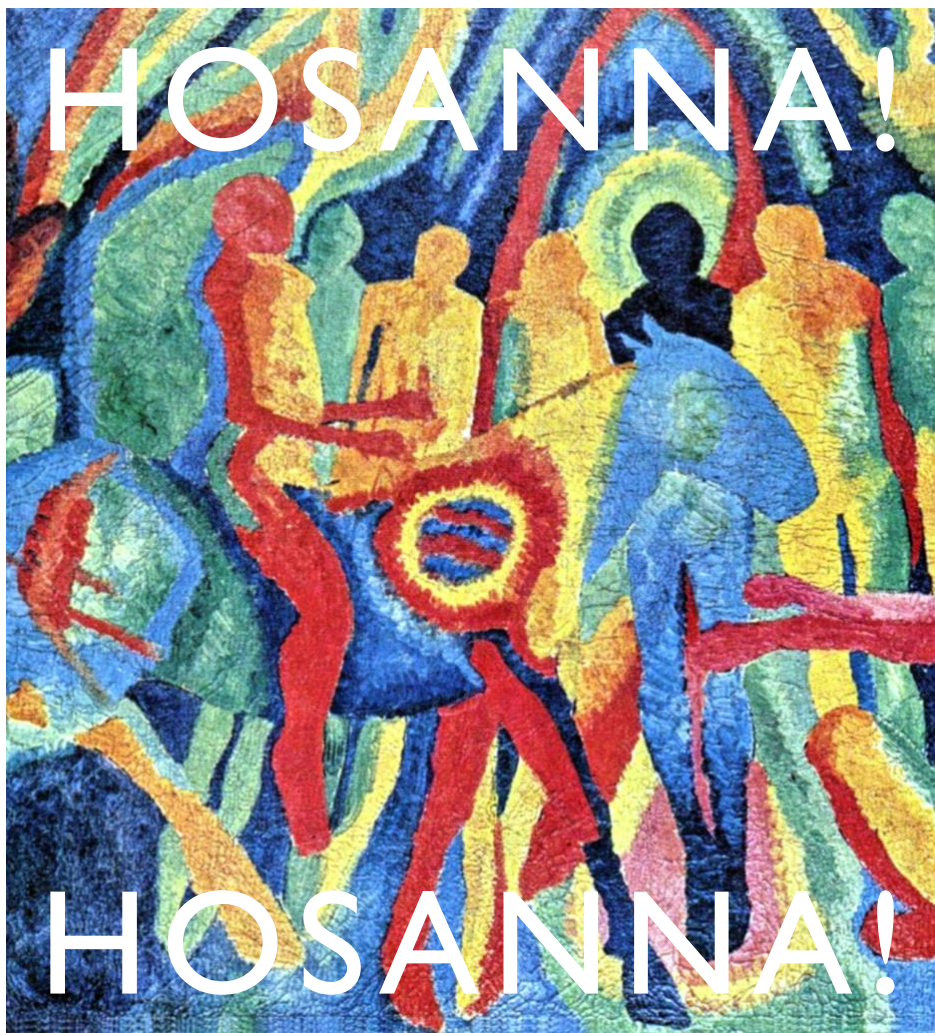


PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER
29 March 2026. *Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Year A Psalter 2*
5 April 2026. *Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord Year A. Psalter 1*

HOSANNA!



HOSANNA!

On Palm Sunday the long reading of the Passion dominates the celebration, and in a sense its meaning is obvious. Do not allow this, however, to detract from the other readings, which give the vital context necessary for understanding the Passion as more than just a long story. It is our story – the tale of how God achieved OUR salvation by the supreme sacrifice of Jesus Christ. *Diocese of Salford Office for Liturgy*

HOLY WEEK & EASTER TRIDUUM

Sunday 29 March – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8.45am *Eduardo Tolentino RIP*
10.45am *People of the Parish*
2.00pm *Syro Malabar Rite Mass*
6.00pm *Roger Swift RIP*

Tuesday 31 March – Tuesday of Holy Week

6.30pm
7.00pm *Adoration and Confessions*

Wednesday 1 April – Wednesday of Holy Week

No 9.30am Mass. Chrism Mass at Plymouth Cathedral 12.00pm.

