



# The Parish of the Holy Family

Holy Ghost Church, Exmouth EX8 2JH

St Peter, Prince of Apostles, Budleigh Salterton EX9 6RZ

[www.holyghostexmouth.org.uk](http://www.holyghostexmouth.org.uk)

[holyghost1@btconnect.com](mailto:holyghost1@btconnect.com)



Registered Charity 213227



The Parish Office  
The Parish Priest  
The Parish Office Manager  
The Deacon  
The Sisters of the Holy Family  
St Joseph's School  
Chaplain to Exeter Hospitals

The Presbytery, 11 Raddenstile Lane, Exmouth EX8 2JH  
Fr. Philip Austen 01395 263384  
Jane Cheyne 01395 263384 fax 263594  
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01395 272702  
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Exeter 01392 272815

## First week in Ordinary Time B1 Ps 1 Maximum safe number 49 at Holy Ghost Church

Friday 8 January	2.00 pm	Eveline Mary Mulholland RIP (F)
Saturday 9 January	5.00 pm	James & Ellen Eliza Bennett Forebears & descendants RIP (F)
Sunday 10 January	10.00 am	Parish
Wednesday 13 January	11.00 am	Anne Ellis RIP (wife of Fr. Robin)
Friday 15 January	2.00 pm	Edward & Dolores Lloyd Payne RIP (F)

Please pray for our parishioners, family & friends, especially those who are sick, those undergoing medical procedures and in hospital and those feeling isolated in these challenging times

**Let us pray for one another.** *Fr Philip*

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is available by making an appointment with me, via the Parish Office.



Photo by Eric Howard

**IS OUR CHURCH STILL OPEN?** In these times of uncertainty, when we can take nothing for granted, please, please, refer to our website at least once a week, where changes will be posted. You will also find other spiritual and devotional material, which is updated every week.

Access to the church will be for the 30 minutes only before each mass to satisfy our 'track & trace' management protocols - hand sanitizing and personal registration and face coverings will be required. **Remember, if you feel ill and have flu-like** or coronavirus symptoms, please do not come to church. Similarly, if you have been in contact with anyone who may have symptoms of coronavirus please stay at home. We are confident that we are taking every precaution to keep you safe. The church is cleaned and sanitized after every opening. Entry to the church has been managed very sensitively by our stewards, without whom, I wouldn't be able to open the church for you. We have been

advised that there continues to be no access to church halls, kitchens or toilets

## Open churches vital for resilience during lockdown, says Cardinal

Monday, January 4th, 2021 @ 9:23 pm

With the announcement of a new lockdown for England to curb the rapid spread of COVID-19, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said:

“The regular practice of our faith in God is a well-established source of both personal resilience and dedicated service to those in need. Such resilience and enduring service are vital in these difficult circumstances.

“I am glad that no measures have been introduced that would obstruct or curtail this essential source of energy for the common good. Catholic parishes will continue to serve the needs of their local community.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/open-churches-vital-for-resilience-during-lockdown-says-cardinal/>



**Check out Pope Francis' daily tweets on Twitter Pope Francis @Pontifex** *‘Jesus is the eternal Word of God, who has always thought of us and wanted to communicate with us’*

**The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.** Masses will continue to be streamed online. There are quick links on our website for you to access from the Cathedral and other churches in the Diocese.

**An Act of Spiritual Communion** My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and “I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.”

**OPERATION ‘NO ROOM IN THE INN** would not have been possible without the *dedication of our ‘call handler’ who cheerfully worked many hours taking calls and producing ‘track & trace’ lists so that we could celebrate together this year. I am very grateful to her and all our teams of ‘Covid-secure’ stewards who have come week after week to open the church, sign you in and then thoroughly clean afterwards. As we enter a New Year and another lockdown situation, I would be very grateful if any of you could volunteer to help as a steward and so ease the pressure on those who have given us so many hours. Thank you Fr. Philip*

**A very personal thank you** *too for all the cards and gifts I have received – and for the generous Christmas Collections. You are truly kind to me. Thank you to Sheila for arranging the flowers and to Geoff & Trish Ames at Greenfingers for our tree, Emily & Harry for decorating the tree and all our stewards. May God richly bless you in 2021*

