

# PARISH NEWS



**BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER**

*10 May 2026. Sixth Sunday of Easter. Year A. Psalter 2*

*17 May 2026. Seventh Sunday of Easter Year A. Psalter 3*

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By now we are some distance away from Easter, but the season is still permeated with the Easter message: Christ is risen, we are baptised in him. But today a new dimension of the story comes out: Easter is not complete until the risen Lord has returned to the Father and sent the Holy Spirit. So, in the Gospel today we begin two weeks of looking forward to the coming of that 'Spirit of truth' which sets us apart from the world. This is a Spirit of power, which flows through the life of the Church, enabling its members to 'proclaim the Christ' and, dwelling in our hearts, to live in the midst of the world's slander and accusations. *Salford Office for Liturgy*

## MASS TIMES

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### **Sunday 10 May – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

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

### **Tuesday 12 May – Easter weekday**

6.30pm

### **Wednesday 13 May – Easter weekday**

9.30am

*Followed by refreshments in the St Richard Reynolds Centre*

*Holy Rosary after Mass*

### **Thursday 14 May – The Ascension of the Lord**

Holyday of Obligation

9.30am

6.00pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

7.00pm

### **Friday 15 May – Easter weekday**

6.30pm

### **Saturday 16 May – Easter weekday**

9.30am

### **Sunday 17 May – Seventh Sunday of Easter**

8.45am *Kath Jenkinson RIP*  
10.45am *In thanksgiving for Filip's First Holy Communion*  
2.00pm *Syro-Malabar Rite Mass*  
6.00pm *People of the Parish*

### **Tuesday 19 May – Easter weekday**

6.30pm

### **Wednesday 20 May – Easter weekday**

11.00am *Funeral Mass – Ursula Kirby RIP*

### **Thursday 21 May** – Easter weekday

9.30am

6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

### **Friday 22 May** – Easter weekday

6.30pm

### **Saturday 23 May** – Easter weekday

9.30am

6.00pm *Holy Hour anticipating Pentecost*

### **Sunday 24 May** – Pentecost Sunday

8.45am

10.45am

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**

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### **Annual Mission Appeal**

Sr Priscilla Maring, of 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. They thank you for your generosity and ask you to keep the missionaries and their work in your prayers. [Find out more at this link.](#)

### **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.

## Pentecost Picnic in the Park

Pentecost is fast approaching - Sunday 24 May - and, weather permitting, we'll gather in Heavitree Park after 10.45 Mass to picnic together (bring your own picnic please). As we gather, we'll also be giving out Pentecost cupcakes to any people in the park to share our celebration with them.

Could you make a dozen cupcakes please? We'll need plenty! If you can help, please let Catherine in the parish office know, so that we can estimate numbers. If you're coming to the picnic, simply bring the cakes along on the day. For anyone unable to come, Ola will collect them in the St Richard Reynolds Centre after the 9.30am Mass on Saturday 23 May at 10.00am.

We hope you'll come and share the picnic time together - bring your own chairs and blanket - as we gather as a community with the community of Heavitree. Thank you!

## Universal welcome at Pentecost

As we journey towards Pentecost, we remember the Church was universal in its make-up from its very beginning. To mark this Caritas has produced a WELCOME poster to celebrate the 75 languages we have identified being present in our parish communities here in the diocese. As part of [A Million Acts of Hope](#) we are inviting parishes to display our Welcome banners, not just for Pentecost, but to share our continued invitation that all are welcome in our churches and communities. Come and look at the poster and see how many languages you recognise!

## Caritas – Love in Action

[Caritas Plymouth May Newsletter](#)

## 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](http://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.

## Catholic South West

May edition are in the porch price 50p. Money in the box marked 'Books' please.

## Catholic Post

There are free copies in the porch for parishioners to take.

## Children's Clothes and Plant Swap



After 10:45 mass on Sunday 17 May, come to the garden of the St Richard Reynolds Centre and take part in a new event helping you to live more sustainably! Inspired by the Live Simply programme from

CAFOD, the idea is to 'swap' your children's / grandchildren's outgrown clothes for the next size up, or 'swap' your surplus plants and seeds with other members of our parish community – thereby combatting waste, tackling the cost of living crisis and finding something new to you.



