

PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

23 August 2026. 21st Week in Ordinary Time Year A2. Psalter 1

30 August 2026. 22nd Week in Ordinary Time. Year A2. Psalter 2

TU ES PETRUS



There is a very simple theme to this Sunday's readings: it is the principle of authority in the community of the Church: we are introduced to the idea that God gives authority to someone in the first reading, where Shebna is dismissed by God and replaced. This is a prelude to the Gospel story of Peter being given authority: not because he is powerful or wise in the world's sense, but because he was able to profess his faith in the one sent by the Father. This is the principle of all authority in the Church: it is to spring only from God and our faith in God, professed by our way of life and rooted only in Christ, for 'to him all authority, in heaven and on earth, has been given.' *Salford Office for Liturgy*

MASS TIMES

Sunday 23 August – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time.

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

Tuesday 25 August – Weekday

6.30pm *Dan Docherty RIP*

Wednesday 26 August – Weekday

9.30am

Followed by refreshments in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. All welcome

Thursday 27 August

No Mass

Friday 28 August – St Augustine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

6.30pm *Tom Meehan RIP*

Saturday 29 August – The Passion of St John the Baptist

9.30am *Fr Jon Bielawski RIP*

Sunday 30 August – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

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

Tuesday 1 September – Weekday

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

6.30pm

Wednesday 2 September – Weekday

9.30am

Followed by refreshments in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. All welcome
Holy Rosary after Mass

Thursday 3 September – St Gregory the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church

9.30am

6.00pm Adoration

Friday 4 September – Weekday

6.30pm

Saturday 5 September – Weekday

10.00am GIFT Mass at St Nicholas School. All welcome.

Sunday 6 August – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am *Mo Flavin 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

Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)

2026 Annual Appeal, Saturday 29 and 30 August

Grateful Hearts - Serving Others-

Putting All Children First



Please give generously towards the work of the Catholic Children's Society and keep them and their beneficiaries in your prayers. Your love, kindness and generosity will make a difference to many children and their families. Thank you so much and please remember to Gift Aid your donation if you can! There are envelopes in the porch for donations and, where possible, to complete a Gift aid declaration.

Blessed Sacrament International Mass

Blessed Sacrament Church 13 September at 10.45am. The Mass will reflect the rich cultural mix of the parish and our global church. Join us to celebrate the beauty and diversity of our Catholic church around the world and stay for an International Lunch in the St Richard Reynolds Centre and Garden afterwards.

Fr Jon Bielawski RIP

Fr Jon's Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Plymouth Cathedral on Thursday 27 August at 12 noon. You are most welcome to come. On Wednesday 26 August at 4.30pm Fr Jon's body will be received into the Cathedral and a Vigil Mass celebrated at 6.00pm. We give thanks for the many years of dedicated service Fr Jon gave to our diocese and pray for the repose of his soul and the comfort and consolation of his family and friends. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Interested in becoming a Catholic?

Over the past few years, the Church has been welcoming new members in ever greater numbers; perhaps in response to growing uncertainty about the world and its future and a desire to trust in something other than human resources and capabilities. If you, or someone you know are interested in joining the community of the faithful and becoming a Catholic, you may like to come along to our regular meetings at Sacred heart Church, South Street, Exeter which will begin in the Autumn. To register your interest, with no obligation please complete this simple registration form to let us know [by following this link](#).

Set them up for Summer!

Please support our summer campaign for Exeter Foodbank, as they help and support people in crisis across the city. Our summer-themed collection crate is ready for your food donations. Online donations can be made direct to the Foodbank via the [Exeter Foodbank JustGiving page](#)

Current priority items: tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tinned potatoes, tinned fruit, noodle snacks (i.e. Pot Noodle/ Mug Shot/ Pasta 'n' Sauce), small jars of coffee. Thank you. [Exeter Foodbank](#)

We're Hiring a Cleaner for Two Parishes in Exeter Deanery

One role is based at the University of Exeter Catholic Chaplaincy and the other at the St. Richard Reynolds Centre in our Blessed Sacrament Parish.

The purpose of both roles is to maintain the cleanliness of each building 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! We are welcoming applications for one or both of the roles.

Hours: 10 hours a week (4 hours a week at the University of Exeter Catholic Chaplaincy and 6 hours a week at the St Richard Reynolds Centre). Location: University of Exeter Catholic Chaplaincy, Boniface House, Glenthorne Road, Exeter, EX4 4QU and St. Richard Reynolds Centre, 29 Fore Street, Heavitree, Exeter, EX1 2QJ. Salary: £13.45 an hour. Closing date: Wednesday 26 August 2026

Catholic Exeter Craft Group

Come along and join us on Friday 4 September, the Lower Room Sacred Heart after 10am Mass. Bring along your own craft project to work on or join in with a parish

craft project. It's a lovely opportunity to get creative, meet others and enjoy some friendly fellowship together. Refreshments will be provided.
We look forward to seeing you there. Everyone is warmly welcome, no matter what your craft or skill level!

Prisoners' Sunday 2025/26

We have had a certificate from Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT), extending their warmest thanks to you for raising £577.67 towards Prisoners' Sunday 2025.

Prisoners' Sunday 2026 will be held on 11 October, details to follow.

