

CATHEDRAL PARISH OF ST MARY & ST BONIFACE

Part of the Plymouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust - Registered Charity No. 213227



St. Joseph's
Raglan Road
Devonport
PL1 4NQ



Cathedral
45 Cecil Street
Stonehouse
PL1 5HW



Christ the King
Armada Way
PL1 2EN

Cathedral House Clergy:

Canon Mark O'Keeffe (Cathedral Dean)
Fr. Jude Udokwu (Assistant Cathedral Priest)
Fr. Martin Budge (Retired Cathedral Priest)

Cathedral: 01752 662537 **Email:** plymouth-cathedral@prcdtr.org.uk **Website:** plymouthcathedral.org.uk
Pastoral Assistant: Lyn McLoughlin **Email:** plymouth-cathedral@prcdtr.co.uk
Director of Music: **Email:** aplmusician@gmail.com

Safeguarding Representatives:

Cathedral: Lyn McLoughlin & Anne Duell **Devonport:** Bernadette Gibbons **Christ the King:** Ben Graat

Cathedral School: cathedral-school.eschools.co.uk **Holy Cross School:** holycross.plymouth.sch.uk
St. Joseph's School: st-josephs.plymouth.sch.uk

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - A -Psalter 1– 26th July 2026

DAILY WORSHIP

Mass will be streamed daily from the Cathedral at 10:00 am –in accordance with GDPR -
see noticeboard for further information

Date	Mass	Intentions
Sunday 26th July 17th Sunday in OT	10:00am 6:00pm	Alexandru Petre (RIP) Gracia Ballege (RIP)
Monday 27th July	10:00am	Father John Bielawski (RIP)
Tuesday 28th July	10:00am	St Francis's (Int'n)
Wednesday 29th July	10:00am	Frank Collingborne (RIP)
Thursday 30th July	10:00am	Canon Alan McLean (RIP)
Friday 31st July Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	9:30am 10:00am	Joshy Raphael (Int'n)
Saturday 1 st August	10:00am	Thanksgiving
Sunday 2 nd August 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10:00am 6:00pm	Michael Cole (RIP) Success of Jesus' Youth Jubilee (Int'n)

Intentions

St. Joseph's Saturday 5:00pm

Bernadette Nolan (Int'n)

Christ the King -
Sunday 12:30

People of the Parish

SICK & HOUSEBOUND

Please pray for the sick or housebound in our parish and those who are particularly poorly at this time.

RIP: - Please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have recently died especially Fr John Bielawski and Moira Marchant may their souls rest in peace.

Amen



17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

26th July 2026



The Ultimate Choice

Life is made up of choices, and every choice shapes the person we become. In this Sunday's readings, Solomon asks God not for wealth or power, but for wisdom—the gift to know and do God's will. Jesus continues the same message through the parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price. The Kingdom of God is worth more than anything else we possess, and discovering it calls for a wholehearted response.

Our greatest treasure is not found in material success, popularity, or comfort, but in a living relationship with Christ. To choose Him often means letting go of attitudes, habits, or priorities that keep us from following Him more closely. Such sacrifices may seem costly, but they lead to lasting joy and peace.

The challenge for each of us is simple: What am I placing first in my life? Every day we are invited to make the ultimate choice—to seek God's Kingdom above all else. When we choose Christ, we discover the treasure that never fades and the wisdom that guides us safely to eternal life.

Lord, grant us the wisdom to recognise You as our greatest treasure, the courage to choose You above all else, and the grace to remain faithful until we share fully in Your heavenly Kingdom. **Amen.**

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Thank you-

I received a very kind message of thanks from Bishop Nicholas, for the wonderful celebration of his 40th Anniversary Mass last weekend. The bishop conveyed his deep appreciation for the gift that the Parishioners from the Cathedral Parish collected for him on this special occasion.

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Father Jon- RIP

It is with great sadness that we heard the news:

Fr Jon Bielawski died a little before 11.00 a.m. today, Wednesday 22nd July. He was being cared for by Nazareth House to which he had moved at the end of last week.

Our prayers are with his family and friends, especially the parishioners of Crownhill, Southway and Yelverton and all the many parishes in which he served so generously across the Diocese these last 36 years.

Funeral Arrangements.

Fr Jon will be buried from the cathedral with a Vigil Mass at 6.00pm on Wednesday 26th August- the Feast of Blessed Dominic Barberi. His Requiem Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Nicholas on Thursday 27th August at 12 noon at the Cathedral.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen. St Mary Magdalen, pray for him. Blessed Dominic Barberi, pray for him.

