



# 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)  
exmouth@prcdtr.org.uk

Registered Charity 213227

The Parish Office	The Presbytery, 11 Raddenstile Lane, Exmouth EX8 2JH	
The Parish Priest	Fr. Philip Austen	01395 263384
The Parish Office Manager	Jane Cheyne	01395 263384 fax 263594
The Deacon	Rev. Terry Enright	07977 446479
St Joseph's School		01395 264875
Chaplain to Exeter Hospitals	Exeter	01392 272815



## SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT YEAR C

Sunday 8 December	10.00 am	Parish
Monday 9 December at St. Peter, Prince of Apostles <i>Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	11.00 am	Bernadette Hughes RIP
Tuesday 10 December at St. Peter, Prince of Apostles	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Wednesday 11 December	11.00 am	Jim Berg RIP
Friday 13 December <i>St Lucy V M</i>	2.00 pm	Peggy McGrath RIP
Saturday 14 December	5.00 pm	Parish

## THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT YEAR C

Sunday 15 December <i>Gaudete Sunday..... Blessing of the Bambinelli</i>	10.00 am	Jim & Dorothy Gegg RIP
Tuesday 17 December at St. Peter, Prince of Apostles	11.00 am	Priscilla & John Gordon Hull RIP
Wednesday 18 December <i>Funeral mass Bridget Marchant RIP</i>	11.00 am	Bridget Marchant RIP
Friday 20 December	2.00 pm	Fr. Barrie Hallett RIP
Saturday 21 December	5.00 pm	Sheila & Walter Kevern RIP (F)

## FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT YEAR C

Sunday 22 December	10.00 am	Parish
Tuesday 24 December at St. Peter, Prince of Apostles	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Vigil of The Nativity of the Lord</i>	8.00 pm	Private intention
Wednesday 25 December <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	10.00 am	Parish
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> December at St. Peter, Prince of Apostles St <i>Stephen Protomartyr</i>	11.00 am	Eveline Mary Mulholland RIP
Friday 27 December	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Saturday 28 December	5.00 pm	Fr. Joe Branson RIP

**Please pray for** parishioners, family & friends, especially those who are sick, those undergoing medical procedures and in hospital and those feeling isolated in these challenging times. Please let me know if you are aware of anyone that would like to receive Holy Communion at home

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



## WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

A very warm welcome if you are visiting Exmouth and welcome back if we have not seen you for some time. Fr. Philip

'We must forcefully ask God to show us that star that draws us toward something more than our habits, because that star will lead us to contemplate Jesus, that child who is born in Bethlehem and who wants our full happiness.' Pope Francis 21 Nov 2023

**Blessing of the Bambinelli....** I encourage you to bring you baby Jesus to mass on Gaudete Sunday when I will bless them. You will then be able to place them in your crib at home. Pope Francis wrote his Apostolic Letter, *Admirabile Signum*, on the meaning of the nativity scene in 2019. It is printed for you in full at the end of this bulletin.

### The Tradition of Blessing the Bambinelli



The beautiful Advent Tradition, **Bambinelli Sunday**, was instituted by Saint Pope John Paul II during his Papacy. The tradition follows that on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) children and adults bring their Baby Jesus figures from their homes to St Peters Square where they are blessed by the Pope.

All children and families are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their homes to be blessed. Families can make their own **Bambinelli** if they wish.

Pope Francis has continued the tradition, blessing the statuettes which children bring before him in the Square. Parishes around the world now join in the celebration to help children and young people to prepare for Jesus.

A suggestion is, following the blessing prayer, you wrap your **Bambinelli** and place it with the gifts under your Christmas tree. Open it as a family on Christmas morning where the youngest member of the family can place it in the crib. **A gift of the presence of Christ, then, will be in your home this Christmas.**

### Here is a prayer you may like to use to ask God's blessing

God, our Father you so loved mankind  
that you sent us your only Son Jesus,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
to save us and lead us back to you.

We pray that, with your Blessing,  
these images of Jesus who is about to come among us,  
may be a sign of your presence and love in our homes.

Father, give your Blessing to us too,  
to our parents, to our families and to our friends.

Open our hearts so that we may be able to  
receive Jesus in joy, always do what he asks  
and see him in all those who are in need of our love.