Thursday 2 April – Maundy Thursday

7.00pm *Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
followed by Watching at the Altar of Repose until 10.00pm.*

Friday 3 April – Good Friday

9.30am *Morning Prayer and Office of Readings*
3.00pm *The Lord's Passion*

Saturday 4 April – Holy Saturday

9.30am *Morning Prayer and Office of Readings*
9.00pm *The Easter Vigil*

Sunday 5 April – Easter Sunday

8.45am *People of the Parish*
10.45am *Philip & Marie Derbyshire RIP*
2.00pm *Syro-Malabar Rite Mass*

No 6.00pm Mass

Tuesday 7 April – Easter Tuesday

6.30pm

Wednesday 8 April – Easter Wednesday

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

Thursday 9 April – Easter Thursday

9.30am
6.00pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

Friday 10 April – Easter Friday

6.30pm

Saturday 11 April – Easter Saturday

10.00am **Mass at St Nicholas School**

Sunday 12 April – Second Sunday of Easter. Divine Mercy

8.45am

10.45am *People of the Parish*

2.00pm Syro Malabar Rite Mass

6.00pm

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

Celebrating the Sacred Paschal Triduum

The three days of the Paschal Triduum; Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and The Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday are the holiest days in the Church's year. Rather than being three distinct celebrations, together they form a single liturgy in which we commemorate the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

From the drama of the Last Supper and the Washing of the Feet, through the reading of St John's Passion to the glory of Easter Sunday morning, we accompany Jesus as he brings his saving work to completion. Understandably, it is not always possible to attend the liturgy on all three days, but when we do we appreciate more perfectly the significance of the mystery of our salvation and our part in it.

We wish you a very Happy Easter. May the blessings of the Risen Lord touch your hearts and lives and the lives of those you love and bring new hope and joy.

The Chrism Mass at Plymouth Cathedral

Bishop Nicholas will celebrate The Chrism Mass with the priests and people of the diocese on Wednesday 1 April at Plymouth Cathedral at 12 noon. During the Mass the priests will renew their priestly promises to serve the Lord and his people and the bishop will bless the oils which will be used during the year in the parishes of the diocese; the oils of Chrism and Catechumens used at baptism and the oil of the sick used to anoint the sick and the dying.

Easter Offerings

The offering at the Easter Masses is your personal gift to the priests of the parish and, together with the stole fees and Mass offerings, form the personal income paid by the parishes to them. You can do this by BACS, Account Name: Plymouth Diocesan Trust; Sort Code 52-41-60; Account Number: 06036007. Please mark as "Easter Offering". Alternatively, offerings may be made through the white Easter envelopes available in the church porch. Thank you in anticipation.

Altar Servers' practices

What a brilliant team of servers we have in our parish! You are amazing! If you are planning to serve at the altar during the Triduum, and we really hope you are, please come to the practices: Good Friday at 10.30am when we will run through the liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Holy Saturday at 10.30am when we will run through The Easter Vigil. If you can't make the practices, you would still be very welcome to serve. Thanks for everything you do.

Holy Places of Palestine

The annual collection for the Holy Places will be taken on Good Friday. This is a collection taken in every Catholic church in the world. Please give generously.

Divine Mercy Sunday

Sunday 12 April is Divine Mercy Sunday. Fr John Watkins will celebrate the Divine Mercy Chaplet at Blessed Sacrament at 3.00pm. Confessions at 2.30pm. All welcome. Please contact the parish office if you can help with refreshments afterwards.

The CAFOD Big Lent Walk



This Lent, four of our parishioners are walking 200km (each!) over 40 days in solidarity with those who walk miles each day just to access safe water.

