

PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

26 April 2026. Fourth Sunday of Easter. Year A. Psalter 4

3 May 2026. Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A. Psalter 1



This Sunday is traditionally called 'Good Shepherd Sunday', because of the Gospel references to Jesus as the Good Shepherd. It is also the day of prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood. On this Sunday we hear one of the great 'I am' statements of Jesus from Saint John's Gospel today 'I am the gate of the sheepfold'. Through Jesus we enter into life and safety, and we 'go through Jesus, the gate' by baptism. This image is implied in all today's readings: the people listening to Peter find this gateway and enter through it: Peter writes to remind us that we have come back to the Good Shepherd, who heals us by his wounds. *Salford Office for Liturgy*

MASS TIMES

Sunday 26 April – Fourth Sunday of Easter

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

8.45am *People of the Parish*
10.45am *Maria Chelvnayagam RIP*
2.00pm *Syro-Malabar Rite Mass*
6.00pm *Izabella Kiedoj RIP*

Tuesday 28 April

No Mass

Wednesday 29 April

No Mass

Thursday 30 April

No Mass

6.00pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

Friday 1 May – Easter weekday

6.30pm *Anna Anamma RIP*

Saturday 2 May

No Mass

Sunday 3 May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

8.45am
10.45am *People of the Parish*
2.00pm *Syro-Malabar Rite Mass*
6.00pm

Tuesday 5 May – St Richard Reynolds, Priest & Martyr

6.30pm

Wednesday 6 May – Easter weekday

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

Thursday 7 May – Easter weekday

9.30am

6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 8 May – Easter weekday

6.30pm *Deacon Delian Bower RIP*

Saturday 9 May – Easter weekday

9.30am

Sunday 10 May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

8.45am

10.45am *Mrs Kelly RIP*

2.00pm Syro Malabar Rite Mass

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 Day of Prayer for Vocations

Today 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](#). It has not been updated for 2026 but includes several prayers, as for seminarians.

Annual Mission Appeal

The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver will be here on Sunday 10 May to appeal on behalf of the Sisters Missions Committee of England and Wales. The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver work in solidarity with missionaries around the world, especially in regions where the church is poor and resources are limited. Through prayer and practical support, they help sustain missionary work in pastoral ministry, education and healthcare. We thank you for your generosity and ask you to keep the missionaries and their work in your prayers. [Find out more at this link.](#)

Sustainable Flowers at Easter

This Easter, you may have noticed that the flowers in our church have taken on a slightly different appearance.



Our dedicated flower team have explored and become part of the Sustainable Church Flower movement. This voluntary organisation spans all Christian faiths and encourages the use of sustainable flowers cultivated within the United Kingdom, as well as the adoption of fairtrade blooms.

For our first effort in becoming a sustainable flower church, we are pleased to report that 75% of the flowers used were grown in Britain, with a significant proportion sourced from a local grower. Additionally, greenery was gathered from the church grounds to complement the displays. The pinks placed in the white pots have been earmarked for planting in the garden, with the hope that, as they flourish, they may be picked and used for future floral arrangements.



We consciously avoided using oasis, the floral foam typically employed to support arrangements, as it is not easily compostable, contains micro-plastics and cannot be re-used. Instead, after a thorough clean and clear-out of the church store cupboards, we discovered 26 brass vases, previously dull and dirty, which, thanks to the diligent polishing by a non-Catholic husband of one of our flower team members, now gleam with a golden shine. We hope that you will agree they looked splendid with spring flowers on the Altar steps.

Surprisingly, this approach has proved to be very economical. It also cements our commitment as an active participant in the CAFOD – Live Simply parish initiative, which we aspire to fully realise. We will continue to investigate and use sustainable methods as much as possible. If you would like to help, have ideas or want to know more please contact Stephanie Bending - bendinghall@gmail.com

We're Hiring a Cleaner

St. Richard Reynolds Centre, Blessed Sacrament

The purpose of the role is to maintain the cleanliness of the St. Richard Reynolds Centre so that it is a clean, safe and pleasant environment for parishioners and other users. If you have some cleaning experience, an understanding of the requirements of Health & Safety legislation and the ability to manage time effectively, we would love to hear from you!

Hours: 6 hours a week. Location: St. Richard Reynolds Centre, 29 Fore Street, Heavitree, Exeter, EX1 2QJ. Salary: £13.45 an hour. Closing date: Monday 27 April.

To apply, please contact recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk to obtain an application form and job description. Applications are by application form to recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk.



THANK YOU



Thank you for supporting our Big Lent Walk. Between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, we walked a total of 823 km and raised £1,490. Your generosity will help provide access to clean water for those who need it most.

Your support also kept the four of us going—this challenge truly lived up to its name, even for the seasoned walkers among us. CAFOD didn't prescribe a single way to complete it, so each of us found our own rhythm. Some walked a few kilometres each day after work; others chose longer walks less frequently. We walked around Exeter, across National Trust grounds, in Dartmoor, and in the mountains. For all of us, the real challenge was finding the time and being intentional about setting it aside.

