

PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

12 April 2026. Second Sunday of Easter. Divine Mercy Sunday. Year A Psalter 2

19 April 2026. Third Sunday of Easter Year A Psalter 2

Jesus comes among us

Often people forget that Easter is not just a day, but a season - the longest in the Church's year, in fact! We are given fifty glorious days of Spring and Summer to prolong our baptismal joy, fifty glorious days of basking in the light of the risen Saviour. It seems a shame that after the efforts we put into Lent we don't celebrate Eastertide with the same enthusiasm.

The readings of this Season have their origins in the instruction given to converts in the early Church: in Lent,

the readings were the basis of catechesis on the forthcoming baptism; in Easter the readings are 'Mystagogy' – a type of teaching where the newly baptised (neophytes) learn through taking part in the celebration of the sacraments and hearing the word. On the Sundays we hear who Jesus is, and on weekdays hear about Baptism and the Eucharist. This 'Mystagogy' is not just to nourish the neophytes, but to help all of us deepen our life in the risen Lord Jesus. this Sunday we are with the disciples in the Upper Room, where eight days after the Resurrection Jesus comes among them - as he comes among us.



MASS TIMES

Sunday 12 April – Second Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy

8.45am *Luke Howley RIP*
10.45am *People of the Parish*
2.30pm Confessions followed by 3.00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
6.00pm *Michael Dorrian RIP*

Tuesday 14 March – Easter weekday

6.30pm

Wednesday 15 April – Easter weekday

9.30am *For the retiring National Secretary of the CWL*
Followed by refreshments in the St Richard Reynolds Centre
Holy Rosary after Mass

Thursday 16 April – Easter weekday

9.30am
6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 17 April – Easter weekday

6.30pm

Saturday 18 April – Easter weekday

9.30am

Sunday 19 April – Third Sunday of Easter

8.45am
10.45am
2.00pm Syro-Malabar Rite Mass
6.00pm

Tuesday 21 April – Easter weekday

6.30pm *Mrs Sammon RIP*

Wednesday 22 April – Easter weekday

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

Thursday 23 April – St George, Martyr, Patron of England

9.30am
6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 24 April – Easter weekday

6.30pm

Saturday 25 April – St Mark, Evangelist

9.30am

Sunday 26 April – Fourth Sunday of Easter – Vocations

8.45am
10.45am *Maria Chelvanayagam RIP*
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 Easter

What a joyful celebration! The Triduum is the central point of the Church's year, and the liturgies reflect its magnitude and its significance. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's celebration a moment of grace in our parish community.

Many congratulations to Helen and Zoe who were received into full communion with the Church and confirmed at the Easter Vigil. What a privilege it is for us to witness them coming to faith and joining us as members of the community. We wish them every blessing as they continue to grow in love and faith. We accompany them with our prayers and our friendship.



It was gratifying to witness the number of people who joined us for the celebrations. For some time now commentators have been speaking about a resurgence of interest in the Christian faith, and this is being borne out by the

numbers attending churches throughout the world. We witnessed that during the celebration of Easter, and it is a blessing and an encouragement. We pray for all those who are on the margins of the Church, but who are curious. We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to inspire and guide them. May we always be welcoming in our response. Happy easter to you all. *Fr Jonathan*

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.

The CAFOD Big Lent Walk

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

Our original target was £1,000. The final total was £1,415! We are so pleased and want to say a big thank you to all of you who donated. Here's to next Lent!

Thank you!

There are letters of thanks in the porch from charities acknowledging the following gifts from parishioners.

Catholic Children's Society: £216.19. Lepra: £447.34. Missio £580.38

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Language audit

In anticipation of Pentecost, we have been asked by Caritas of the Diocese of Plymouth to complete an audit of the languages and linguistic groups spoken in our parish. You are therefore invited to enter the languages you speak into the form at the back of the church on Sunday to feed back to them. Thank you.

Catholic South West

There are copies of April's edition in the porch, price 50p. Please put your money in the box marked "books and newspapers".

Sacrament of Confirmation

Young people who are 14 years or older are invited to consider whether they would like to be confirmed. An information evening for young people and their parents is being offered in both parishes. Please attend **one** of the meetings. Preparation is organised jointly across the parishes of Catholic Exeter; Blessed Sacrament and Sacred Heart, you are free to attend whichever venue is most convenient.

Confirmation Information Evening

Tuesday 12 May 7.15–8.15pm St Richard Reynolds Centre, Blessed Sacrament.

Sunday 17 May 12.30–1.30pm, Sacred Heart Lower Room.

Laudato Si' Group Invitation

Lower Room, Sacred Heart, at 7pm Thursday 23 April.

After the success of our Caritas 'Day for Creation' held at the University in March, we would like to invite everyone who is interested in growing a Laudato Si Group for Exeter to come and join us to discuss how we might shape this and which areas of Ecological Conversation we would like to focus on.

You don't have to have attended the original event and all ideas are valued. Come and add your ideas to ours as we discuss plans for a Live Simply award, and actions that we can place at the heart of our parish. We will meet on Thursday the 23 of April in the Lower room, Sacred Heart at 7pm. You are welcome to join us for Mass at 6.30pm before hand as we seek the Lord's guidance for this new venture. All are Welcome.