Thanks to your generosity we have already exceeded our target of £1000, but we are still walking and want to raise as much as we can. We

are walking in our own time to fit around our life schedules, but so far have done one walk together. [Please visit the JustGiving page to donate.](#)

Hosanna House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust (HCPT)

In just over two weeks, Group 141 will be travelling to Lourdes for their annual Easter pilgrimage, taking a group of disabled and disadvantaged children to enjoy a week in Lourdes, staying in hotels with their volunteer helpers. If parishioners would like any Intentions to be placed at the Grotto, the group would be more than happy to take them with them. Please write down your Intentions, place them in an envelope and put them through the Presbytery letter box by Good Friday, 3 April. There are some envelopes for this in the porch.

Accommodation required. Can you help?

On Sunday 10 May we will be welcoming a sister from the Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver, who will be making the annual Mission Appeal at all Masses.

Accommodation is required by the sister on the nights of 9 and 10 May. Please contact the office if you can help. Thank you.

Do you enjoy babies and toddlers?

Could you commit one morning every month or two to support GIFT tots families? Each session we need help setting up and tidying away but most importantly, we need your help to welcome and encourage our young families as we pray, sing, explore and create the Good News.

9.00am-12.00pm, second and fourth Mondays each month at Sacred Heart Lower Room. Please be in touch with Maria Exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk.

GIFT Youth SPREE Faith Festival Weekend

SPREE 2026: 26- Westpoint Arena 28 June

GIFT Youth are going to Spree SW 26, an exciting weekend festival for young people to build strong friendships and explore their Christian faith together. We'd love Catholic Exeter youth to join us!

[Take a look at Spree's promotional video by following this link.](#)

Festival Ticket The parish will subsidise tickets by 50% for each young person.

Early bird tickets (deadline 31.3.26) £80. Normal tickets (after 31.3.26) £95

Please contact Maria for further information: exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

Catholic Children's Society News

The CCSP Annual General Meeting being held on Monday, 20 April 2026 at St Boniface House in Ashburton. Anyone is welcome to attend but we do ask that they confirm their attendance by 2.4.2026 so that we can ensure we have adequate seating and refreshments.

There is a copy of the agenda and minutes of the last meeting in the porch.

Heatree Residential 15-17 May, school years 5-7

'Go make disciples of all nations' Matt 28:19

Heatree is an outdoor activity centre based on Dartmoor. The weekend is open to those aged 9-12 (school years 5-7). Whilst enjoying high ropes and raft building (amongst other activities) young people will have the chance to explore the Sunday readings through discussion, crafts and games. Cost £90. [To book your place follow this link.](#) Further information email; Saskia or Ruby: youth@prcdtr.org.uk

Diocesan Newsletter for March

[Follow this link to read the latest issue of the Diocesan Newsletter.](#)

St Nicholas School News

St Nicholas is a welcoming Catholic primary school with a strong sense of community and care at our heart. Our pupils enjoy a rich curriculum enhanced by exciting trips, a wide range of clubs, and a developing outdoor environment with new play equipment. We currently have spaces available in our Nursery, and we offer convenient Breakfast and After School Club provision to support busy families.

Come and be part of our vibrant school family. Get in touch to find out more or arrange a visit! Email admissions@stncls.uk

Stay Awake! Saturday 2 May

Bishop Nicholas Hudson is coming to Stay Awake @ The Thomas Hardye School, Dorchester!

The day runs from 10.00am to Mass with Bishop Nicholas on Saturday evening. Tickets £12.50 for Adults and FREE for children. An all-age event with appropriate children's streams (so that parents can engage), keynote speakers (David Wells and Maria Heath); workshops and free pizza after Mass. Bring a packed lunch but there will be plenty of free refreshments throughout the day and plenty of spiritual nourishment for all. YOU are invited to celebrate and grow in your faith at Stay Awake, 2026! Tickets are now available – book yours today [at this link](#)

Marriage support

From relationships that are 'Just in a Rut', needing some refreshment or more serious issues - If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage. [To find out more visit our website at this link](#), or phone 07973 380443.