We often battled miserable weather, though we were grateful for the occasional sunny spells along the way. A particular highlight was walking with fellow parishioners—enjoying both the companionship and the space for longer, more meaningful conversations. Thank you again for your generosity and support, *Angela, Catherine, Marlen and Ola.*

Murder at Teatime- Sacred Heart Arts Group

The Arts Group has great pleasure in presenting their latest Murder Mystery.

Dates: Friday 1 May, Saturday 2 May at 7pm and Sunday 3 May at 3pm.

Venue: The Sacred Heart Lower Room. Drinks and nibbles available.

Entry free. Donations welcome - proceeds to be shared between Kenyan Educational Sponsorship and the Church Building Fund.

For further information, contact Maureen Speller spellermaureen@gmail.com or any member of the Arts Group. There are some flyers in the porch.

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.

Fr Gerard Wilberforce 50th Jubilee

Fr Gerard was ordained on 21 April 1976. After Mass at Sacred Heart on Sunday 26 April there will be a celebratory bring-and-share lunch. You are all welcome to both these occasions. Please let Louise know if you are able to provide a contribution to the lunch (finger food, savoury or sweet).

Sacred Heart Repository

Please come and browse our repository items for sale; currently we have the new Sunday Missal, bibles, rosaries, bracelets, statues, Confirmation and First Holy Communion cards. Depending on the support we receive, this will grow into something a bit bigger! Please contact Coral at the Parish Office on 01392 642389 if you would like to see more.

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

St Rita of Cascia Feast Day

Friday 22 May 2026 at St Rita's Centre

The day begins with Mass at 12 noon with Principal Celebrant Father José Romero OAR. This will be followed by the blessing and distribution of roses for the sick. Two shops will be open that day for the sale of religious articles; you can also make your orders on our website www.stritascentre.org and collect your items on site on the day. Hot drinks available all day, but visitors should bring a packed lunch. The day will conclude with Benediction at 3 pm.

We would advise early arrival as car parking can be difficult if you arrive after 11.30 am. Car parking stewards will be on duty to help you, and there will be a small army

of volunteers working in various places helping to ensure a smooth running of the day and a happy feast day for everyone.

If you have any questions, please contact Krista Radzina on 01404 42635

Shifting to Family-Centred Formation

Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm online, beginning Wednesday April 15 2026.

This workshop considers parish ministry centred on family catechesis, in which the parish helps families by providing the education, encouragement, and accompaniment they need. The seven weekly sessions aim to support families as well as catechists and anyone interested in family faith formation. Spend just one hour a week with others online, in prayerful reflection on the topic.

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

Catholic Children's Society News

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.

Confident Parenting in a World of Screens

Webinar 29 April 8.00pm

Hardly a day goes by without headlines highlighting the impact of smartphones and social media on our teenagers. They face a whole new level of complexity as they grow up in a digital world, but as parents and carers there are so many things we can do to help them navigate it well.

CELEBRATE Trust has invited a speaker from *Care for the Family*, a national UK charity, to share how we can best support our teenagers through the challenges of the digital world and offer practical advice and principles to apply in our own unique families. This is the first of 2 webinars for parents and carers of teenagers. The second webinar will be on 'Raising teenagers in a Catholic Family' with the *Messy Family Project*, a Catholic family ministry from the US on 2 June 2026, 8pm. To book on, go to www.celebratetrust.org/faith-parenting.

We're hiring a Communications Officer

The Diocese of Plymouth is looking for a creative, hands-on Communications Officer to lead and deliver engaging communications across Devon, Cornwall & Dorset. The job will be based at St Boniface House in Ashburton with regular attendance at Cathedral House, in Plymouth. The role will support the diocese in telling the Church's story, demonstrating Catholic witness and highlighting the Church's contribution to society across Devon, Cornwall & Dorset.

The role requires travel across the diocese and so a driving licence and access to a personal vehicle is essential. • Hours: 35 hours a week. A request for slightly reduced hours is welcome • Location: St Boniface House, Ashburton, Newton Abbot, TQ13 7JL, with regular attendance at Cathedral House, 45 Cecil Street, Plymouth, PL1 5HW, plus some out of hours work • Salary: £45,000-£49,000 per annum, depending on experience • Closing date for applications: Monday 11 May 2026 12.00pm.

For more information and/or an application form, please contact Avocet Commercial Careers. Email: sophia@avocetlegal.co.uk Telephone: 01392 642518. Please also see the advert in the porch.

Stay Awake! Family Day Saturday 2 May

Bishop Nicholas Hudson is coming to Stay Awake

The Thomas Hardye School, Dorchester 10.00am to evening Mass.

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](#)

Mass for Marriage 2026

Middy, 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.