If you have something to bring, deposit it at the Centre at the start of 10:45 Mass, then come to browse and pick out new things for free after mass. If you have nothing to bring, you're still very welcome – we'll be taking donations for CAFOD; just pay what you feel. To make this a great success, only bring items you think others will want and can easily take away. Surplus will be passed to charity shops as there's no capacity to store it. Clothes: a small bag (maximum) of excellent condition

children's clothes (no shoes or other equipment), aged newborn up to 13 years, any season though preferably spring/summer.

Plants: houseplants, seedlings, bedding plants, in-date packets of seeds (either unused or partly used), boxes for swappers to take their new acquisitions away.



## 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 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](mailto:sophia@avocetlegal.co.uk) Telephone: 01392 642518. Please also see the advert in the porch.

## Developing Parish Hospitality

We have two dedicated and talented teams who provide hospitality in our parish; the GIFT Refreshments Team and the Sunday (10.45am) Refreshments Team. These wonderful parishioners regularly provide a warm welcome and a cuppa to families and parishioners at these two events.

As a busy, diverse parish, we would like to develop other gatherings and events to build up our community discipleship and extend our mission beyond the walls of the church building. However, taking mission a step further means we need more people! More people with new ideas, more people to organise, to cook, to bake, to shop, to wash-up and clear-up, and more people to share the load as a team. As they say – the more the merrier!

So, we are holding a 'Hospitality Development' meeting on Tuesday 26 May 7.00–8.00pm (after the 6.30pm Mass) in the RRC. Please come along if you can. Come if you can offer adhoc time, regular time, 30 minutes, a day! Come if you are happy to help in any way, or if you have a good idea to share. And don't worry - coming along doesn't commit you to anything! We look forward to seeing you there.

## We're hiring an Executive Assistant for Bishop Nicholas

We are recruiting an Executive Assistant to provide high-level organisational and administrative support to the Bishop, enabling him to fulfil his mission and ministry across the Diocese. This will entail dealing with all administrative matters pertaining to the Bishop's Office and will include duties such as complex diary management. You will work closely with the Bishop, the Vicar General, the Chief Operating Officer and the wider Diocesan team. A strong understanding of the Diocese's mission and an empathy with the Catholic Church's values and ethos are essential. Hours: 35 hours a week Location: Bishop's House, 45 Cecil Street, Plymouth, PL1 5HW Closing date for applications: Wednesday 13 May 2026 at 12.00pm Enquiries from applicants should be directed to Avocet Commercial Careers, [sophia@avocetlegal.co.uk](mailto:sophia@avocetlegal.co.uk) 01392 642518.

## 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](mailto:unboundprayerdop@gmail.co) or see the poster displayed for more information.

## Exeter Food Bank

Priority items are: tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tinned potatoes, tinned fruit, noodle snacks small jars of coffee. There are also specific requests for hygiene products, and the following donations are much appreciated: toilet rolls, detergent, shower gel or soap, conditioner, shampoo, toothbrushes, feminine products, wet wipes, cleaning products, washing up liquid, children's body wash. Please see the poster on the basket on the collection basket at the back of the church. Thank you.

# World Communications Day 2026



*In his message for the 60th World Day of Social Communications, Pope Leo XIV highlights the importance of ensuring that technological innovation, particularly artificial intelligence, serves the human person rather than replacing or diminishing human dignity.*

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

Our faces and voices are unique, distinctive features of every person; they reveal a person's own unrepeatable identity and are the defining elements of every encounter with others. The ancients understood this well. To define the human person, the ancient Greeks used the word "face" (*prósōpon*), because it expresses etymologically what is before one's gaze, the place of presence and relationship. The Latin term "person" (from *per-sonare*), on the other hand, evokes the idea of sound: not just any sound, but the unmistakable sound of someone's voice.

Faces and voices are sacred. God, who created us in his image and likeness, gave them to us when he called us to life through the Word he addressed to us. This Word resounded down the centuries through the voices of the prophets and then became flesh in the fullness of time. We too have heard and seen this Word (cf. *Jn 1:1-3*) — in which God communicates his very self to us — because it has been made known to us in the voice and face of Jesus, the Son of God.