**The Sisters of the Holy Family** *wish to thank parishioners for their Christmas cards, good wishes and prayers. We are most appreciative of your kindness. We in turn, wish you all a Happy & healthy New Year. May God bless you*



**THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE SENT IN DONATIONS TO HOSPISCARE** - Our Advent Appeal this year has been to support the excellent work of Hospiscare. Many of us have experienced or seen the wonderful work that they do and they, like many charities, have been experiencing a huge drop in their income due to the pandemic. You have donated a tremendous £855.00 **Thank you**



*“The Wise Men were overjoyed on seeing the star again. They went into the house and when they saw the Child with Mary his mother, they knelt and worshipped Him.” Matt. 2: 10*

**This week** we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany where traditionally in many parts of the world gifts are exchanged. Just as the Three Kings brought gifts to Jesus, so gifts are exchanged amongst family and friends.

*An ancient Christian custom associated with the Epiphany is the blessing of homes with chalk. We adopted this tradition in our parish many years ago and it is a wonderful way to quietly evangelise. Normally we provide the blessing and chalk for you but obvious restrictions prevent us from doing that this year.*

*As we face even more challenges at the start of this New Year, I invite you to adopt this custom in your family. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our homes, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows. I pray that your ‘holy doorway’ will become a source of blessing for you, your whole family and all who visit your house. Happy New Year! Fr. Philip*



**Blessing the Home** Using chalk, mark the lintel of your front door (front porch, step or wall as follows: **20 + C + M + B + 21**

**While saying:** The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar followed the star of God’s Son who became human two thousand and seventeen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the New Year. Amen

**Then all the family say together the following prayer:**

Visit, O Lord, our home with the joy of your presence. Bless all who live here, and all who visit us, with the gift of your love. May we show your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in love of you. Guide, comfort and strengthen us in your peace. Amen.



**Diocese of Plymouth**  
From the Office of the Bishop

My dear brothers and sisters,

The one piece of 'good news' in the advice issued by the Government, following the Prime Minister's address last night, was that people can still attend public Mass. This present 'lockdown' will, therefore, be different to what we experienced between March and June of last year. It is a blessing that people can still visit Church, and that we are able to continue to celebrate Mass publicly. We know this is not the case in some other places.

We are grateful to the Government for recognising the central place that places of worship have in the life of our country. They are vital for our spiritual and personal wellbeing, and our worship of God, in turn, is a source of strength and spiritual energy for our continued service of others. We know we must observe the protocols around 'Hands-Face-Space' with an increased vigilance, given the virulence of the latest strain of the virus.

I am, nevertheless, aware within myself - and I imagine within many of us - of a certain weariness. It does not help that we are in the depths of winter, and the normal familial, and friendship supports, are not easily accessible to us. It is also clear that life will not return to any kind of 'new normal' for several months yet. COVID will continue to exercise its power, limiting so many aspects of our lives.

I believe each of us must 'dig deep' within ourselves, and in our faith, in these months. Tomorrow we will celebrate the great Solemnity of the Epiphany, when we recall visit of the three wise men and the homage they came to pay to the Infant King. They brought the gift of Myrrh, used to anoint those who die, recognising that this child would participate fully in the reality of our human mortality. As we reflect on that 'painful gift'

let us continue to work with those close to death, to give them and their loved ones, hope in a time of darkness. The wise men brought Gold, a sign that Jesus is King; a reminder to us that we need to put our countries resources in these months, at the service of those most in need.

Their third gift was Frankincense – a reminder that this child they were greeting was also their God and deserving of their worship and prayer. We need to continue to pray deeply; to find silence to be with God, who makes sense of all our struggles. It is vital, in order to be in touch with the life of Jesus and His Holy Spirit which He has poured into our hearts.