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We keep in our prayers Jude Lacroix who will be baptised this week.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Adoremus - National Eucharistic Pilgrimage & Congress

Our third National Eucharistic Congress will take place in London on Sat 10th Oct. It would leave Plymouth at 5am and pick up at Exeter Services - and possibly Taunton or Wincanton.

Mass at St George's cathedral and procession across the Thames to Westminster Cathedral, followed by a vigil of adoration until 6am. If you would like to be one of our 50 diocesan delegates, please contact Fr Chris at Poole : (01202) 746539

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Mass for Marriage 2026

Midday, Saturday September 12. Celebrant Bishop Nicholas Hudson The Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Boniface Plymouth PL1 5HW. For more information please contact Deborah.vankroonenburg.org.uk

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SPUC URGENT: In April 2026, the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill fell at the end of the Parliamentary session having failed to complete its passage through Parliament. Now, Lauren Edwards MP (Labour) has reintroduced essentially the same Bill, with Second Reading scheduled for Friday 11th September. It appears that the assisted suicide lobby is intending to invoke the Parliament Acts, whereby if the House of Lords rejects the same Bill in two consecutive Parliamentary sessions, it can be passed without their consent BUT, if MPs REJECT the Bill at Second Reading, it will not progress further. We have just a small window of time to persuade MPs to reject the Bill during the summer recess, when most MPs are back in their constituencies. Please write to your MP asap, or make an appointment to meet them face to face before the September vote. There will be SPUC flyers and info at the back of your church to help you. Further info: Christine Hudson: **Tel: 07742320717** Email: chrishud78@talktalk.net

Luke Pollard MP, Labour Plymouth Sutton and Devonport, voted for Abortion Decriminalisation but no vote was recorded on Assisted Dying.

mail: luke.pollard.mp@parliament.uk

Fred Thomas MP, Labour Plymouth Moor View, voted for Assisted Dying but no vote was recorded for abortion decriminalisation. Email: fred.thomas.mp@parliament.uk

Rebecca Smith MP, Conservative Plymouth S.W. Devon voted against Abortion Decriminalisation and against Assisted Dying. Email: rebecca.smith.mp@parliament.uk

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You're Invited to Our Day of Prayer

The Community Prayer Crusade warmly invites everyone to a special Day of Eucharistic Adoration and Prayer.

Date: Saturday, 1st August 🕒 Time: 4:00 PM 📍 Venue: Christ the King

Armada Way, Plymouth, PL1 2EN.

Come and spend time in the presence of the Lord through Eucharistic Adoration and prayer as we seek God's grace, peace, and blessings for our families, our community, and the whole world.

Our Day of Prayer will conclude with the Anticipated Holy Mass, celebrated by Fr. Ted Kalaw, CCM.

Refreshments will be served after the Holy Mass.

Everyone is welcome! We look forward to praying with you as one community of faith.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." — Matthew 11:28

First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes.



Sacrament of Confirmation

If you are in year 7 or over and would like to start your preparation programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation,

Or

First Holy Communion

If you have a child in Year 3 or over and they would like to start preparations for their First Holy Communion please contact the office –

plymouth-cathedral@prcdtr.org.uk

For Classes commencing in September 2026

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RCIA, or the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, is a process for adults to explore the Catholic faith and become fully initiated members of the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. It's a spiritual journey of individual faith development and community conversion, involving regular meetings, prayer, reflection, and special liturgical rites, culminating in the Easter Vigil. The program is for adults, including the unbaptized, those baptized in other Christian denominations, or Catholics who haven't received Confirmation or Holy Communion.

We have our RCIA course on a Friday evening here at the cathedral centre. If you are interested in knowing more, please contact the office by email: plymouth-cathedral.org.uk , New classes will commence in September for next Easter.

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Training for volunteers, working with youth

If you are currently working with youth in the Diocese of Plymouth or are thinking about volunteering, you are welcome to attend any of the listed training courses.

Training Day / Residential

Theme: Accompanying young people through the transition of childhood faith to take ownership of their own faith journey
Saturday 24th October, University of Exeter Catholic Chaplaincy

Theme: Reaching out to young people in parishes and across the Diocese
Saturday 12th - 14th February, St Rita's, Honiton

Online training

Sessions led by Rob Kingdon, Safeguarding Office.

