

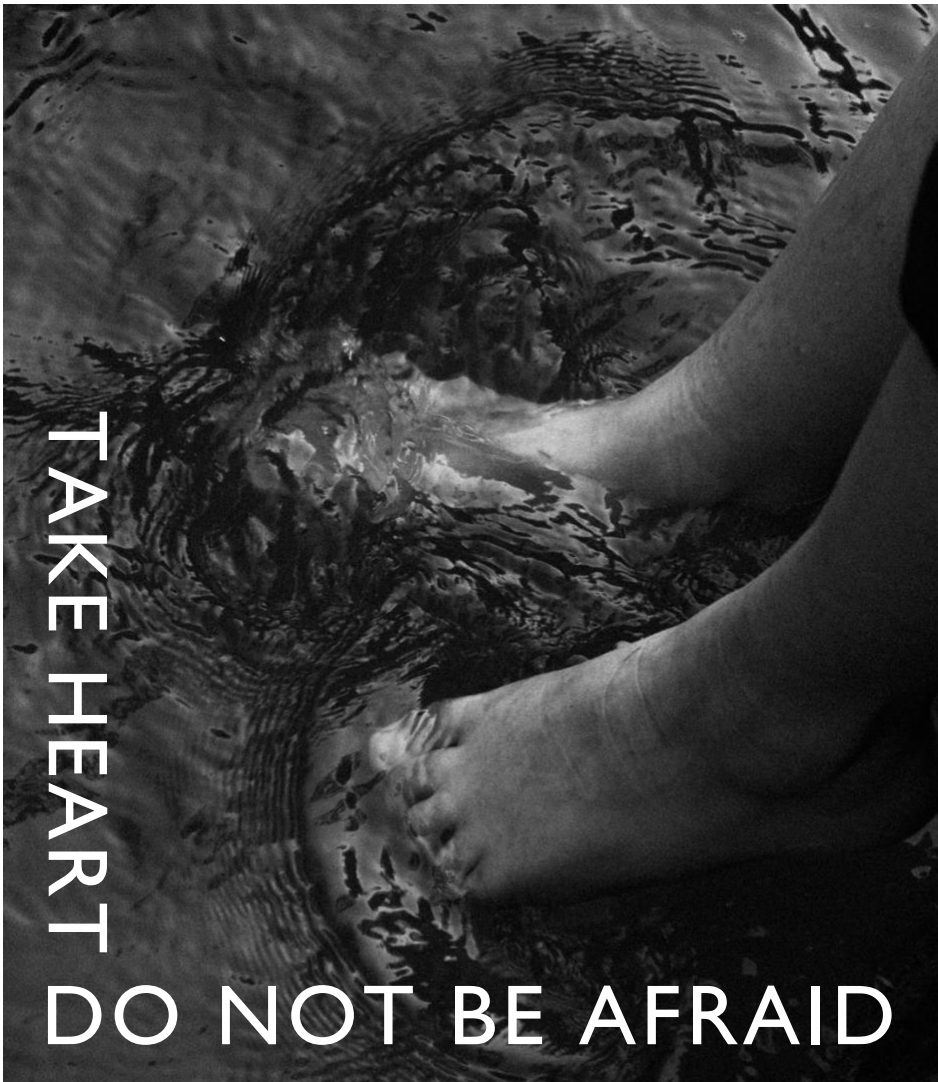
PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

9 August 2026. 19th Week in Ordinary Time Year A2. Psalter 3

16 August 2026. 20th Week in Ordinary Time. Year A2. Psalter 4



TAKE HEART

DO NOT BE AFRAID

How does God reveal himself to us? Most of the time, in precisely the way we do not expect! This is what happened to Elijah: we expect God - all-powerful, almighty - to appear in dramatic effects of nature; but no, God is in a gentle breeze. Similarly in the Gospel: the disciples do not expect Jesus to come towards them walking on the lake - but he does. And when God is revealed in the unexpected, he gives courage and strength: Elijah was afraid when he went to Horeb but was strengthened by his encounter with God to continue his mission; in the same way the disciples are given courage and faith by the Lord who walks to them on the waters. *Salford Office for Liturgy*

MASS TIMES

Sunday 9 August – 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am *Private Intention*

6.00pm

Tuesday 11 August – St Clare, Virgin

No Mass

Wednesday 12 August – Weekday

9.30am *Private Intention*

Followed by refreshments in the St Richard Reynolds Centre

Thursday 13 August –

9.30am *Private Intention*

Friday 14 August – St Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest & Martyr

6.30pm

Saturday 15 August – Weekday

No Mass

Sunday 16 August – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8.45am

10.45am *Lizzie Laydon RIP*

6.00pm *People of the Parish*

Tuesday 18 August – Weekday

No Mass

Wednesday 19 August – Weekday

9.30am *Private Intention*

Holy Rosary after Mass. No coffee after Mass

Thursday 20 August – St Bernard, Abbott & Doctor

9.30am *Private Intention*

6.00pm *Adoration*

Friday 21 August – St Pius X, Pope

6.30pm

Saturday 22 August – The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

No Mass

Sunday 23 August – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time.