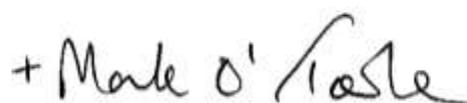
In that vein, I am reminded of a maxim of St John of the Cross which gives a direction, and to me, a certain consolation:

*“Enter within yourself and work there in the presence of your Lord who is always there loving you.”*

So often we do not see the fruits of our prayers or of our labours, and this seems acutely so in the time of COVID. Yet every faithful thing we undertake in this time, for the love of God and of our neighbour, will bear fruit in ways beyond our understanding, I am sure, even if the reality of that is ‘hidden with Christ in God’, at least to us. In these months, then, let us look to Him, who brings light to our eyes and strength to our weary limbs.

In this year of St Joseph, the great protector and defender of Jesus and Mary, in a time of crisis, it is to Him that I entrust us all, and I ask your prayer for me.

Yours devotedly,



Rt Rev Mark O'Toole  
Bishop of Plymouth

**Welcome the Stranger – Celebrating the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita**  
**8 February 2021 5-6.30 pm**

All are invited to join Bishop Mark O'Toole and Bishop Declan Lang for an evening of prayer and reflection on the issues facing refugees, migrants and those affected by modern slavery. Guest speakers include Nick Hanrahan from the Jesuit Refugee Service and Caroline Virgo from the Clewer initiative. The event will take place via zoom and you can register to attend by emailing [caritas@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:caritas@prcdtr.org.uk).



Please remember the families in our parish who are once more having to teach their children at home. I can only imagine how challenging this is. I am very grateful to the head teacher, staff & governors of St. Joseph's and our local schools for the very many extra hours they are dedicating to give the best possible support to the children & their families. We will remember them in our

prayers.

If you have a young child planning to attend school in September please take a look at the school website;

[https://www.stjosephsprimaryschool.com/website/starting\\_school\\_in\\_sept\\_2021/316864](https://www.stjosephsprimaryschool.com/website/starting_school_in_sept_2021/316864)



## Pope Francis proclaims “Year of St Joseph”

By Vatican News

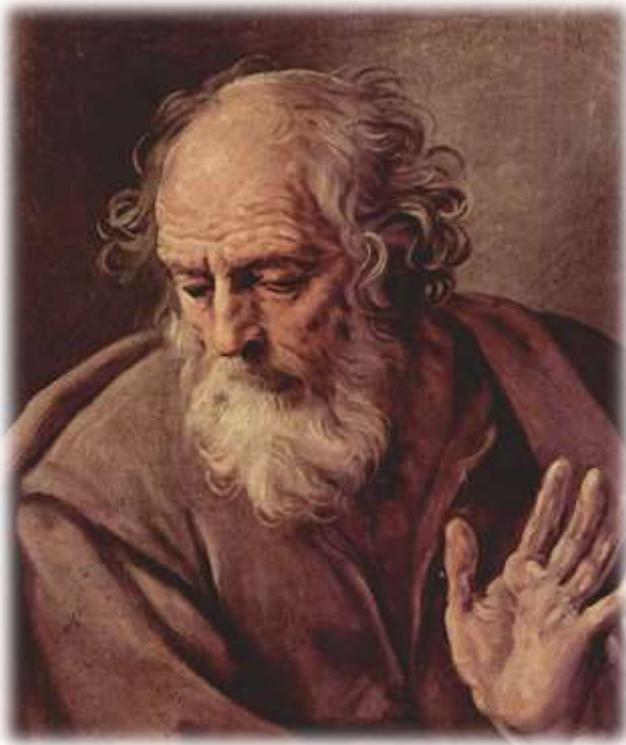
In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX’s declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal

Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special “Year of St Joseph,” beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021.

**Church grants plenary indulgence for year of St. Joseph** The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

**A beloved, tender, obedient father** Saint Joseph, in fact, “concretely expressed his fatherhood” by making an offering of himself in love “a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home,” writes Pope Francis, quoting his predecessor St Paul VI.

