

CATHOLIC EXETER



Parishes of Sacred Heart and Blessed Sacrament

4 December 2022 Second Sunday of Advent. Year A. Psalter 2



'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This is the message of St John the Baptist, and it also the proclamation of Jesus at the beginning of his ministry. Why? Because repentance *is* to prepare a way for the Lord, to make His paths straight. Before we can welcome the Light of the World, we must recognise the darkness in our lives. Before we can love Christ and welcome Him, we must refuse to love that which divides us from Him. It isn't about merely feeling sorry, it is about producing appropriate fruit, actually doing something about it, and not presuming to tell ourselves, 'Everything is fine because I'm a Christian and God loves me.' Because God does love us, He calls us to repent, to turn away from our sins and seek Him with all our heart. But if we do not repent, then we are those who prefer the darkness to the Light, we prefer to love ourselves instead of the God of Love. This is a disaster for us! And so, we hear God plead with us again, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' *Fr Albert*

MASS TIMES SACRED HEART



Sunday 4 December – Second Sunday of Advent

- 5.30pm (Sat) *Louis & Isabel Barrera RIP*
9.15am *Crístóir O'Mongáin & Evelyn Cabebe*
11.15am *People of the Parish*
5.00-6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

Monday 5 December

- 10.00am *Fr Verenfield RIP*

Tuesday 6 December – St Nicholas, Bishop

- 10.00am *Howard Fishley RIP*

Wednesday 7 December – St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

- 10.00am *John Povey RIP*

Thursday 8 December – The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary

- 6.30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
7.00pm *Mary Pierce RIP*

Friday 9 December

- 10.00am *Rachel Munro RIP*

7.00pm Advent Penitential Service at Blessed Sacrament Church

Saturday 10 December – Our Lady of Loreto

- 10.00am *Intentions of CWL*

Sunday 11 December – Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday

- 5.30pm (Sat) *Dr Shauna Mary Kate*
9.15am *People of the Parish*
11.15am *Joseph Ward*
5.00-6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

Confessions

Saturdays after 10.00am Mass and 4.00–5.00pm and on reasonable request.

Live stream Mass To access the YouTube stream please [click here](#).

Refreshments served after Masses on Sunday (9.15am), Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.

Church open for private prayer from 9.00am until 6.00pm each day.

MASS TIMES BLESSED SACRAMENT



Sunday 4 December – Second Sunday of Advent

8.45am *Cherian RIP*
10.45am *Fr Kieran Kirby*
6.00pm *People of the Parish*

Tuesday 6 December – St Nicholas, Bishop

9.30am *St Nicholas School*
6.30pm *Holy Souls*

Wednesday 7 December – St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

9.30am *Phil Bawden*

Thursday 8 December – The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary

9.30am *Charles Quinn RIP*

Friday 9 December

7.00pm **Advent Penitential Service (No Mass)**

Saturday 10 December

9.30am *The Sick & Housebound of the parish*

Sunday 11 December – Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday

8.45am *People of the Parish*
10.45am *Annie – In thanksgiving*
6.00pm *Dodie Weir RIP*

Confessions

Saturdays after 9.30am Mass and on reasonable request.

Live stream Mass

To access the YouTube stream please [click here](#).

Refreshments

Served after 10.45am Mass on Sunday and 9.30am Mass on Wednesday.

ADVENT

Advent Retreats with the Sisters of Mary Morning Star

Retreat for Young Women aged 18–35

16–18 December. An opportunity for young women to study St Thomas Aquinas' teaching on the Mystery of the Incarnation, and to learn how to do Lectio Divina.

Day retreats open to all

Tuesdays during Advent, 6, 13 and 20 December 11.30am till 6.30pm. The day starts with Mass at 11.30am. Please bring a packed lunch and a bible.

All retreats are being held at the Convent in Lynton EX35 6BS. To book or for more information contact the Sisters on 01598 753373 or email

srsmarymorningstar@gmail.com

Walk With Me

Enjoy a spiritual time of prayer and reflection during Advent with the Walk with Me Advent Prayer Journey books which are available at a cost of £1.00 each. Please place your money in the repository wall box marked 'books' at Blessed Sacrament, or the wall box marked 'Repository Items' at Sacred Heart.

Advent Penitential Service

Join us at Blessed Sacrament Church on **Friday 9 December at 7.00pm** for the Exeter parishes annual Penitential Service. There will be several priests present to hear confessions.