From the moment of creation, God wanted man and woman to be his interlocutors, and, as Saint Gregory of Nyssa explained, he imprinted on our faces a reflection of divine love, so that we may fully live our humanity through love. Preserving human faces and voices, therefore, means preserving this mark, this indelible reflection of God's love. We are not a species composed of predefined biochemical formulas. Each of us possesses an irreplaceable and inimitable vocation, that originates from our own lived experience and becomes manifest through interaction with others.

[To continue reading Pope Leo's letter follow this link.](#)

## Supporting the work of the Bishops' Conference

On World Communications Day, we take up the command of Jesus to preach the Good News of the Gospel to the whole world.

Vital to this is good communication – through our websites, publications and social media channels. The Bishops' Conference works hard to forge positive relationships with media outlets to communicate news relating to every aspect of the life of the Catholic Church and her people.

There will be a second collection at all Masses on Sunday 17 May.

[To donate online visit the Bishops' Conference website at this link.](#)

# St Nicholas School

For information about joining our school community, from Nursery to Yr 6, please email [a.brocksom@plymouthcast.com](mailto:a.brocksom@plymouthcast.com)

## Marriage Care

Interested in training and volunteering as a Relationship Counsellor? Marriage Care is a Catholic organisation specialising in relationship support and we are currently looking for those who are empathetic, understanding and have an enthusiasm for supporting adult relationships, to train on our Certificate in Relationship Counselling (CRC) and volunteer with us. This is a great opportunity to make a real difference to couples and families. Please note that there are costs associated with training on our CRC. These costs are far lower than with alternative training providers. In line with our ethos as a charity, no one is excluded on the basis of their ability to pay. To find out more please visit: [www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk) or email: [volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk)

[Diocese of Plymouth Youth Events News](#)

[Diocese of Plymouth Newsletter May 2026](#)

[Catholic Bishops' Conference News](#)

## FORMING IN FAITH

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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 6 June** 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](mailto: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 5 June 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](mailto: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](mailto:Exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk) or 01392 274724.

## PRAYER & LITURGY

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### We commend to the Lord...

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ursula Kirby RIP who has died. A funeral Mass for Ursula will be celebrated at Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday 20 May at 11.00am, followed by a committal at Exeter Crematorium. May she rest in peace. Please also pray for her family and friends.

### 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](mailto:Exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk).

**Praying the Rosary** first and third Wednesday after 9.30am Mass

### The Pope's Intention for May

**That everyone might have food**

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

[Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#)

### Blessed Sacrament International Mass – Save the Date

We will be celebrating an International Mass at 10.45am on Sunday 13 September 2026. Please save the date and make sure you are able to come.

It will be a celebration of the tremendous cultural and ethnic diversity of our parish, with prayers, readings and songs in different languages and a shared lunch to rival the heavenly banquet! Can't wait to welcome you!

# THE WORD

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## 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](mailto:Exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk). We look forward to welcoming you.

### **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.*

### **Sunday 17 May – Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**First Reading** Acts 1:12-14

*All with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer.*

**Psalm Response** I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

**Second Reading** 1 Peter 4:13-16

*If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed.*

**Gospel** John 17:1-11a *Father, glorify your Son.*

### **Sunday 24 May – Pentecost Sunday**

**First Reading** Acts 2:1-11 *They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak.*

**Psalm Response** Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

*In one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.*

**Gospel** John 20:19-23

*As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you. Receive the Holy Spirit.*

# CONTACT US

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## Blessed Sacrament Parish

29 Fore Street, Heavitree, Exeter EX1 2QJ  
01392 274724 [exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Exeter-heavitree-giftaid@prcdtr.org.uk)

Parish Website [blessedsacrament.org.uk](http://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](mailto:exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk)*

## Parish Safeguarding Representatives

*Catherine Odams 01392 274724*

## St Nicholas School

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01392 445403. [admin@stncls.uk](mailto:admin@stncls.uk)  
[www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk](http://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.