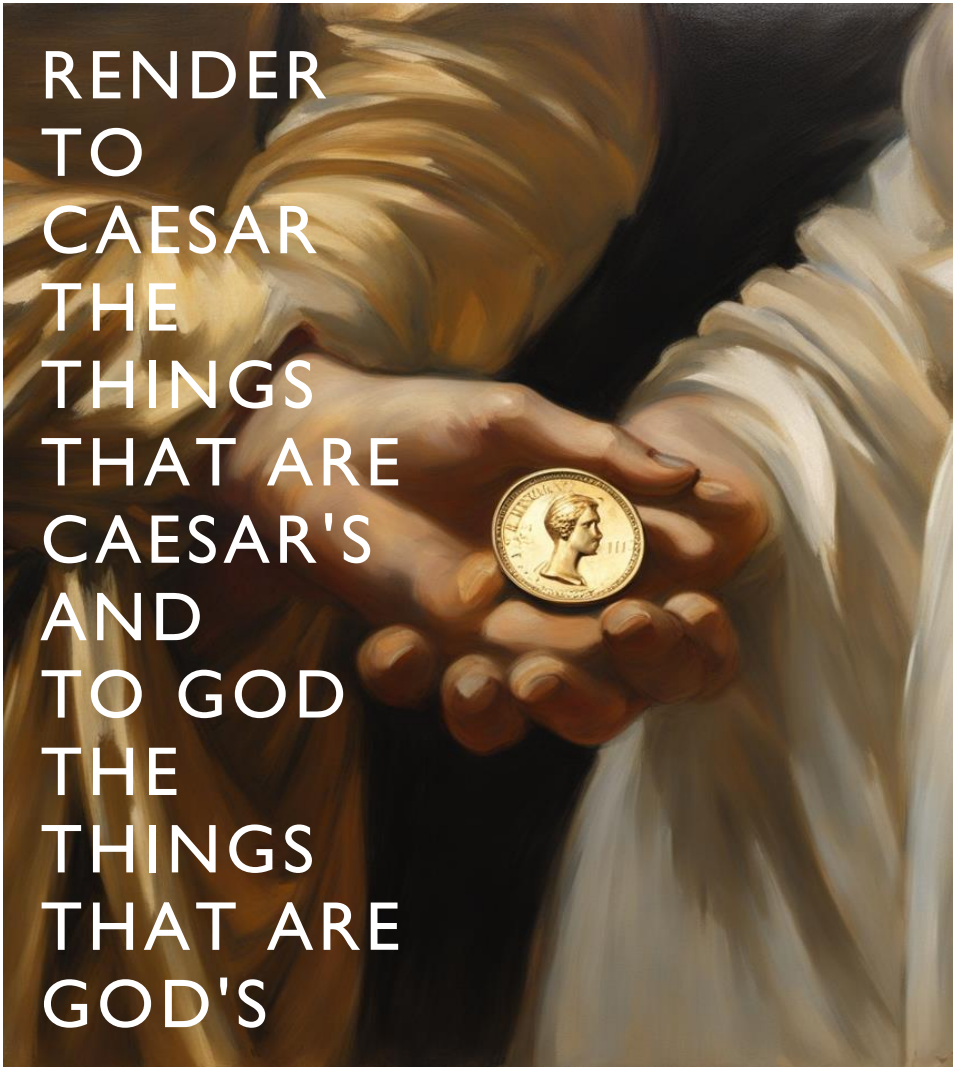
PARISH NEWS

BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, HEAVITREE, EXETER

18 October 2026. 29th Week in Ordinary Time Year A2. Psalter 1
25 October 2026. 26th Week in Ordinary Time. Year A2. Psalter 2



MASS TIMES

Sunday 18 October – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time.
8.45am
10.45am
2.00pm Syro-Malabar Rite Mass
6.00pm *People of the Parish*

Tuesday 20 October – Weekday
6.30pm *Marjorie Elizabeth Giffird Pitman RIP*

Wednesday 21 October – Weekday
9.30am
Followed by refreshments in St Richard Reynolds Centre.