Bambinelli Sunday

11 December the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) is Bambinelli Sunday. It has for many years been the day when the children of Rome bring the figurines of Baby Jesus from their family cribs to St. Peter's Square to be blessed by the Pope during the Angelus. Instituted by St. Pope John Paul II during his Papacy, the tradition has continued and has grown in popularity across the universal Church. This is a tradition which Pope Francis keeps; a wonderful way for us to prepare spiritually for the coming of Jesus. To mark the Feast, the Exeter parishes will join with parishes around the world, in celebrating the tradition of Bambinelli Sunday. You are invited to bring the Christ Child figure from your home crib (or your whole crib if it is small) to be blessed during all Masses.

Simbang Gabi

This traditional Filipino Mass will be celebrated at Blessed Sacrament on **Saturday 17 December at 3.30pm**. An invitation is extended to all parishioners to join the Filipino community.

Advent Carol Service

Sunday 18 December at Blessed Sacrament at 3.00pm followed by refreshments in the St Richard Reynolds Centre.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas Mass Times

BLESSED SACRAMENT

Christmas Eve 24 December Vigil Mass: 6.00pm

Carols and Readings followed by Midnight Mass: 11.30pm

Christmas Day 25 December: 8.45am and 10.45am. No evening Mass

Monday 26 December: 9.30am

SACRED HEART

Christmas Eve 24 December Vigil Mass: 5.30pm

Carols and Readings followed by Midnight Mass: 11.30pm

Christmas Day 25 December: 9.15am and 11.15am.

Monday 26 December: 10.00am

Christmas Offerings

Envelopes are available at Sacred Heart and Blessed Sacrament for the traditional Christmas offering for the priests.

Sacred Heart Christmas Decoration Offering

On the Third Sunday of Advent there will be an opportunity at the end of Mass to donate towards the cost of the flowers and the decoration of our beautiful church. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Ministry at Christmas at Blessed Sacrament

If you are able to read at Mass at Christmas, please sign the sheet on the Martyrs altar at the back of church. Please also take a copy the reading you have selected.

CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME



Donations of money

All donations can be placed in an envelope marked 'Love Christmas'. and put in the collection basket when you come to Mass at Blessed Sacrament. If you have the parish bank details, you

can donate this way. Please add 'Love Christmas' in the narrative box. Please contact the Parish Office if you have any questions.

Nominations

We ask you to nominate someone (individual or family), who does not have to be a parishioner, you think would benefit from a small gift this Christmas, someone who is struggling financially or who is lonely, sick or housebound. There are nomination forms at Blessed Sacrament. Please complete it and return it to the parish office

I nominate.....

Address.....

All nominations will be treated in confidence.

Please return to the parish office/via the presbytery letterbox

NB: Last date for donations & nominations is 13 December



Winter Vinnie Packs

This year SVP are once again distributing 50 Vinnie packs for the homeless of our city. These contain a woolly hat, thermal gloves, socks, toothbrush, toothpaste and writing materials. The packs cost around £4 each. They were extremely well received last year. In total SVP are distributing 10,000 of these nationwide so they will make a real difference. If you

would like to sponsor a pack or two, you can pop the money into the SVP box at the back of Sacred Heart church or else through the parish office door, labelling your gift as SVP. If you would like to help or know of someone who would benefit from SVP support, do contact Peter Schranz on pschranz5@gmail.com.

CAFOD News

Fix the Food System This year we launched our Fix the Food System campaign beginning a journey that will last for several years as we focus on why our broken food system needs to be reformed.

Business, Human Rights and Environment Act We are calling on the UK government to introduce a new Business, Human Rights and Environment Act to hold business to account when it fails to prevent human rights abuses and environmental harm. If we are to tackle the climate crisis and global poverty around the world, we must address the destruction linked to UK companies. So far over 90% of MPs have been contacted by almost 3000 Cafod supporters asking that they support the new Act that would hold UK businesses accountable for harm they cause around the world. Will you email your MP today, asking them to back a new law? [Find the form to your MP send here](#)

More people needed Currently, the Sacred Heart CAFOD group has only 3 members. If anyone would like to be involved, please contact Criostoir O'Mongain criostoirom@icloud.com

Blessed Sacrament Foodbank Christmas Tree

Our tree still has plenty of Exeter Foodbank tags. Each tag includes an item the Foodbank has prioritised this Christmas. Please take a tag, purchase that item, bring it to church and place it under the tree. Many will benefit from your generosity. Thank you in anticipation.

Mince Pies for Force Cancer Charity

An afternoon of mince pies, mulled wine, a raffle and a showing of the film Elf. It's taking place in the St Richard Reynolds Centre at 2.00pm on **Thursday 8 December**. This is a ticket only event and tickets are £7.00 and available from Jane Martin 07890 373617. All proceeds are for Force Cancer Charity

Mary's Meals

Join our [Big Family Christmas](#) and help feed hungry children with Mary's Meals. For just £15.90 you can set a place for yourself or a loved one at our virtual Christmas dinner table. Your name will appear online and you'll receive a beautiful PDF placemat to pass on as a gift. And, with [Double The Love](#), donations to Mary's Meals until 31 January 2023 are being matched by a group of generous supporters – up to £1.5 million. This means each place set will feed two children with life-changing school meals for a whole year!