Ignatian Individually Guided Silent Retreats

Jun 26 -28 (Friday – Sunday) Weekend Retreat £160

Jun 26 -1 July (Friday – Wednesday) Extended Weekend Retreat £350

Venue: Sclerder Abbey Retreat House, (Chemin Neuf) Cornwall PL13 2JD.

A retreat house with large garden and pleasant rural walks, close to the sea, once a Carmelite monastery situated near Looe offers simple accommodation.

A retreat is an opportunity to step back from everyday life to make space and time for God. Cost includes full board & lodging, but help is available for those who would like to go on retreat but have difficulties with the recommended donations.

For further details and bookings contact Plymouth Diocesan Ignatian Spirituality Group at diocesan-ignatian-retreats@prcdtr.org.uk or phone 01752 769164 or 07823 447637. *Joanna Price – Plymouth Diocesan Ignatian Spirituality Group*

Quiz Night at St Joseph's Newton Abbott

St Joseph's Church, Newton Abbot are organising a fun family quiz night on 16 May 2026 at 7pm in the parish hall. We are raising money for the Catholic Children's Society and parish funds. If you would like to come please contact Caroline Fullalove, Parish Secretary at newtonabbot@prcdtr.org.uk Tickets £8 per person, £5 for children under 16. Price includes a hot pasty or sausage roll and a sharing platter. You will have the chance of winning a cash prize! We will also have a raffle on the night with some fantastic prizes. *Please bring your own drinks and glasses.*

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.

St Nicholas School News

We have returned to sunshine and much more outdoor play. Over the holidays we were lucky enough to have a team of volunteers for a day from National Grid to clear our orchard area of overgrown branches and bushes. This means we can now develop the area to be a quiet, reflective space, away from the hustle and bustle of the main playground.

For information about joining our school community, from Nursery to Yr 6, please email a.brocksom@plymouthcast.com

Christians Across Exeter – Christian Aid Week

A table-top sale will be held to raise money for Christian Aid at South Street on Tuesday May 12 from 10am. Please do come and have a look. There's free tea / coffee in our Dove Café. Contact Maryellis@phonecoop.coop if you would like to have a table.

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".

Bible Alive

There are 4 copies of the May/ June edition in the porch, price £6.00 Please put your money in the box marked "books and newspapers".

[Diocese of Plymouth Youth Events News](#)

[Diocese of Plymouth Newsletter April 2026](#)

[Catholic Bishops' Conference News](#)

FORMING IN FAITH



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 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

Families with children 0-4 years meet twice monthly to pray, sing, explore and create the Good News. Last time we held an exciting easter egg hunt in the garden! Please note we will not meet in May. Our final two sessions of the school year will be held on Monday 8 June and Monday 22 June. We will then recommence on Monday 14 September. GIFT tots meets on the second and fourth Monday of every month from 10:00-11:00 in the Sacred Heart lower room. Please register for GIFT tots using this link: [GIFT tots Registration](#)

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

Spree are looking for volunteers. More information can be found [at this link](#)

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 will take place on Friday 1 May at 7.00pm in the St Richard Reynolds Centre.

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.

Forming in Faith

We continue to journey through Bishop Robert Barron's Word on Fire series of the Creed. Please note we will not meet in May; our last two sessions will be on Monday 1 June and Monday 15 June. We will then recommence on Monday 7 September.

Forming in Faith meets the first and third Monday of every month from 10:30-12:00 in the Sacred Heart lower room after the 10:00 Mass. All are very 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.

PRAYER & LITURGY

We commend to the Lord...

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Deacon Delian Bowyer and Katherine Friel who have died. May they rest in peace. Please also pray for their families and friends.

A funeral Mass for Katherine will be celebrated at Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday, 6 May at 9.30am, followed by a committal at Higher Cemetery.

Deacon Delian's body will be received into Sacred Heart Church at 5.00pm on Thursday 8 May. A 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 11:00-11:45am. The session is run via Zoom and an email sent every Thursday with joining instructions. Please 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

Encountering the Word of God

How do you discern what God is saying to you? Do you long to reflect more deeply on his Word? Have you ever wanted to share your thoughts with others and listen to their reflections?

A group of us meet every Wednesday afternoon at 2.00pm via Zoom to do just that. This 'lectio divina; (divine reading) helps deepen our experience of God's Word and how it impacts our lives. We are not 'experts', we just want to open our hearts and listen to God and respond generously to all he says to us..

You would be most welcome to join us. Contact our Parish Pastoral Assistant Maria at Exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk. We look forward to welcoming you.

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 1 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.*

Sunday 3 May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading Acts 6:1-7 *They chose seven men, full of the Holy Spirit.*

Psalm Response

May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:4-9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

Gospel John 14:1-12 *I am the way, and the truth, and the life.*

Sunday 10 May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17

They laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

Psalm Response Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

Second Reading 1 Peter 3:15-18

Being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

Gospel John 14:15-21 *I will ask the Father, and he will give you another helper.*

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@stncls.uk
www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk

Head Teacher Mr Damian Railston



Blessed Sacrament Parish is part of the Diocese of Plymouth.