Thursday 22 October – Weekday
9.30am

Friday 23 October – Weekday
6.30pm

Saturday 24 October – Weekday
9.30am *Private Intention*

Sunday 25 October – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time.
8.45am
10.45am *People of the Parish*
2.00pm Syro-Malabar Rite Mass
6.00pm

Tuesday 27 October – Weekday
6.30pm

Wednesday 28 October – SS Simon and Jude, Apostles
9.30am
Followed by refreshments in the St Richard Reynolds Centre.

Thursday 29 October – Weekday
9.30am
6.00pm Adoration

Friday 30 October – Weekday
6.30pm

Saturday 31 October – Weekday
9.30am

Sunday 1 November – Solemnity of All Saints
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

World Mission Sunday 18 October

Today, parishes worldwide celebrate World Mission Sunday. By supporting Missio – the Pope's charity for world mission – we stand united as God's global family in prayer, solidarity and action. The Holy Father has chosen the theme **"One in Christ united in mission**" to celebrate 100 years of World Mission Sunday and encourages us to unite with missionaries as they strive to reach out with God's love to communities in need. Please pray for the work of mission and give what you can to this vital collection.

To donate, use the Missio envelopes, call 0207 8219755 (office hours) or visit The Missio website to give a gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation.

Financial Giving Sunday

On Sunday 25 October, at all Masses, we will take a few minutes to reflect on financial giving within our parish community and how it supports the life, mission, and upkeep of our parish. As maintenance and running costs continue to rise, we invite parishioners to reflect on their current level of giving and to consider whether an increase might be appropriate.

We will explain the benefits of standing orders, which provide a regular and reliable source of income while reducing the amount of cash that volunteers need to handle and count each week. For taxpayers, Gift Aid adds 25% to donations at no extra cost, and we'll remind parishioners to check they pay enough tax to cover Gift Aid on all their charitable giving. We will also mention legacy gifts and the special wording needed to ensure that any gift left in a Will comes directly to the parish.

After each Mass, members of the Parish Finance Committee will be in the porch with all the relevant forms and will be happy to answer any questions. Thank you for your continued generosity and support for the life and mission of our parish.

Blessed Sacrament Parish Accounts

A copy of the accounts showing a comparison of income and expenditure for the financial years ending 31 March 2025 & 2026 is posted in the church porch. If you have any questions, please speak to Fr Jonathan.

Catholic South West available in the porch. Price 50p



Force Christmas Fayre.

Jane and Gary are organising a Christmas Fayre in aid of Force Cancer Charity. This is being held in the United Reformed church just down the road on Saturday 28 November at 11.00am until 2.00pm.

They would love some donations of books, jigsaws, nearly new costume jewellery, toys, games, bottles, tombola prizes and baked cakes please. If you can help call Jane on 07890 373617 or drop your donations off in the porch for collection please.

UNBOUND Freedom in Christ.

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 More information on Unbound Ministry at this link

Exeter Food Bank News

Exeter Food Bank 'Foodraiser'

Exeter Foodbank are aiming to raise £30,000 to be spent directly on food. This is in addition to the donations that come in from supermarket collection points, schools, churches, businesses and community groups. Despite everyone's generosity, donations have dropped by 25% over the past two years. Each year the Foodbank needs about 100 tonnes of food - plus these additional purchases.

The money from the 'Foodraiser' will also cover bread, fresh fruit & fresh veg purchases. Every week the Foodbank ensures that they have fresh apples, bananas, carrots, onions and potatoes. If the budget allows, they may get oranges or peppers too. Please help to ensure that every person who goes to them can receive the essential items. For more details follow this link.

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.
Items can be placed in the basket in the back of the church. Thank you.

The latest newsletter from Exeter Food Bank

Letter from Caritas Diocese of Plymouth

We have received a lovely letter from Caritas, who express their delight in recognising and sharing the great work in our parishes responding to Jesus' example and teaching, by reaching out to the poorest and most vulnerable.
They write: 'Caritas Plymouth would like to recognise the great work of parishes who tirelessly collect for food banks, and for the volunteers who give up their time to support them. In the church porch is a certificate of thanks in recognition of the generosity and love to those in need and they pass on their appreciation for showing faith in action."
They hope they might see you at their annual World Day of the Poor Event.

Tenth World Day of the Poor Event

The Lord is the Refuge of the Poor

Join Caritas Diocese of Plymouth to celebrate the 10th World Day of the Poor on Saturday 14 November 2026, 11.00am – 4.30pm at the newly opened St James Catholic Church, 40 Old Road, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 4H J. Bishop Nicholas will open the day and it will end with Mass.