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

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Sunday 26 April is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday. It is an opportunity to pray for vocations and to encourage those who may be considering ordained or religious life. The Diocese of Plymouth also asks for your assistance in supporting our seminarians through their training and formation, both through prayer and financial support. If you are able to contribute to our Seminarians' Fund, we would be grateful for your donations at the retiring collection or you can donate online [at this link](#)

Please also see the National Office for Vocation website: [Vocations Sunday](#). This has not yet been updated for 2026 but includes several prayers, including one for seminarians.

Catholic Children's Society News

Children First Newsletter

There are copies of the latest edition of our 'Children First' newsletter in the church porch. To read an electronic version [please click here](#)

There is a poster in the porch for the Helping Hands 50: 50 Club

This is a simple and effective way of fundraising and we are hoping to increase our membership to 200 so that every month, £100 is retained by CCSP for our Essential Grants programme and the other £100 is handed out as prize money - £50 for 1st prize, £30 for 2nd prize and £20 for 3rd prize. Currently our membership stands a little short of 100 numbers.

See the poster with details of how to start your membership.

Rise to Our Cause on Ascension Thursday

Following the success of our three previous CCSP Ascension Day fundraisers, last year at St Cuthbert Mayne in Launceston and previously at St Mary's in Poole and at Buckfast Abbey, this year's 'Rise to Our Cause' event is being held at The Assumption of Our Lady in Torquay on Thursday, 14 May 2026.

The event will start with Holy Mass in the church at 12.00 noon, followed by a two-course hot lunch kindly prepared by the parish. Following lunch, our Guest Speakers this year will be John and Myfanwy Quine who live in the beautiful Peak District not far from Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

Over the last two decades, John and Myfanwy have witnessed incredible movements of God in their lives and in the lives of many others. They are eager to share how God has responded to their prayers, revealing some truly amazing miracles. They can't wait to meet all of you and share how Jesus continues to be actively involved in the everyday lives of countless individuals, just as he always has been. Tickets cost £15 and can be ordered by emailing vicki.dunstone@ccsplymouth.org.uk calling the CCSP office on 01364 645420, visiting the parish office at The Assumption of Our Lady, Abbey Road Torquay.

All proceeds from this event, will go towards helping vulnerable children and families living in our Diocese. There will also be a raffle on the day to help raise money for CCSP to enable us to continue helping families of all faiths and none living throughout Devon, Cornwall and parts of Dorset.

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](#)

Diocesan Newsletter for March

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

A Deeper Dive into the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Spend just one hour a week with others online, going gently but deeply and prayerfully into the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Sessions are for catechists, those who hope to be catechists, those seeking to know more about their faith, anyone interested in discovering more about the teaching of the Church, in fact anyone who is interested.

Monday evenings at 7.00pm online, from Monday April 13, 2026.

To find out more, or receive a link, contact deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk

Mass for Marriage 2026

Midday, Saturday September 12. Celebrant Bishop Nicholas Hudson
The Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Boniface Plymouth PL1 5HW.

Marriage enriches us all, all are welcome, including those remembering late loved ones. Let us know your anniversaries or intentions, or your planned wedding date. For more information please contact deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk

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.

Youth Ministry Gap Year Opportunity

Do you know anyone aged 18-25 who is looking for a new challenge? The Diocese of Lancaster has a Youth Ministry team based in Keswick in the Lake District. They run retreats at Castlerigg Manor and also work in Churches and schools around the area. The 'Youth Ministry Internship' scheme comes with high quality training, experience, and recognised qualifications and gives young people the chance to join a welcoming community and a vibrant team doing some amazing work.

Interested? Contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk or www.castleriggmanor.com to join the team

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, tinned fruit, pasta sauce, noodle snacks, toothpaste and brushes, rice pudding. There is a collection basket at the back of the church. Thank you.

Diocesan Youth Events 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 GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

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 Conformation. 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 9 May** 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

We encourage all young people considering the Sacrament of Confirmation to register for and attend GIFT Youth which meets monthly on a Saturday morning. To register for GIFT Youth please clicking on the appropriate link below:

GIFT Youth (school years 7-9) [Register at this link](#)

GIFT Youth Caritas (school years 10-13) [Register at this link](#)

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.](#)

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

Tickets £95.00 Please contact Maria for further information: exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

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 contact Exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk.

PRAYER & LITURGY

We commend to the Lord...

Deacon Delian Bowyer and Elizabeth (Patsy) Key who have died. May they rest in peace. Please offer a prayer for the repose of their souls and the comfort and consolation of their families.

Deacon Delian's body will be received into Sacred Heart Church at 5.00pm on Thursday 8 May. Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday 8 May at 11.00am. Bishop Nicholas will be the main celebrant. All welcome.

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 April- for priests in crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

[Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#)

THE WORD

Sunday 12 April – Second 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 | 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.*

Sunday 19 April – Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading Acts 2:14, 22b-33

It was not possible for him to be held by death.

Psalm Response O Lord, you will show me the path of life.

Second Reading | Peter 1:17-21

You were ransomed with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish.

Gospel Luke 24:13-35 *He was known to them in the breaking of the bread.*

Sunday 26 April – Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading Acts 12:14a, 36-41

God has made him both Lord and Christ.

Psalm Response

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading | Peter 2:20b-25 *you have returned to the Shepherd of your souls.*

Gospel John 10:1-10 *I am the door of the sheep.*

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](#)

Parish Instagram [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.