Theme: Child Exploitation
Wednesday 23rd September, online 7pm - 8pm

Theme: Domestic Abuse - impact on children and young people
Wednesday 28th October, online 7pm - 8pm

Theme: Young people and their online world
Wednesday 13th November, online 7pm - 8pm

DIocese of PLYMOUTH, Youth Events
For further information contact Saskia: youth@prcdtr.org.uk

Volunteering for youth ministry, in the Diocese of Plymouth

Do you or have you thought about volunteering to work with the youth either in your parish or further afield? Youth Events are setting up a database of volunteers to keep in contact with them, offer training and support for the work they do, and keep them informed of events that are happening across the Diocese. In completing the form it does not mean you are committed to any voluntary work, it is simply an expression of interest. People on the database will be contacted and asked if they would like to support an event. Please follow the link: Volunteer Data Form – Youth Diocese Events – Fill in form For further information please contact Ruby or Saskia: youth@prcdtr.org.uk

What’s On

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News from the Diocese – July/August

For all the latest news from the Diocese follow the link or go to our website /





Catholic Children’s Society (Plymouth)

We are a small Diocesan charity helping families of all faiths and none living in Devon, Cornwall and parts of Dorset. We do this through our ESSENTIAL GRANTS PROGRAMME, our RAINBOWS Bereavement & Loss service and our GOOD SHEPHERD programme.

WHO WE’VE HELPED SO FAR IN 2026

126 families have received an Essential grant in the first six months, compared to 90 families this time last year, from:

many parts of Plymouth and Devon including Exeter, Holsworthy, Okehampton and Totnes. However, we are now receiving more applications from Cornwall – in particular from Bodmin, Bude, Callington, Camborne, East Taphouse, Falmouth, Launceston, Liskeard, Penryn, Penzance, Saltash, St Austell and Wadebridge. We are also receiving more applications from Dorset including Bridport, Dorchester, Poole and Poundbury.

WHAT IS OUR ESSENTIAL GRANTS PROGRAMME?

This programme aims to relieve the urgent material needs of children, young people and families by providing essential household items and clothing, such as cookers, washing machines, beds and school uniforms.

This support is offered, as many families can not afford to purchase these items themselves. This can be due to a variety of reasons, such as unemployment, ill health, fleeing domestic abuse or trying to set up a new home with nothing.

CRIB APPEAL UPDATE

Thank you to every parish who supported our Crib Appeal. So far, we have received £8,300.53 from 47 parishes.

OUR 2026 Annual Appeal

Our 2026 Annual Appeal theme is ‘GRATEFUL HEARTS – SERVING OTHERS’. Look out for appeal envelopes over the August bank holiday weekend – Sat 29 and Sun 30 August.

COULD YOU JOIN OUR BOARD ?

We are looking for 2 or 3 trustees with an interest in CCSP, as following retirement, we now only have 7. Our trustees have a wealth of experience but would love some new people to join them, especially if you have some HR experience. We meet quarterly on Mondays at St Boniface House in Ashburton, although these could be attended via video link and if you would like to come along to our next meeting in July or October, please email ccs@ccsplymouth.org.uk or call 01364 645420.

RECENT FEEDBACK

We recently helped a mother and her two sons who had fled domestic abuse and were starting over from scratch. We received this feedback

“I want to thank you so much for organising the funds to buy our lovely fridge freezer. We received the delivery and installation by two lovely gentlemen from HBH Woolacotts. What a difference this has made to myself and my two boys! We now have fresh food, fruits and vegetables and no more food waste 🥰. It is a perfect fit for our kitchen and just enough for our needs. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for your kindness and generosity. May God richly reward you 🙏🙏”



TO DONATE TODAY, please scan this QR code using your mobile phone to be taken directly to our Give a Little Campaign page - THANK YOU !



JULY 2026

Catholic Children’s Society (Plymouth)
St Boniface House, Ashburton, Devon, TQ13 7JL
01364 645420 www.ccsplymouth.org.uk
ccs@ccsplymouth.org.uk
Registered Charity No 282803 Registered in England No 1546053

Prayer for Pope Leo XIV



**“O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful,
look favourably on your servant Leo,
whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd;**

**Grant, we pray, that by word and example
he may be of service to those over whom he presides
so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care,
he may come to everlasting life.**

**Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.**

Amen

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First reading

A reading from the Book of Kings

In those days: The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, ‘Ask what I shall give you.’ And Solomon said, ‘O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?’

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, ‘Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life, or riches, or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.’

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL Psalm

O Lord, how I love your law!

You, O Lord, are my portion;

I have promised to obey your words.

The law from your mouth means more to me
than large quantities of silver and gold.

Let your merciful love console me
by your promise to your servant.
Show me compassion, that I may live,
for your law is my delight!