Mass for Marriage 2026

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

Please join us at our Celebration of Marriage. Marriage enriches us all. All are welcome, including those remembering late loved ones and we will remember them in our prayers. Now this prayer will also include Fr Jon Bielawski, a good priest, who celebrated the Mass for Marriage for the last four years and who did so much to support Catholic Marriage in our Diocese.

Let us know your anniversaries or intentions, or your planned wedding date.

Please pray for marriage and family life. For more information, please

contact <mailto:deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk>

Retrouvaille Marriage Support

Marriage in a rut? Or need help with deeper issues?

Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples find hope and healing in their marriage.

Next dates: 2–4 October. www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info Tel: 0788 7296983

See, Speak, Act: Faith in Action Against Modern Slavery

Wednesday 14 October 2026 | 1.00–5.00pm | Plymouth Methodist Central Hall "He has sent me... to set the oppressed free." (Luke 4:18)

Sadly, Modern Slavery is happening in communities across the UK, including here in the Diocese of Plymouth. It is often hidden in plain sight, and we may well encounter people affected by exploitation, making this a relevant issue for our community, as both a practical safeguarding matter and an explicit response to the Gospel.

[Caritas Diocese of Plymouth](#) has for some time been raising awareness of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, and alongside [The Clewer Initiative](#), we have arranged an ecumenical event to support Catholic and other Christian communities to respond to this modern manifestation of exploitation and slavery.

Through practical talks and workshops, participants will learn how to recognise the signs of modern slavery, report concerns safely, and enable church communities to respond with compassion, justice, and hope. Together, we can equip our congregations to respond faithfully and effectively to one of the most pressing human rights issues of our time. Please see the poster in the porch to register.

Catholic South West

The paper is for Catholics in the Plymouth, Clifton and Portsmouth Dioceses. Copies of the August edition are in the porch price 50p. Please put your money in the box marked 'books and newspapers'.

Stop assisted suicide being legalised

Your MP could be one of the 12

Only 12 MPs need to switch for the assisted suicide Bill to be defeated on 11 September. A face-to-face meeting can make a real difference to how your MP votes. Right To Life UK's simple tool lets you request a meeting in just 30 seconds and gives you everything you need to prepare, including a short video guide.

Please ask your MP today for a meeting and urge them to vote NO to assisted suicide: [at this link](#)

The Pope's Intention for August

For evangelisation in the city.

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

[Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#)

[Diocese of Plymouth News](#)

[Catholic Bishops' Conference News](#)

St Nicholas School

For information about joining our school community please

email admissions@stncs.plymouthcast.com

Refreshments after Mass

Please join us for refreshments in the St Richard Reynolds Rooms after the 9.30am Mass on Wednesday mornings and the 10.45am Mass on Sundays. All are warmly invited to stay to chat, catch up with old friends or meet someone new.

FORMING IN FAITH

Gift Growing in Faith Together

Next GIFT meeting is on Saturday 5 September 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. We will re-commence at the start of the school year on Monday 14 September. GIFT tots meet 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, especially those 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 click 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](#)

Forming in Faith

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. We will re-commence after the summer on Monday 7 September. All are very welcome.

Baptism Preparation Courses 2026

Next Course: 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...

...the souls of Fr Jon Bielawski and Kenneth Gallagher who have died. May they rest in peace. Please also pray for their family and friends.

Fr Jon Bielawski's funeral will take place at Plymouth Cathedral at 12.00 noon on Thursday 27 August. His Requiem Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Nicholas.

His body will be received into the Cathedral at 4.30p.m. on Wednesday 26 August, the Feast of Blessed Dominic Barberi. Canon John Deeny, Dean of Plymouth, will celebrate a Mass the same evening at 6.00pm.

Kenneth Gallagher's funeral will be celebrated at Blessed Sacrament Church, on Friday 28 August at 11.30am

We welcome into the life of faith...

... Robin Ridgeway, who was baptised last Sunday, and Andrei Macatbag who will be baptised this weekend. Please keep Robin, Andrei, their parents and Godparents in your prayers.

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

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.

THE WORD

Sunday 23 August – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Isaiah 22:15, 19-23

I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David.

Psalm Response

○ Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.

Second Reading Romans 11:33-36

From him and through him and to him are all things.

Gospel Matthew 16:13- 20

You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Sunday 30 August – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Jeremiah 20:7-9 *The word of the Lord has become for me a reproach.*

Psalm Response For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.

Second Reading Romans 12:1-2 *Present your bodies as a living sacrifice.*

Gospel Matthew 16:21-27 *If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself.*

Sunday 6 September – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Ezekiel 33:7-9

If you do not speak to warn the wicked, his blood I will require at your hand.

Psalm Response

○ that today you would listen to his voice! "Harden not your hearts."

Second Reading Romans 13:8-10 *Love is the fulfilling of the law.*

Gospel Matthew 18: 15-20 *If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.*

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

Angela Folland

Catherine Odams 01392 274724

St Nicholas School

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School,
Ringswell Avenue, Exeter EX1 3EG
01392 445403. admin@stncs.uk
www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk

Head Teacher Mr Damian Railston



Blessed Sacrament Parish is part of the Diocese of Plymouth