



DIOCESE OF PLYMOUTH NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025



BISHOP NICHOLAS HUDSON APPOINTED AS THE NEW BISHOP OF PLYMOUTH

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has appointed the Right Reverend Nicholas Hudson as the new Bishop of Plymouth.

On hearing of his appointment, Bishop Hudson, Bishop-elect of Plymouth said: "I am deeply grateful to Pope Leo XIV for appointing me; and I do not take lightly the trust he has placed in me. I am aware how long the clergy, religious and laity of Plymouth Diocese have waited for a bishop. I come with a desire to listen and to learn. I hope we can apply all the strengths of synodality to discern together ways to deepen the diocese's outreach, mission and presence to the people of Cornwall, Devon and Dorset. I look forward greatly to meeting all who belong to the diocese."

You can find out more information about Bishop Nicholas and the upcoming installation on 29 November on our website www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/latest/

Bishop Nicholas has also recorded a video message which you can watch here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FIt6jBFMqY>

POPE LEO XIV: PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER

For the prevention of suicide.

"Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life."

Here is the link to read more and watch Pope Leo's monthly video: <https://tinyurl.com/2rhh9vnn>

THE FEAST OF ST CUTHBERT MAYNE



This year, the Feast of St Cuthbert Mayne on 29 November has particular significance as it is also the date of the installation of our new Bishop. This has been a busy time for the parish of Saint Cuthbert Mayne as hundreds of people have visited during this Jubilee Year. Launceston gives heartfelt thanks to the hundreds of pilgrims who have come to honour Saint Cuthbert Mayne during this time

Canon John Deeny, Parish Priest, has written a short reflection on this Jubilee Year in Launceston. He reflects that this has been not only a commemoration of St Cuthbert Mayne's martyrdom but also a celebration of the enduring faith he inspires. "In every pilgrim's visit, we have seen deep prayer, new connections, and a strengthened sense of mission." You can find the full article here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc3ew9hd>

Cuthbert Mayne was beatified by Pope Leo XIII, by means of a decree on 29th December 1886 and was canonized along with the other Martyrs of England and Wales by Pope Paul VI on 25th October 1970. Find out about the life of St Cuthbert Mayne here www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/st-cuthbert-mayne/

ADVENT - A REFLECTION FROM MONSIGNOR KEITH MITCHELL

The first Sunday of Advent is on 30 November. Mgr. Keith Mitchell shares a reflection on this important liturgical season.

“We have hardly had time to put our shorts and T-shirts away for another year before supermarkets and garden centres were crammed full of festive decorations and Christmas goodies. Already I have received an invitation from the local pub to book for my Christmas dinner before it’s too late. That was in the first week of September! We hardly have time to put up and take down the Halloween decorations before the kids are pestering to have the tree decorated. Christmas, for better or worse, begins now. It is just a matter of days before endless carols are piped at us everywhere and winter-wonderlands spring up in every spare field.

It’s so easy to by-pass those four weeks before, which we call Advent. This year it begins on 30th November. Perhaps, we need to get ready for that too! Everyone will soon be telling us to eat, drink and be merry and we might feel like killjoys but we do so need to celebrate the message of Advent first. This message is a clear one, “The time has come. Sit up straight & pay attention!” (Romans 13.11) The scriptures we will hear during this season ask us a serious question, “Am I ready to meet the Lord?” It is a question worth attending to. There are so many distractions in the hyped build up to Christmas and everyone and everything wants our attention, but we must not let the voice of the Lord be drowned out.

The readings of Advent will remind us that if the people of Noah’s day had been attending to the Lord rather than be distracted by endless merry-making, they may not have missed the boat or at least kept their heads above the water (Matthew 24.37-44). Scripture insists that, “the day of the Lord is at hand”. The Romans would have done well to have paid attention and not been distracted by orgies, promiscuity and the like.

Eating, drinking and making merry may be foundational human activities at this time of year but they can be an escape. While Advent is not a killjoy time for anyone, it does call us to attentiveness if we are to be real and not miss the point.

Advent, of course, means “coming”, the coming of the Lord and that inevitably involves judgment. The first part of Advent particularly calls us to look to that Second Coming when the Lord will come again and which we say we believe in every time we profess the Creed. The second part of Advent looks more directly to his first coming in the stable of Bethlehem. Both involve Judgment. Judgment is for real. Each of us will be called to meet the Lord face to face. Are we ready? If we are attending that is not a frightening prospect, it is a joyful one.”

EVANGELISATION NEWS

Our diocesan evangelisation team have produced a short newsletter sharing some of the many wonderful initiatives underway in our diocese such as a living stones project, the Wimborne Prayer Line, and outreach by Wareham parish. <https://tinyurl.com/4sb9h3fh>

CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY, PLYMOUTH



Our faith calls us to love God and to love our neighbours in every situation, especially those living in poverty. It is human nature to feel good after helping someone out. When you serve and give up your time and energy for someone else, you get emotionally and spiritually recharged.

The Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) are looking for Parish Volunteers to help promote and support the work they do helping children and families of all faiths and none.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/3r5ah5tZ>

Good News from our Schools

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School in Plymouth shared some of the amazing things they have been doing this term including a celebration of Harvest Festival. As always their foodshed received generous donations and they were also able to donate to Devon Food Action.

Throughout October, the month of the Rosary, a group of children met every day to say a decade of the Rosary and offered up their prayers for those in our community who have been unwell.

The prayer wall in the school chapel has been filled with the children's personal prayers of thanks. Reflecting on the themes of Luke 17 have inspired them to be grateful for all the blessings in their lives.



WORLD DAY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE

On 19th November, we join people and communities across the world in marking the World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse. This day is a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility to protect the dignity, safety, and wellbeing of all children and young people — in our Church, in our communities, and across the world.

Please follow this link for more information: <https://tinyurl.com/5yfrbwnb>

OUR GLOBAL CATHOLIC FAMILY

We have a number of Priests from overseas serving in parishes across the Diocese of Plymouth. The Priests help us to create new connections with our brothers and sisters overseas and offer an opportunity to deepen our culture of encounter with others. Fr Darline, Parish Priest at St Catherine's, Wimborne, recently returned on holiday to India and has shared his visit with us. It is amazing to think that there are over 23 million Catholics in India.

Fr Darline also updated the parish Facebook page with regular news about his trip, enabling parishioners to connect with new friends in India. He celebrated Mass in Tamil for St Catherine's parishioners at the Shrine of our Lady of Good Health at Vailankanni, Tamilnadu, India. This is a shrine visited by 20 million people every year. He also visited the Sisters of Cluny who run a home for people with mental health needs.

It is wonderful to see the beautiful way in which the local churches are decorated.



Advent Retreat (18-30 years)

The word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. (John 1:14)

21st - 23rd November

Sclerder Abbey, Looe, Cornwall.

Transport will be provided from Liskeard Station
Cost £30; includes accommodation and food.

Diocese of Plymouth, Youth Events.

For further information contact Saskia, youth@prcdtr.org.uk



Sign up by using the link: <https://forms.office.com/e/se4zasSM7B>

‘DILEXI TE’: LOVE FOR THE POOREST; ‘THE BURNING HEART OF THE CHURCH’S MISSION’

Simon Giarchi, Head of Caritas Diocese of Plymouth, shares a reflection on Dilexi Te — “I have loved you.” In this recent document, the Holy Father places the Gospel at its heart and reminds us of our christian mandate to love the poorest of our sisters and brothers and that this love is part of the ‘burning heart of the Church’s mission’. <https://tinyurl.com/r26x9hsy>.

To help the diocese reflect on this historic apostolic exhortation, Caritas and CAFOD have arranged a diocesan day at Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre on 21st February 2026.

Join us to go deeper into Dilexi Te. Contact caritas@prcdtr.org.uk for more information.

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EVENTS

15 November 10.00am - 3pm. Annual Day of Reflection for those who are undertaking workshops, studying alone or in groups with Franciscan at Home. This will take place at Buckfast Abbey. Contact deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk to reserve a place.

15 November 10.00am - 3pm. Caritas Plymouth event for World Day of the Poor - St Rita's Honiton. There is still time to register <https://forms.office.com/e/3HfZVW7anI>

20 November 12.00pm. Annual Clergy Requiem, Plymouth Cathedral

21-23 November Young Adults Retreat (18-30 years) contact youth@prcdtr.org.uk

25 November 6.00pm. Ecumenical Service to mark the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, St Mary's Church, Market Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 1QWS

28 November 5.30pm. Solemn Vespers at Plymouth Cathedral. This will be live streamed: <https://youtube.com/live/azjpotR0hBc?feature=share>

29 November 12.30pm. Installation of the Bishop of Plymouth. The installation will be shared live via YouTube. <https://youtube.com/live/6sUWxYU143Q?feature=share>

30 November 10.00am. Bishop Nicholas will be celebrating Mass at Plymouth Cathedral. All are welcome to attend. This will also be livestreamed <https://youtube.com/live/el7RwCckIfw?feature=share>

6 December 10.00am - 3.30pm. Advent Retreat Day, St Rita's Honiton. Contact St Rita's Centre for more information: 01404 42635, email admin@stritascentre.org.

With thanks to the following people for their contributions to this newsletter: Monsignor Keith Mitchell, Canon John Deeny, Simon Giarchi, Michelle Thompson, Finola Gill, Saskia Hogbin, Martin Christmas-Nelson, Fr Darline Joseph, Vicki Dunstone.

These emails are for everyone within the Diocese of Plymouth and anyone further afield who wishes to subscribe.

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