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold,
why I rule my life by your precepts,
and hate false ways.

Your decrees are wonderful indeed;
therefore my soul obeys them.
The unfolding of your word gives light,
and understanding to the simple.

Second Reading

A reading from Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and Sisters: We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.

Alleluia,

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus said to the crowd: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

‘Have you understood all these things?’ They said to him, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’

‘The Gospel of the Lord

What is Gift Aid?



- Gift Aid is the method used by the Government to allow charities, including the Church, to obtain a tax refund on donations made to them.

- At present we receive £25 for every £ 100 of donations made through Gift Aid.

The Gift Aid scheme is simple, involves few formalities and is an essential source of revenue for our Churches.

What is involved in joining the Gift Aid Scheme?

- To join the scheme you have to pay sufficient tax to cover the tax reclaimed on all your Gift Aid donations.
- You have to sign a standard declaration that your donations are to count for Gift Aid.
- Thereafter you only have to make sure that your donations are made in such a way that they can be recorded as made by you to the Church. The most common methods are
 - By Bankers' Order
 - By using special numbered weekly envelopes which are provided free of charge.

Any amount as long as the donation shows your name and the church as recipient.

What donations can be included?

The Gift Aid declaration that you sign is in favour of the Diocese rather than the Parish, so all donations to the Parish and the Diocese can be included, for example: Offertory Collections, and Easter and Christmas offerings

Please do consider Gift Aiding your donations if you have recently arrived in the parish.

Forms are available at the back of the cathedral.



Caritas Diocese of Plymouth



Caritas Diocese of Plymouth is here to give parishes and individuals.
new opportunities to proclaim our faith in deeds as well as in words.
We are here at the service of the most poor and vulnerable.

We have a great many events and initiatives which all are welcome to join. If you would like to find out about our work, please visit our webpage <https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/caritas/>
You can also watch out for our posters at the back of the church which will let you know what is coming up soon.

If you would like to receive occasional newsletters about our work and get new ideas to reach out to those around you, please contact Caritas@prcdtr.org.uk



THE POPE VIDEO

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS – July

For respect for human life

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God..

See also : <https://thepopevideo.org/>

[VIDEO](#)

The parish is immensely grateful to all donors who have supported the parish during the year and

giftaid

helped keep our doors open to achieve our Mission. If you don't already do so, please consider whether you could increase the value of your contribution by signing up for Gift Aid (more details and forms available from your parish gift aid organiser or the Cathedral office).

Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals

Good News— The Cathedral is available for: Baptisms, Weddings and Funeral Services, If you want to discuss or book a date for your service or ceremony please call or email us and we will be happy to help.





Catholic Children's Society
(Plymouth)

The **Catholic Children's Society** is a child welfare agency covering the Roman Catholic Diocese of Plymouth which consists of Cornwall, Devon and most of Dorset. For the latest news use the link below

[News](#)

Helping families stay connected



As Masses are restricted throughout the world, many parish and school communities are asking what they can do to keep their families connected to their faith. CathFamily can help with our online resources which are available free of charge.

[Click for Link](#)

• Are you concerned about injustice in our world?



- Do you feel the need to take action and make your voice heard?
- Would you like support and encouragement?
- Are you already taking action and want to inspire others?

If the answer is yes, then please get in touch with Caritas Plymouth. We are looking to grow the Justice and Peace activities in the Diocese of Plymouth to offer:

- Connections between existing Justice and Peace groups to share ideas
- Opportunities for action,
- Access to related agencies,
- Friendship, solidarity and mutual support

If you are interested in finding out more please contact Deborah, the Caritas Manager, on 01364 645421 or email caritas@pcdtr.org.uk

CAN YOU HELP?

Patients at Mount Gould Hospital appreciate the opportunity to attend Sunday services in the Hospital Chapel, however they need some assistance to get there by being pushed in wheelchairs or accompanied. As the Hospital continues to expand, the Chaplaincy Team is seeking Volunteers to join them in this worthwhile pastoral ministry. If you have 2 hours that you could commit to on a regular rota from 1-3 pm on a Sunday, the Lead Chaplain would love to hear from you: please e mail

pamela.howarth1@nhs.net



Loop System in operation - Channel T

YouTube regarding information- Please be aware that our Masses and Events are regularly filmed and will appear online on our YouTube channel. Due to the current guidelines, we are requested to provide a seating area where the cameras will not put the people in shot of the live filming. The designated area will be the pews in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. If you would like to receive Holy Communion but wish not to be visible on YouTube, please request to receive at the Blessed Sacrament chapel as the sacrament is being reposed.