

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
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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

<u>Safeguarding Representatives:</u> Cathedral: Lyn McLoughlin & Anne Duell Devonport: Bernadette Gibbons Christ the King: Ben Graat
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Cathedral School: cathedral-school.eschools.co.uk Holy Cross School: holycross.plymouth.sch.uk St. Joseph’s School: st-josephs.plymouth.sch.uk
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Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - A -Psalter 4– 16th August 2026

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

Date	Mass	Intentions
Sunday 16th August Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	10:00am 6:00pm	Sigi George (Int’n) George & Mary (Int’n)
Monday 17th August	10:00am	Finola Gill (Int’n)
Tuesday 18th August	10:00am	Mary Varghese(RIP)
Wednesday 19th August	10:00am	P J E Boulds (RIP)
Thursday 20th August	10:00am	Dennis Lehane (RIP)
Friday 21st August Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	9:30am 10:00am	Veronica Strahan (RIP)
Saturday 22nd August	10:00am	Maher Family (RIP)
Sunday 23rd August	10:00am 6:00pm	Pam Sissons (RIP) Sister Jossy (Int’n)

Intentions St. Joseph’s Saturday 5:00pm Patricia Williams (RIP) Christ the King - Sunday 12:30 People of the Parish
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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, Shirley Foale and Richard Roach may their souls rest in peace. Amen



**Feast of the Assumption
of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven
15th/16th August 2026**



The Feast of the Assumption celebrates the Blessed Virgin Mary being taken body and soul into heavenly glory at the end of her earthly life. This solemnity offers a powerful reflection on human dignity, God's victory over death, and the eternal promise of resurrection.

A Sign of Hope

Destined for Glory: Mary's entry into heaven reminds us that our physical bodies are sacred and made for eternity with God.

Victory Over Death: As a preview of the general resurrection, the Assumption proves that death does not have the final word.

A Beacon of Comfort: Mary's journey encourages the faithful that holiness is possible through grace and faithful obedience.

Walking in Faith

Closeness to Christ: Just as Mary was uniquely united to Jesus on earth, her assumption brings her into complete union with the Holy Trinity.

A Mother's Intercession: From heaven, she continues to accompany believers, pointing the way toward her Son and interceding for the Church.

A Prayer for the Feast Day

You have taken up body and soul into the heavenly glory
the Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of Your Son:
Grant, we beseech You,
that, ever intent upon heavenly things,
we may be worthy to be partakers of her glory.
Through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever.

Amen.

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We pray for Elizabeth Nylin Shibin who was baptised this last week and keep her and all her family in our prayers.

We also keep in our prayers Harlow Rose May- who will be baptised this weekend

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WELCOME

We are looking forward to welcoming **Fr Daniel Herrero Pena**- who will be coming as the new assistant priest at the cathedral in the first week of September.

We also welcome **Fr Thierry Butor** who will be coming to us from France in early September.

Please keep in your prayers, **Fr Jude**, as he prepares to take on his new ministry as the Priest in Charge for the Launceston Parish, including Callington and Bude.

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Discussion group

Interested in joining an informal discussion group? To deepen your faith through listening and sharing with others. The group offers a welcoming space, to discover the riches of our Catholic faith by looking at different topics, i.e. encyclicals, scripture, sacraments, or maybe exploring questions you perhaps find difficult to understand. We are called to be witnesses to our faith but do we know what we believe in so that we can share with our friends, family or colleagues!!



Father Jon- RIP
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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Mass for Marriage 2026

If you are recently married or are celebrating an anniversary, why not join us at Midday, on Saturday September 12th for a Mass for Marriage, 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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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 4th September at the Cathedral for next Easter.

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

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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**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

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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News from the Diocese – July/August

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



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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 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 Revelation

God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple.

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God.

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come.

Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL Psalm

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

The daughters of kings are those whom you favour. On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir. (R)

Listen, O daughter; pay heed and give ear: forget your own people and your father's house. (R)

So will the king desire your beauty. He is your lord, pay homage to him. (R)

They are escorted amid gladness and joy; they pass within the palace of the king. (R)

Second Reading

A reading from Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and Sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For 'God has put all things in subjection under his feet.'

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Mary has been taken up into heaven; the host of angels rejoice.

Alleluia,

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.' And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring for ever.' And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

'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 – August

For evangelization in the city

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

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](#)

- **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

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](#)

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.