And because of his role at “the crossroads between the Old and New Testament,” St Joseph “has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people” (PC, 1). In him, “Jesus saw the tender love of God,” the one that helps us accept our weakness, because “it is through” and despite “our fears, our frailties, and our weakness” that most divine designs are realized. “Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser,” emphasizes the Pontiff, and it is by encountering God’s



mercy especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation that we “experience His truth and tenderness,” – because “we know that God’s truth does not condemn us, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us” (2). Joseph is also a father in obedience to God: with his ‘fiat’ he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to “do the will of the Father.” Called by God to serve the mission of Jesus, he “cooperated... in the great mystery of Redemption,” as St John Paul II said, “and is truly a minister of salvation” (3).

**Welcoming the will of God** At the same time, Joseph is “an accepting Father,” because he “accepted Mary unconditionally” — an important gesture even today, says Pope Francis, “in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident.” But the Bridegroom of Mary is also the one who, trusting in the Lord,

accepts in his life even the events that he does not understand, “setting aside his own ideas” and reconciling himself with his own history.

Joseph’s spiritual path “is not one that *explains*, but accepts” — which does not mean that he is “resigned.” Instead, he is “courageously and firmly proactive,” because with “Holy Spirit’s gift of fortitude,” and full of hope, he is able “to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments.” In practice, through St. Joseph, it is as if God were to repeat to us: “Do not be afraid!” because “faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad,” and makes us aware that “God can make flowers spring up from stony ground.” Joseph “did not look for shortcuts but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it.” For this reason, “he encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak” (4).

**A creatively courageous father, example of love** *Patris corde* highlights “the creative courage” of St. Joseph, which “emerges especially in the way we deal with difficulties.” “The carpenter of Nazareth,” explains the Pope, was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting in divine providence.” He had to deal with “the concrete problems” his Family faced, problems faced by other families in the world, and especially those of migrants.

In this sense, St. Joseph is “the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty.” As the guardian of Jesus and Mary, Joseph cannot “be other than the guardian of the Church,” of her motherhood, and of the Body of Christ. “Consequently, every poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner, every infirm person is ‘the child’ whom Joseph continues to protect.” From St Joseph, writes Pope Francis, “we must learn... to love the Church and the poor” (5).

**A father who teaches the value, dignity and joy of work** “A carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family,” St Joseph also teaches us “the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one’s own labour.” This aspect of Joseph’s character provides Pope Francis the opportunity to launch an appeal in favour of work, which has become “a burning social issue” even in countries with a certain level of well-being. “there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron,” the Pope writes.



Work, he says, “is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion.” Those who work, he explains, “are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us.” Pope Francis encourages everyone “to rediscover the value, the importance and the necessity of work for bringing about a new ‘normal’ from which no one is excluded.” Especially in light of rising unemployment

due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Pope calls everyone to “review our priorities” and to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!” (6).

**A father “in the shadows,” centred on Mary and Jesus** Taking a cue from *The Shadow of the Father* — a book by Polish writer Jan Dobraczyński — Pope Francis describes Joseph’s fatherhood of Jesus as “the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father.” “Fathers are not born, but made,” says Pope Francis. “A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child.” Unfortunately, in today’s society, children “often seem orphans, lacking fathers” who are able to introduce them “to life and reality.” Children, the Pope says, need fathers who will not try to dominate them, but instead raise them to be “capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities.” This is the sense in which St Joseph is described as a “most chaste” father, which is the opposite of domineering possessiveness. Joseph, says Pope Francis, “knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus.”

Happiness for Joseph involved a true gift of self: “In him, we never see frustration, but only trust,” writes Pope Francis. “His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust.” Joseph stands out, therefore, as an exemplary figure for our time, in a world that “needs fathers,” and not “tyrants”; a society that “rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction.” True fathers, instead, “refuse to live the lives of their children for them,” and instead respect their freedom. In this sense, says Pope Francis, a father realizes that “he is most a father and an educator at the point when he becomes ‘useless,’ when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied.” Being a father, the Pope emphasizes, “has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a ‘sign’ pointing to a greater fatherhood”: that of the “heavenly Father” (7).

**A daily prayer to St Joseph... and a challenge** In his letter, Pope Francis notes how, “Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds [Morning Prayer]” he has “recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary.” This prayer, he says, expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph,” on account of its closing words: “My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power.”

At the conclusion of his Letter, he adds another prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*