Keynote speaker David Wells will reflect on Pope Leo's message for this year and Canon Kristian Paver will speak about the new church. Registration for this free event and early booking is advised. To register, click 10th World Day of the Poor Event, email caritas@prcdtr.org.uk or telephone 01364 645440

Catholic Children's Society

We are going orange for October

Do you have any of the following: stamp collections, first day covers or old envelopes and postcards pre-1950, coins and banknotes – any and all, old and new, from all over the world, obsolete or otherwise. precious metals including broken jewellery, old trophies, gold, silver, metals including ornaments, metal toys, keys and locks, metal cutlery – any age and any condition, costume jewellery, medals, small antiques and collectibles, watches – digital, quartz or manual wind – working or not, Catholic items such as rosaries, crucifixes, medals but not books.

Please put them in the Orange Box in the St Richard Reynolds Centre.

Thank you to all our parishes, schools and individual loyal supporters for your continued support of our small children's charity. Without your generosity, we would not be able to continue supporting so many families of all faiths and none who are struggling to provide the basic essentials of life for their children.

It's hard to imagine that there are children sleeping on the floor or sharing beds with a sibling or even a parent, and by applying for a grant through our Essential Grants programme with the support of a professional worker supporting the family, we can purchase beds for these families, school uniform or white goods such as cookers, washing machines and fridge/freezers. For more information, please visit our website or call 01364 645420.



CCSP Crowdfunder Prize Draw

Would you like to win this calming relaxation bundle? You could keep some of the prizes for yourself or gift them to family and friends for Christmas as the draw takes place on Monday, 23 November 2026.

Included in the bundle is a beautiful, large handmade quilt, a gorgeous, soft to the touch crocheted teddy, a wonderful, handmade, white circular Christening gown, a calming diffuser with a selection of essential oils, a scented candle advent calendar.

Thank you to the parishioners who kindly donated these items. Tickets can be purchased by following this link . Thank you for your continued support.

Advent Retreat Exploring Prayer and Conversion

Saturday 5 December 2026 St Rita's Centre

The day will be led by Fr. Gerald Wilson OAR and begin with coffee/tea on arrival at 9.30am. The first talk 10.00am, the second talk at 11.00am. Adoration (with an opportunity for Confession) at 12.00pm. Lunch will be served at 1.00pm. Holy Mass at 2.45pm. Depart at 3.30pm. The charge for the day, including lunch, is just £27.00.

To register, please complete the application form available in the porch or from the parish office and let us know of any dietary requirements. You can contact St Rita's Centre by phone at 01404 42635, by email at admin@stritascentre.org, or register online via our website: please following this link . Payment can be made in advance or on the day.

The Rosary Confraternity

A spiritual association of Catholic faithful under the pastoral care of the Order of Preachers (the Dominicans). Its purpose is to encourage devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary through the regular prayer of the Rosary, uniting members across the world in common prayer and spiritual charity. Enrolment is free and open to all baptised Catholics. Please see the poster in the porch.

The Pope's Intention for October

For mental health ministry.

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.
Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

Diocese of Plymouth News

Catholic Bishops' Conference News

St Nicholas School News

We are holding events for parents of children entering Reception Class in September 2027 on Wednesday 21 October at either 1.45pm or 6.00pm. You will have a chance to see the school, meet the staff and ask any questions you may have. Please contact admissions@stncs.plymouthcast.com or call 01392 445403 to book a place.

On Friday 23 October we will say goodbye to Mrs Nicky Burgoyne after over 30 years at St Nicholas as a Teaching Assistant. She has demonstrated the St Nicholas values every day through her loyalty, faith and love for the school and the many children she has supported and taught. She will be a huge loss and will be much missed, although we are sure she will come back often. Many of our parishioners will know her and we are sure will join all at St Nicholas in wishing Nicky a long and happy retirement.

We have had an exciting few weeks. The older children have taken part in African drumming sessions and some fantastic sounds and rhythms were heard all day. Years 5 and 6 were also visited by an actor playing the part of the most decorated WW1 soldier. In character he told them all about his experiences and they could ask questions about his life. It was fascinating.

Years 1 and 2 are looking forward to some forest school sessions next week to explore the outdoors and are excited about an upcoming visit from a mobile planetarium.