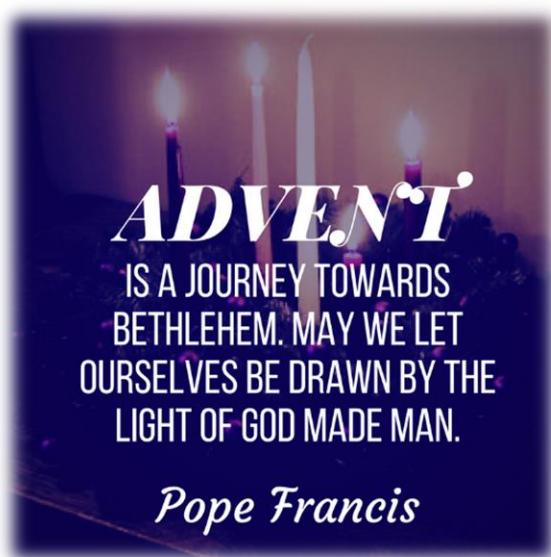
We ask you this in the name of Jesus  
your beloved Son who comes to give the world peace.

He lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.



**MASS INTENTIONS** If you would like a Mass said for a particular intention; for someone who is ill or a loved one who has died; in thanksgiving for an answer to prayer or perhaps a private intention, contact Jane in the parish office who will help you find a date and time which suits you. It is traditional to make an offering at the same time. This is simply what you can afford and would like to give. Please note that to comply with GDPR rules we need the permission of the person named if it is to be made public unless they are deceased.

**Notice to all Ministers** - please can you sign the board in St. Anne's Cloister to ensure that we have enough ministers at each mass. This is particularly important over the coming weeks as we plan for Christmas and some of you may be away. Thank you for your help.



*bring a friend with you.*

### **Parish Advent Reflections**

*Do join me for an hour of prayer, readings, and music in a candlelit church. This will be a precious hour to take time out from the frantic weeks leading up to Christmas and be with Jesus. Just an hour to focus our minds and hearts to prepare for the anniversary of the Lord's birthday at Christmas – can you spare the time?*

*We will come together on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm in Holy Ghost and I encourage you to*

**Please come and help the church cleaning team.** after the morning mass. They aim to come on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month, after the morning mass for about an hour. The great Christmas clean will be after mass on Wednesday 11 December - everyone welcome, everyone needed...do come and stay for coffee afterwards. Thank you for supporting them.

**UCM Meetings for the month of December** 2.00pm in the Holy Ghost church hall, Exmouth.  
**Thursday 15th December** We welcome new members.



**Stay Awake, 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2025** - a day conference for all the family (Mass, Children's streams, Praise and Worship, Speakers, Workshops and pizza!). Venue: All Saints School in Weymouth. More details later! ALL WELCOME! Please save the date!

## WAYS TO DONATE TO THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (PLYMOUTH) THIS CHRISTMAS

If you would like to donate to the CCSP this Christmas, there are several alternative ways you can do this via

- Their Crowdfunding page <http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/step-forward-reach-out-and-help> CCSP receive 100% of every donation, as Crowdfunder have waived all their fees to help charities
- Post your donation by sending a cheque made payable to 'Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)' to St Boniface House, Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7JL
- BACS direct into their account – Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) sort code – 52-41-60 account number – 06024335
- Text – to donate £5 text 5CCSP to 70085, to donate £10 text 10CCSP to 70085 or to donate £20 text 20CCSP to 70085

**THANK YOU**



**SHARE  
OUR LOVE -  
GIVE THEM  
HOPE**

**OFFERINGS AT THE CHRISTMAS CRIB ARE FOR THE  
CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY  
(PLYMOUTH)**

CCSP is a small Diocesan charity working throughout Devon, Cornwall and parts of Dorset. In accordance with the core values of love, justice and forgiveness, the work of the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) supports children and their families by providing:

- Individual grants to families who are struggling to buy the basic essentials
- Free Parenting courses offering practical and emotional support
- Good Shepherd programme which allows children to think how they can help other children less fortunate than themselves
- Bereavement and Loss programmes within schools using Rainbows

**Please scan here using your mobile phone  
to donate to CCSP via Give a Little**

For more information on our work and how we strive to enrich the lives of others, please visit:  
[www.ccsplymouth.org.uk](http://www.ccsplymouth.org.uk)  
or contact us on:  
Tel: 01364 645420  
Email: [ccs@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:ccs@prcdtr.org.uk)

**Putting Children First**

 **DIocese OF PLYMOUTH**



Charity Registration No 282803 Limited by guarantee Registered in England No 1546053



# 13-17 RESIDENTIAL

/rezi'dentl/

A gathering of young people aged 13-17 from across the Diocese so they can get to know others and explore their faith.

**'In his hand is the life of every living thing' Job 12:10**



**24th - 26th January 2025, East Shallowford Farm, Dartmoor**

During the weekend we will explore the scripture Job 12: 7-10, through workshops in, Art, Drama, music, filming and photography. Young people will have a chance to help care for the animals and cook food.



For further information and to book, contact:  
Saskia: [youth@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:youth@prcdtr.org.uk)



## Exmouth Food Bank Christmas 2024 Collection

This Christmas we would really appreciate donations of staple foods that will enable us to keep supporting those in need during the festive period and beyond.