Called to Love, 2–3 May 2026

A retreat for singles, dating and engaged young adults who want to think more deeply about relationships and the call to marriage. A relaxed weekend with input, prayer, discussion and social, as well as the opportunity to meet like-minded others! This year's retreat will have as its theme masculinity and femininity. Runs from Saturday 2 to Sunday 3 May, with the option of staying Friday night.

[To find out more please visit our website by following this link.](#)

Catholic Bishops' Conference

For the latest news click here: [News - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

Exeter Food Bank

Priority items are: tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tinned potatoes, rice pudding, pasta sauce, vegetarian meals, jams & spreads, noodle snacks, tinned tomatoes, toothpaste, toiletries. There is a collection basket at the back of the church. There is a collection basket at the back of the church. Thank you.

Diocesan Youth Events newsletter

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

FORMING IN FAITH

Forming in Faith

Forming in Faith meets on the first and third Monday of every month. Next meeting Monday 20 April after morning Mass at Sacred Heart from 10.30am-12.15pm in the Lower Room. All welcome.

Baptism Preparation Courses 2026

Next Courses: 18 and 25 July 2026 and 14 and 28 November 2026, 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.



GIFT is the process by which we grow in faith together. It is designed to support families who wish to understand more about the Catholic faith and to pass it on to the next generation. We also describe GIFT as the 'gateway to the Sacraments'.

As part of the process, and when families and children and young people are ready, we help prepare them to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation. The Church teaches that parents are the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith. As a parish we are committed to supporting parents in this most important and wonderful responsibility.

Please get in touch to find out more about GIFT and to become part of the GIFT family of faith.

The next GIFT meeting is on **Saturday 11 April** at St Nicholas School. All welcome. If you haven't already done so, please register at this link: [GIFT Registration Form](#)

Gift tots

of every month, 10.00am-11.00 am, in the Sacred Heart Lower Room. Get in touch with Maria to join us: Exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

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

GIFT Youth Socials School Years 7-9

Next meeting Friday 13 May 19.00-20.30.

We look forward to welcoming you. Please see the registration link below.

GIFT Youth Caritas School Years 10-13

The next GIFT Youth Caritas group meeting has been rescheduled from 3 to 10 April as this is a more fitting date for our celebration film night. It will still be in the RRC. If you are in school years 10-13, we'd love you to join us on the first Friday of every month.

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

PRAYER & LITURGY

Reception and Confirmation

Please keep in your prayers Helen and Zoe who will be received into communion with the Church and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at The Easter Vigil. We pray too for all who have supported them during their journey in faith. May the Lord continue to bless them abundantly.

Online prayer and fellowship

Are you housebound? Do you find it difficult to get to Mass on a regular basis because of health issues or age?

Join us for a time of online prayer and fellowship every Friday from 11:00-11:45. The session is run via zoom and an email sent every Thursday with joining instructions. Get in touch if you or someone you know would enjoy this session. We can support you with setting up Zoom on a device. Contact Maria Exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk.

Praying the Rosary first and third Wednesday after 9.30am Mass

The Pope's Intention for March

For disarmament and peace.

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

THE WORD

Sunday 29 March – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

First Reading Isaiah 50: 4-7

I hid not myself from disgrace, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

Psalm Response My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Second Reading Philippians 2: 6-11

He humbled himself, therefore God has highly exalted him.

Gospel Matthew 26:14-27:66

Sunday 5 April – Easter Sunday

First Reading Acts 10:34a, 37-43

We ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

Psalm Response

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.

Second Reading Colossians 3: 1-4 *Seek the things that are above, where Christ is.*

Gospel Matthew 28:1-10 *He has risen and is going before you to Galilee.*

Sunday 12 April – 2nd Sunday of Easter

First Reading acts 2: 42-47

All who believed were together and had all things in common.

Psalm Response

Give praise to the Lord, for he is good, his mercy endures for ever.

Second Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9

He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Gospel John 20: 19-31 *Eight days later, Jesus came.*

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
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.