If any parishioners would like to find out more about joining St Nicholas Nursery (from age 3) or School please contact admissions@stncs.plymouthcast.com

Refreshments after Mass

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

Plymouth CAST Board of Directors

Plymouth CAST is a Catholic multi-academy trust of 34 schools and 1 nursery, spanning the Diocese of Plymouth. Our mission is to be a community of outstanding schools in which our pupils flourish in safe, happy, and stimulating environments and leave us with the knowledge and skills, personal qualities, and aspirations, to make the world a better place, inspired by the Gospel.

We are looking to expand our Board of Directors. We are particularly interested in hearing from you if you have skills and current or recent experience of education at primary or secondary level, particularly within a multi-academy trust. Please contact the Clerk to the Trust Board for further information lpaiano@plymouthcast.org.uk

Parish Secretary Vacancy

Parish of Most Precious Blood, Sidmouth…

Reporting to the Parish Priest, the purpose of the role is to manage the administrative and secretarial support alongside the office resources to ensure the smooth running of the Parish and to enable the Parish Priest to carry out his ministry and parish responsibilities.

If you have good knowledge of and experience using Microsoft Office applications, including Word, Outlook and Teams, along with excellent organisational skills and the ability to act as a key representative for the Diocese of Plymouth, we would love to hear from you.

Hours: 16 hours a week • Location: Church of Most Precious Blood, Radway, Sidmouth, EX10 8TW • Salary: £14.50 an hour • Closing date: 20 October 2026

Application form and job description from recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk. Applications are by covering letter and application form to recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk

FORMING IN FAITH

Gift Growing in Faith Together

Next GIFT session Saturday 7 November 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. We hope that this will be an opportunity for the young people of our parish to ask questions, engage with and grow in faith together and to support each other as they learn what it means to be a Catholic in today's world.

GIFT Youth Socials (school years 7-9)

If your child has just entered Year 7, they are very welcome. Come and have fun!

GIFT Youth Caritas

This group is open for all young people entering School Year 10 through to 17 years of age. Meetings take place on the 1st Friday of every month, from 7.30-9.30pm in the St Richard Reynolds Centre (RRC) at Blessed Sacrament Church. Together the group learn about Catholic Social Teaching, identify international/local needs and plan fund-raising/awareness activities around chosen themes. Young people collectively facilitate this group under the guidance of a team of GIFT Youth adults.

To register for GIFT Youth, GIFT Youth Socials and GIFT Youth Caritas please use 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…

…Catherine Alexander-Clarke who has died. May she rest in peace. Please keep Catherine's family and friends in your prayers. Her funeral will be held at East Devon Crematorium on Friday 23 October at 10:00am

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 are invited 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 18 October – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

I have grasped the right hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before him.

Psalm Response Ascribe to the Lord glory and power.

Second Reading 1Thessalonians 1:1-5b *Remembering your faith, love and hope.*

Gospel Matthew 22: 15-21

Render to Caeser the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's

Everyone on this earth belongs to God. All are made in his image. Therefore it is right that all men and women, 'from the rising to the setting of the sun', should know the God to whom they belong. The only desire of our God is that all should know and love him, and find in him the fulfilment that they seek. Even a pagan king like Cyrus is used to further this knowledge of God - just as Jesus uses Caesar's head to make the point again: all belong to God, and the mission of all who acknowledge that belonging is to help others to find it. This is exactly what we see Paul, Silvanus and Timothy doing, as they write to the people of Thessalonika, to whom they carried the Good News of Jesus Christ. *Salford Office for Liturgy*

Sunday 25 October – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Exodus 22: 21-27

If you mistreat any widow or fatherless child, my wrath will burn against you.

Psalm Response I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second Reading Thessalonians 1:5c-10

You turned away from idols to serve God and to wait for his Son.

Gospel Matthew 22:34-40

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

Sunday 1 November – Solemnity of All Saints

First Reading Malachi 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10

You have turned aside from the way. You caused many to stumble by your instruction.

Psalm Response Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.

Second Reading Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13

We were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves.

Gospel Matthew 22:34-40

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

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 Representative
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 Damian Railston

DIOCESE OF PLYMOUTH

Blessed Sacrament Parish is part of the Diocese of Plymouth