8.45am *Private Intention*
10.45am *People of the Parish*
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



Parishioners may have noticed the new LED lighting in the church car park, Sacristy and St Richard Reynolds Centre. This change cuts our energy use by up to 80% and lowers our carbon footprint by about 1.5 tonnes of CO₂ each year. Every kilowatt-hour saved reduces emissions that disproportionately affect vulnerable communities across the world.

This is helping to answer the call of our parish CAFOD Live Simply award, which calls us care for Creation and to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor. Find out more about Live Simply

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: <https://www.sacredheartexeter.org/rcia>

Exeter Foodbank. 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 [by visiting our 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 Food Bank](#)

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

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

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 Blessed Sacrament). Location: St. Richard Reynolds Centre, 29 Fore Street, Heavitree, Exeter, EX1 2QJ and University of Exeter Catholic Chaplaincy, Boniface House, Glenthorne Road, Exeter, EX4 4QU.

Salary: £13.45 an hour. Closing date for applications: Wednesday 26 August 2026

Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)

2026 Annual Appeal, Saturday 29 and 30 August

Grateful Hearts - Serving Others



Please find below the message of support provided by Bishop Nicholas in support of our Annual Appeal:

"These are challenging times for many families experiencing financial hardship. Such families are often in temporary accommodation after fleeing abuse or the breakdown of relations or the loss of their jobs due to illness and circumstances beyond their control.

The Essential Grants Programme exists to provide essential items to help relieve families' needs. CCSP warmly encourage applications from such families for school uniforms, shoes, beds, mattresses and bedding, clothes for children and newborn babies, cots, bottles, chests of drawers, wardrobes, alongside white goods such as cookers and fridges. They require all such applications to be accompanied by a referee. The process from application to supply is usually within two to three weeks". *Bishop Nicholas*

CCSP Trustees

The Children's Society also need trustees. If anyone is interested in offering their time, please contact the office on 01364 645420 and ask to speak to the Chair, Shelagh Fearnley. They would love to hear from you."

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 this terrible exploitation, making this a relevant issue for your community, as both a practical safeguarding matter and an explicit response to the call of 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'.

March for Life Saturday 5 September 1.30pm.

Join us on the annual March for Life (M4L) in Westminster. The theme for this year is 'Abortion Hurts the Family.'

8.00am – The SPUC coach will pick up at the bottom of Exeter Services (M5).

5.30pm – Leave Westminster. Seats £28.00pp but some free seats are available. Coach cost is £1,720. Donations gratefully received.

Do come to protest against the recently passed legislation allowing abortion up to birth and the return to Parliament of the recently defeated Assisted Suicide Bill threatening the elderly and vulnerable. To date, 14 Catholic bishops will be attending the March so you will be in good company. Further info: SPUC Christine Hudson
Tel:07742 320717 Email: chrishud78@talktalk.net

Stop assisted suicide being legalised

Assisted suicide campaigners have sadly brought back the Leadbeater Bill. This can be stopped if MPs vote down the Bill on 11 September. *Right To Life UK* has launched an *EasyAction* tool to help you email your MP to ask them to vote NO to assisted suicide in the vote in the House of Commons on 11 September.

[Please take 30 seconds to email your MP today to ask them to vote NO to assisted suicide](#)

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@stnics.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.

Please note that there's no refreshments after Mass on Wednesday 19 August.

FORMING IN FAITH



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's funeral will be celebrated at Plymouth Cathedral at 12.00 noon on Thursday 27 August. The main celebrant will be Bishop Nicholas. His body will be received into the Cathedral at 4.30pm on Wednesday 26 August, the Feast of Blessed Dominic Barberi. Canon John Deeny, Dean of Plymouth, will celebrate a Requiem 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...

... Orlaith and Kenechukwu who were baptised last weekend and Joseph & Jessica who will be baptised on Sunday. Please keep Orlaith, Kenechukwu, Joseph & Jessica, their parents and Godparents in your prayers

Online prayer and fellowship

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

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 OF GOD

Sunday 9 August – 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Kings 19:9a, 11-13 *Stand on the mount before the Lord.*

Psalm Response Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading Romans 9:1-5

I wish that I were accursed for the sake of my brothers and sisters.

Gospel Matthew 14:22-33 *Command me to come to you on the water.*

Sunday 16 August – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

First Reading Isaiah 56:1, 6-7 *Foreigners I will bring to my holy mountain.*

Psalm Response Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Second Reading Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

The gifts and the calling of God to Israel are irrevocable.

Gospel Matthew 15: 21-28 *O woman, great is your faith!*

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

O 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.

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@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