Food Hub

Every Thursday from 11.00am until 1.00pm Rediscover Church EX4 3ER run a Food Hub, for anyone who is struggling with the purchasing of food at the moment. Come along and pick up a range of different items to take home for free. If you have any food you would like to donate or would like to join our team of volunteers, email: jason.ham@rediscoverchurch.com More information [Rediscover Church FoodHub](#)

Exeter Foodbank

Can you help by donating any of these items: Vegetarian meals, tinned fish, tinned meat, biscuits, UHT milk, noodle snacks, jams & spreads, custard, rice pudding, sponge puddings, 500g coffee jars, small bags of sugar. Collection points are at the back of Sacred Heart church.

Cost of Living Campaign

Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), the Bishops' Conference agency promoting domestic social action, has launched a campaign calling on the government to make changes to the welfare and tax system for the benefit of society's most vulnerable. The agency is also calling on Catholics to write to their MPs to share how poverty is affecting their communities. For more information on the campaign, including a template letter to send to MPs, [click here](#).

FORMING IN FAITH

Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

Wednesday Word meets online via zoom from 2.00-3.00pm. If you would like to join us then, get in touch with Maria: exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk. Come whenever you can, you will be most welcome.



Finding Joy in our lives today

'The Joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus.' With these words of Pope Francis began his first encyclical. Come along and join a group discovering afresh the contents of this wonderful letter. We will meet every Thursday from 1 December to 19 January (with a break for Christmas) at 10.30 – 12.00 noon in Sacred Heart Lower Room. Come and see!



Baptism Preparation Course

Are you expecting a baby and/or looking to have your child baptised? We look forward to supporting you in preparation for this important sacrament and welcoming you and your family into the community of the Church. Courses are over two consecutive Saturday mornings from 10.15-12.15 delivered via Zoom.

Forthcoming dates: **21 and 28 January**, 15 and 22 April, 15 and 22 July and 14 and 21 October 2023.

Godparents are especially welcome to attend the second Saturday session as the role of Godparents is explored. Click on the link at the end of this article to register. If you have any problems accessing this, contact Lesley on 01392 274724 or exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk or on 01392 274724. We are now taking bookings for the January 2023 course. [Baptism Enquiry form](#)

GIFT: Gateway to the Sacraments

GIFT is for all families of faith who want to learn about their Catholic faith, meet other families and be supported in their family faith journey. GIFT is the gateway to the sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Find out more on the Blessed Sacrament Website GIFT page: [Click Here](#)

Get in Touch and Register If you would like to join us, please register using the appropriate link: GIFT Primary [Registration Form](#) and GIFT Youth [Registration Form](#) If you have any questions, please get in touch with Maria exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

Forming in Faith – The Creed

We have now watched five episodes of Bishop Robert Barron's fascinating exploration of The Creed. The next session is: One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic. **Monday 5 December 10.30am – 12.30pm at Sacred Heart.**
Tuesday 6 December 7.00 – 9.00pm at Blessed Sacrament.

Come along and find out more about what we profess every Sunday

Dipping into the Catechism

[Click here for December sheets.](#)

YOUTH

Flame 2023

Join Youth Events at Wembley Stadium on Saturday 4 March 2023. Tickets are £35 which include entry and travel to Wembley. Coaches will pick up from locations in Dorset and Devon. It's a great chance to hear from speakers like Robert Bilott, singer/ songwriter Adenike and award winner Guvna B. This is the largest Catholic gathering in England and Wales. This is for those aged 14 to 21. To book [please use this form](#) or contact Saskia or Michelle by emailing youth@prcdtr.org.uk

Youth Events E-Newsletter [Click here for the latest news](#)

NEWS & EVENTS

Diocesan Yearbook 2023

The 2023 Diocesan Yearbook is now available at a cost of £4.00. It is a great source of diocesan information and news. Please put your payment in the wall box marked 'Books' at Blessed Sacrament or 'Repository Items' at Sacred Heart.

Blessed Sacrament Weekly Giving Envelopes

The weekly gift aid and planned giving envelopes are available for collection from the Parish Office. Do remember to let us know if there are any changes in your circumstances; for instance, are you still paying income tax? If you have moved recently let us know your correct contact details. If you are new to the Parish and perhaps not considered gift aiding your donations this is easily done. For more information about this and standing orders, please visit the Parish Office.