In particular we would welcome:

- Tins of soup
- Tins of tomatoes
- Tins of baked beans and spaghetti
- Meat meals (e.g. tinned stews, curry, meatballs)
- Tinned cold meats (e.g. corned beef, ham)
- Tins of tuna
- Packets of spaghetti and rice
- Tinned fruits
- Tins of custard and rice pudding



Thank you for your support

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR MONTHLY OFFERINGS** and for your continued generosity to the parish. Many of you know that we are currently not encouraged to count and bank cash donations so the most efficient way for you to give is by standing order. Most of you have now started using this method and we are incredibly grateful. It saves us time and eliminates the need to count cash and make journeys to the bank in these difficult times and it's a coronavirus free transaction!! Mandate forms are available by emailing the parish office. Thank you!

**The Parish Finance Committee** would like to remind you that Easter & Christmas offerings are for your parish priest as he doesn't receive a salary. If you would like to give this year, please put your donation into an envelope marked 'Christmas Offering' and post it through the front door of the presbytery. **May God bless you for supporting our priest**

## Christmas in our Parish

Wed. Dec 24th.	The Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord	8.00.p.m.
Thurs. Dec 25th.	 <p>The Nativity of the Lord</p> <p><i>This mass is particularly for families, and I invite you to bring your child dressed as a nativity character to welcome the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ</i></p>	10.00.a.m.



Situations Vacant.... Are you a Mary, Joseph, an angel, shepherd, king..... donkey, sheep or even a camel? Do you know one that would like to come to our family mass on Christmas Day?

I am looking forward to welcoming families to celebrate this special Christmas morning with me and I warmly encourage you to come along with your children. *Fr. Philip*

**As Parish, the safety of our children is paramount. Please accompany your children at all times.** Sad though it may seem to have to point out, there could be dangers when children are left unsupervised in the parish grounds. Sad though it seems to have to draw attention to this, there is not only the risk of a traffic accident if a youngster were to run into the road but we must also be aware that there are individuals who do not have the wellbeing of children as a priority.

**Health & Safety Notice** When you are in church, or on parish premises, please make sure that you are aware of the exits. In the unlikely event of having to vacate the church unexpectedly, during a service, please follow the instructions of the priest and our stewards. They will direct you to the nearest exit. Please vacate promptly. Thank you for helping us keep you safe

If you are interested in supporting this event please let me know    Thank you *Fr. Philip*

*This is an advance notice: put the date in your diary, and please publicise, and encourage family, friends, all ages to pop in. Please note: Room for further stalls, sideshows, activities - liaise via your local church leader.*

*The first Christmas didn't happen in a church building - but in a pub, on a road, in emergency accommodation for a family caught short, and for night-shift workers on a hillside. Christians Together in Exmouth hope the planned Encounters will make the reality of the love at the heart of the first Christmas real for friends, neighbours, strangers in our own town centre.*

*Churches Together in Exmouth are taking over the Christmas Marquee on its final day for a whole day of free events for all ages - celebrating the FREE-GIFT that is at the heart of Christmas. Including ...*

**COSTUMED PROCESSION** 9.45 am & Carols round the town - plus a real Donkey who'll be with us all day - photo op!

**LIVE MUSIC** in the tent - including The Salvation Army band and local school choirs by video link. **CAROLS** old & new.

**MULTIPLE NATIVITY PERFORMANCES** - In the morning Unique **ONE MAN BAND DRAMA** - quick changes! plus key characters wandering around all day (*Clue - their get up or make up, plus sign on their backs inviting you to guess who they are and interview them.*)

From 1.00 pm a chance for anyone who wants to dress up and join in the **FLASH MOB NATIVITY** with full audience participation.

2.00 pm **CHRISTINGLE BINGLE** - a game during which you make your own Christingle to keep (All ingredients available free) and meet the GIANT LIVING Christingle! (Presumably as wide and round as he's tall !?)

3.00 pm Children's **CHRISTMAS PARTY GAMES**.

Plus **STALLS, REFRESHMENTS**, Christmas and Christian CRAFTS & BOOKS (last minute presents?) Bible Society.

**AMONG ALL THE ACTIVITY - A PLACE FOR PRAYER.** Decorating Christmas trees with intercessions, petitions, praises - we need to keep praying for **PEACE ON EARTH & GOODWILL** for all humankind. If you're experiencing a **BLUE CHRISTMAS** - sad, thoughtful, lonely, questions? - there'll be a **QUIET SPACE** here with friendly listeners. And a chance to slow down and rest from the manic pre-Christmas hurly burly!

**CLOSING CONCERT** - Exmouth Town Band (6.00 T.B.C.)