

PARISH NEWS



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

20 September 2026. 25th Week in Ordinary Time Year A2. Psalter I

27 September 2026. 26th Week in Ordinary Time. Year A2. Psalter



MASS TIMES

Sunday 20 September – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Evangelii Gaudium Day – Home Mission Sunday

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am

2.00pm *Syro-Malabar Rite Mass*

6.00pm

Tuesday 22 September – Dedication of the Cathedral No Mass

Wednesday 23 September – St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio), Priest No Mass

Thursday 24 September – Our Lady of Walsingham

9.30am *Stephen Dunohy*

Friday 25 September – Weekday

6.30pm

Saturday 26 September – Weekday

9.30am

Sunday 27 September – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

8.45am *Jack & Peggy Webber RIP*

10.45am *People of the Parish*

2.00pm *Syro-Malabar Rite Mass*

6.00pm

Tuesday 29 September – SS Michael, Gabrile & Raphale, Archangels

6.30pm

Wednesday 30 September – St Jerome, Priest & Doctor

9.30am *Michael and Adrian Jenkinson RIP*

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

Thursday 1 October – St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin & Doctor

9.30am

6.00pm *Adoration*

Friday 2 October – The Holy Guardian Angels

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

6.30pm

Saturday 3 October – Weekday

9.30am

Sunday 4 October – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

8.45am

10.45am

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

Evangelii Gaudium – Home Mission Sunday

Sunday 20 September is [Home Mission Sunday](#). It's the day in the Church's calendar when we pray for and support the work of evangelisation in England and Wales.

In a [short filmed message](#) speaking on behalf of the Bishops, the Right Reverend Philip Egan, Bishop of Portsmouth, emphasised that many more people should come to know 'the God who made them'. "Saint John Paul II once said, the greatest poverty of all was to lack God," said Bishop Egan. "As a bishop, it distresses me hugely that so many people today don't seem to know God. They don't know the God who made them. They don't seem to be friends with him. They're unchurched, adrift, without faith, without the hope of heaven.

"*Home Mission Sunday* reminds us of something Pope Leo said in his recent encyclical [Magnifica humanitas](#) that the desire for God is hardwired into every human heart. So on *Home Mission Sunday*, let's pray for the mission of the church in our land and for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit that many more people may find their way to salvation in Jesus Christ and his church.

Studying at the University of Exeter this year?

We would like to invite you to come to our Catholic Chaplaincy, located at Boniface House, Glenthorne road, EX4 4QU, close to the Birks Grange Village hall of residence; you can find further information and directions here:

[Catholic Chaplaincy in Exeter](#)

Exeter University Catholic Chaplaincy is a faith-filled and lively community. Exeter Catholic Society meets at the Catholic Chaplaincy every week during term time for a range of activities, from various socials to talks and society trips, in a friendly environment where students can grow in faith while having fun and making new friends. Masses at the Catholic Chaplaincy are celebrated during term time on Sundays at 11:30am (followed by a free lunch), on Tuesdays at 7.00pm and on Thursdays at 12.00pm (followed by a free lunch).

For further details about the events taking place, you can visit our Instagram page [at this link](#) or get in touch with our Chaplaincy Assistant, Dr Maria Gisella Giannone, at m.giannone@exeter.ac.uk. We look forward to meeting you!

CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal this Harvest, 2 October

Please donate to our *Family Fast Day* parish collection. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of



food and safe water. Your gift can support children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school by helping communities and schools provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at

cafod.org.uk/envelope, call **0303 303 3030** or use the **QR code above**.

Parish Vision Team News

At the last meeting of the Vision Team we discussed three things: 1) A toolkit to help parishes become racially and culturally inclusive, 2) the upcoming Open House which we are hosting on Saturday 10 October at St Nicholas' School (see below) and 3) a Vision Team away day when we will have the opportunity to consider how the team is functioning and what the Holy Spirit is calling us to do and to be.

The members of the Vision Team are currently: Fr Jonathan, Angela Bosley (Chair), Jess Lynde, Kelly Dunne, Ola Godbeer, Angela Folland, Nick Gill, Sheila Hosker and Clare Simpson. Please keep us in your prayers and talk to us to find out more.

Divine Renovation Open House at Blessed Sacrament Saturday 10 October 10.00am – 5.00pm at St Nicholas School



For some years now parishes around the country have been opening their doors and inviting others to come and share their experiences of renewal, supported by Divine Renovation. We are delighted that we are one of those parishes!

The day will begin with worship followed by a keynote from Fr Damian Ryan, a priest of the Archdiocese of Westminster whose parish is on a journey of renewal. Lunch is provided and then there will be 3 workshops:

Struggling to Lead: hear how we are forming and developing a culture of shared, skills-based leadership to support ministry within the parish.

Experiencing Sunday: hear how we are working to bring our parish vision of being 'a welcoming, lively and inclusive faith community where all are known and loved and inspired and encouraged to be disciples of Jesus Christ. We are committed to uplifting worship, generous giving, serving those in need and the joyful proclamation of the Gospel' into a lived reality.

GIFT (Growing in Faith Together): Breathing Life into Family Catechesis. You are welcome to join us, but you will need to register by using the QR code above and you will need to pay! It's only £15 and lunch is provided. See you there.

Being a Hospitable Parish

We have had two very successful meetings about how we can become a more hospitable parish community. We already do some great things around welcoming and many people comment on that, but we know we could improve in other areas. Please come along to our next meeting which will be on Thursday 24 September at 7.15pm (following Adoration) in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. Don't worry if you haven't been to any of the other meetings, you are most welcome to come along with ideas. Look forward to seeing you then.