Blessed Sacrament Children's Liturgy Support

Can you help our lovely catechists? We are looking for volunteers who are willing to be a safeguarding presence during Children's Liturgy at the 10.45am Mass on Sundays. You will be required to take a register and be another adult presence in the group supporting the catechist whilst they lead the session. You will need a DBS certificate and the parish can help if you don't already have one. Please contact Lesley in the Parish Office exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk if you are able to help.



St Nicholas School News

St Nicholas Day 6 December

As the patron saint of our school, it is our feast day too. We will celebrate with Mass in the school hall at 9.30am. The children will be making paper shoes which will be filled with chocolate coins donated by our PTA. Parishioners are most welcome to come and join us for Mass.

We still have a vacancy for a **Foundation Governor**. If any parishioners are interested in this role and want to find out more, contact Mrs

Brocksom, Clerk to Governors abrocksom@stncls.uk. Please also contact Mrs Brocksom if you are interested in volunteering to read with children in school. You will need a DBS check, which will be carried out by the school.

Pilgrimage to Assisi:

The Lives of St Francis and St Clare

A talk by Maria Edwards after 9.30am Mass on Wednesday 7 December 2022 in the St Richard Reynolds Centre. All welcome.

Accommodation Needed

A Ukrainian single parent family currently living in East Devon looking for accommodation in Exeter as the daughters attend St Nicholas School and Exeter College and mum works in Exeter. Travelling to Exeter by public transport is inconvenient and expensive. Please contact Charlotte Wilson on 07967719456.

Diocesan Vacancy

Safeguarding Administrator (part time) – 1 post

Location: St. Boniface House, Ashburton, Devon with some home working to meet COVID Secure requirements. Salary: £12.20 per hour pro rata'd to 3 days (Actual Salary £13,322 per annum) FTE £22,204. Hours: 3 days a week preferably Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. The Safeguarding Administrator works as part of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team delivering measures to ensure the safety of the young and vulnerable within the diocese. The successful applicant will have a good understanding of Microsoft Office, a high level of IT fluency and an ability to learn new IT systems. Job description and person specification are obtainable from the HR Department on 01364 645383.

PRAYER & LITURGY

Rest in Peace...

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Charles Quinn who has died. Charles is father-in-law of Maria Quinn, our Pastoral Assistant. We also pray for Roger and Brian and all the family at this time. May he rest in peace.

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary will meet in the Lower Room at Sacred Heart at 5.30pm on Friday 9 December and at 5.30pm every Friday from now on. All welcome.

Taizé Adoration

Wednesday 7 December at 7.00pm at Sacred Heart Church. Join us for this special time of prayer and praise.

Stronghold Praise and Worship

Thursday 15 December: Join us to praise and worship God in song and music in the St Richard Reynolds Centre at Blessed Sacrament at 7.15pm. We look forward to welcoming you to praise God in song and prayer. All welcome.

THE WORD

Sunday 4 December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

First Reading – Isaiah 11:1-10

He judges the wretched with integrity.

Psalm Response: *In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.*

Second Reading – Romans 15:4-6 *Christ is the saviour of all men.*

Gospel – Matthew 3:1-12 *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand*

Sunday 11 December – 3rd Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday

First Reading – Isaiah

God himself is coming to save you.

Psalm Response: *Come, Lord, and save us'*

Second Reading – St James 5:7-10

Do not lose heart for the Lord's coming will be soon

Gospel – Matthew 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?.

CONTACT US

Blessed Sacrament

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

Parish Secretary

Lesley Hooper

Office hours Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday 10.00am–4.00pm

Gift Aid enquiries:

exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk

Sacred Heart

25 South Street, Exeter EX1 1EB
01392 272815

exeter-sacredheart@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Priest

Fr Kieran Kirby

Assistant Priests

Fr Albert Lawes &

Fr Anil Gundabathina

Deacons

Delian Bower & Kelvin Russell

Parish Secretary

Coral Saunders-Mortier

Office Hours -9.00am-12.00pm &
1.00pm- 4.00pm Tuesday - Friday

Gift Aid Enquiries: [exeter-sacredheart-](mailto:exeter-sacredheart-giftaid@prcdtr.org.uk)

giftaid@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish School

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School
Ringswell Avenue, Exeter EX1 3EG
01392 445403

admin@stnics.uk

www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk

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Cathy Blatchford

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Safeguarding

Sacred Heart

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Maria Edwards

07870 696530

Useful links

[Bishops' Conference Updates](#)

[Churches Together Devon News](#)

[Churches Together Exeter News](#)

[Churches Together England News](#)

*Catholic Exeter is part of the Roman
Catholic Diocese of Plymouth.*