Thinking of becoming a Catholic?

Want to know more about the Catholic Faith?

You are warmly invited to **Gateway**. First meeting after 11.15am Mass on Sunday 27 September at Sacred Heart Church, South Street Exeter. Everyone is welcome. Whether you are curious, have questions or are ready to take the next step, we would love to meet you.

What to expect. Friendly and informal conversations, the chance to ask questions openly, guidance through the journey of faith, preparation for the sacraments of baptism, confirmation or reception into the Church if desired.

Interested? Contact us by email at exeter-sacredheart@prcdtr.org.uk or exeter-sacredheart-gateway@prcdtr.org.uk or just come and see.

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 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.

Sisters of Mary Morning Star Contemplative Community...

... will be hosting a Come & See retreat 16-18 October, for young women 18-35 discerning a vocation to the contemplative life. Lifts are available from Tiverton Parkway Railway Station. Please see the poster in the porch and join them in praying for vocations. [Sisters of Mary Morning Star](#)

Diocesan Catechists Fair

Saturday October 17, Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre

'I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you'

The day runs from 10.00am – 4.00pm. (Lunch not included)

Come and share your experiences of sharing faith and bringing people ever closer to Our Lord Jesus Christ. Topics will include: Growing Family Catechesis, the Link between Liturgy and Catechesis, Catechists Demonstrations. Beautiful discounted books available from the Isaiah Books Mission. More details to follow.

To book or for information contact deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk

Catholic South West

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

UNBOUND Freedom in Christ.

Prayer Conference. Buckfast Abbey, Saturday Oct 31 & Sunday 1 November 2026

A weekend immersion in the inspirational teaching of UNBOUND Deliverance Ministry. A safe, gentle and non-confrontational freedom and inner healing ministry model which helps people reclaim their true identity in Christ. Come and join us as we unpack each of the key themes of the ministry; Repentance & Faith, Forgiveness, Renunciation, Authority, and the Father's Blessing. With an opportunity for a personal prayer session and the chance to claim true freedom in Christ. Weekend tickets from £65.

To book [please complete this booking form](#)

Call or email Michele Thompson, Officer for Evangelisation for more information 07940 453607 michele.thompson@prcdtr.org.uk

For more information on Unbound Ministry please [follow this link](#)

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.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage – only six spaces left

The Our Lady of Lourdes Pilgrimage to Medjugorje is in the early stages on organisation. We will be flying from Bristol to Split Thursday 1st to Thursday 8th of October. £785pp sharing £150 single supplement. Half-board, fully guided Pilgrimage with Marian Pilgrimages. Please contact plymouth-plympton@prcdtr.org.uk if you are interested in joining us."

The Pope's Intention for September

For the care of water. Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

[Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#)

[Diocese of Plymouth News](#)

[Catholic Bishops' Conference News](#)

St Nicholas School News

As the summer sunshine fades, we are delighted to welcome all our pupils, families, and staff back for the start of a brand-new school year. We hope everyone in the parish had a restful, refreshing summer break and is ready for the exciting months ahead. This year we will be asking the children to think about 'showing their light'. We will be asking them to work hard and for parents to support us in helping them reach high standards. We want every child to leave St Nicholas having become the best that they can be, ready for their next steps in education and life.

If you would like to find out more about joining our lovely school please contact admissions@stnics.plymouthcast.com. We have a nursery for children who are 3 or 4 and offer wrap around care for all children from Nursery to Yr 6, from 7.45am to 6pm. We would be delighted to give you a tour of the school and show you what we can offer your family.

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 to meet someone new.

FORMING IN FAITH

Gift Growing in Faith Together

Next GIFT session Saturday 3 October 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 10.00-11.00am 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) [GIFT Youth Registration](#)

GIFT Youth Caritas This group is open for all young people entering School Year 10 through to 17 years of age. Their first session of the new academic year will be on Friday 2 October from 19:30-21:30 in the RRC.

[GIFT Youth Caritas 2026](#)

GIFT Youth Socials School Years 7-9 If your child has just entered Year 7, they are very welcome. Please register them for GIFT Youth using this link. [GIFT Youth Registration](#)

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...

... all those who have died and whose anniversaries occur around this time. Please keep them in your prayers. May they rest in peace and rise in glory

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

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 20 September – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Isaiah 55: 6-9 *My thoughts are not your thoughts.*

Psalm Response The Lord is close to all who call him.

Second Reading Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a *For to me to live is Christ.*

Gospel Matthew 20:1-16 *Do you begrudge my generosity?*

We can never hope fully to understand God: especially God's generosity. We are very good at working out who is deserving of good fortune and who is not - unfortunately for us, God's gifts go to those God chooses, not those we choose. An example is forgiveness: those who have done the most wrong are those who receive the greatest forgiveness when they turn to God - perhaps at times we begrudge this gift. Today's lesson is simply this: God's ways are not our ways, God's thoughts are not our thoughts. "Why be envious, because I am generous?" *Salford Office for Liturgy*

Sunday 27 September – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Ezekial 18:25-28 *When a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed, he shall save his life.*

Psalm Response Remember your compassion, O Lord

Second Reading Philippians 2:1-11

Have this in mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Matthew 21: 28-32 *He changed his mind and went. The tax collectors and prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.*

Sunday 3 October – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Isaiah 5:1-7 *The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel.*

Psalm Response The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

Second Reading Philippians 4:6-9

Practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Matthew 21: 33-43 *He will let out the vineyard to other tenants.*

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