

# The Abbey Parish Newsletter

19<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 Second Sunday of Easter

Full details of times of Services are posted in the Abbey and the other churches in the parish

**Confessions: In grave necessity, please telephone the parish priest to arrange a meeting. Facebook page: search for Buckfast Abbey Parish**

## Liturgical Calendar:

Monday	Easter tide
Tuesday	St. Anselm
Wednesday	Easter tide
Thursday	<b>St. George</b>
Friday	Easter tide
Saturday	<b>St. Mark</b>

### "Oremus pro invicem"

Please pray for those who are sick:

Geraldine Thompson Pat Hedges  
Margaret McAvooy Fred Cooke

If you or someone you know would like to be included here, please contact Fr. Francis



### Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Grace Gillespie; Margaret Cousins; Frances Betts; Cybil Auckland; Archibald Leitch; Wilfred Ford; Emily Davis; Joseph Beard; Robert O'Shea; Greta Strachan; Mary Stancombe; Janet Dooner; Kathleen Hinkley; Annie Smith; Larry Sumner;

May they rest in peace

If you are self-isolating and need help getting food or medicine, please give Fr. Francis a call.

Phone line for prayer: call 01364 72768

### Catholic South West

The publishers of this and other Catholic Diocesan newspapers have set up a website where it can be viewed, since printed editions are not being produced at the moment. Please visit [www.ChurchPaper.co.uk](http://www.ChurchPaper.co.uk)

Parish Priest: Fr. Francis Straw;  
01364 645526; [parish@buckfast.org.uk](mailto:parish@buckfast.org.uk)

In a letter to the UK Home Secretary, Bishop Paul McAleenan - the point man for migrant and refugee issues for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales - said those being held are at "extreme risk" during the ongoing COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic since they have "limited opportunities for social distancing and self-isolating which is contrary to the public health instructions of the government."

## Live-streaming:

Sundays	
Matins	6.45 a.m.
Lauds	7.45 a.m.
Holy Mass	10.30 a.m.
Vespers & Benediction	6.30 p.m.
Compline	8.00 p.m.
Monday - Saturday	
Matins	6.30 a.m.
Lauds	7.45 a.m.
Holy Mass	9.00 a.m.
Vespers	6.30 p.m.
Compline	Mon-Fri: 8 p.m.

You can view online in any of these places:

[www.buckfast.org.uk/live](http://www.buckfast.org.uk/live)

Youtube.com/c/BuckfastAbbey

Facebook @buckfastabbeyofficialsite

Immigration detention centres do not hold criminals, but either asylum seekers trying to establish their identity, or undocumented immigrants waiting to be deported. According to *the Guardian*, around 300 detainees have already been released during the crisis, although an estimated 900 people are still being held in the facilities. "These people have not been charged with any crime and do not pose a risk to the wider public. It is they who are now at risk of infection, due to their detention in close proximity to one another," McAleenan writes. "After this pandemic, questions will inevitably be asked about steps taken by the government to protect the health and rights of the most vulnerable people, including whether the government applied its own instructions and guidelines to those for whom they were responsible," the bishop continued. Earlier this month, dozens of organizations - including the Jesuit Refugee Service UK - sent a joint letter to the UK government asking for more support to be given to asylum seekers in Britain. "Even before the Coronavirus outbreak, people on asylum support struggled to meet their essential living needs on an amount of support far lower than mainstream benefits, leading to extremely difficult decisions on what to prioritize amongst essential expenditure. Asylum seekers, including torture survivors and other highly vulnerable people, tell us that, in the current context, they are finding it even harder to buy the items that they need to keep themselves and their families healthy and safe," the letter states.

The signatories are calling on the government to immediately increase the stipend by about 50 percent, and for the allowance to be paid in cash.

"We also urge that the need for additional financial support be kept under review during the pandemic. It is especially vital that everyone is able to safely and securely sustain themselves and their family at this time. We must ensure that no one is left behind during our collective efforts to overcome this virus," the letter says.

**Thank you**  
for helping to share the love and compassion of Jesus with the world

Just look at how much difference you've made

**£425.32**

Donations during 2019

BUCKFAST  
St Mary's Abbey Parish

Missio Registered Charity Number: 1056655. Mill Hill Missionaries Registered Charity Number: 221

[www.cruxnow.com](http://www.cruxnow.com)

## News from our Parish School (Courtesy of Mitzi)

<http://www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk/>

Like many children across the country, the children who have been in school this week have spent some time creating rainbows to show our thanks to the staff of the NHS who continue to look after us all in our time of need, often at risk to themselves. The resulting creations now hang proudly in the school grounds, dancing in the sunshine (well, for most of the week anyway) and are a cheery reminder that, even when we are down, there is always some colour around us, often provided by Mother Nature, to cheer us up. Miss Slack is hoping that the children at home will send in photos of rainbows they have been making so that we can create a colourful gallery of them on our website.

Talking of colour, we have been lucky that the building work that was scheduled for the Easter holidays has been able to take place and the painter has started to finish our walls in our trademark pale blue. The area the builders are working on, being the upper floors of the old convent, is spacious enough to allow a small group of tradesmen to continue their work, whilst complying with social distancing guidelines, and is isolated by some distance and floor levels from the area being used by the children during the day. The work had been started last summer to convert the convent into classrooms for use by the school and was scheduled to be carried out in phases during the holidays over this year with the work being finished in the summer holidays. There are often silver linings even in the darkest times and, as the builders have been able to continue beyond the Easter break, there may be a chance that their work will be largely finished before the summer. The benefit of this to the school will be a more leisurely break, after virtually every summer for the past few years being crammed with building work and a mad and stressful rush at the end of the break to move into the new rooms. The only fly in the ointment is what the summer holidays will look like anyway - let's hope they're not cancelled this year to make up for lost learning time!



### **Marriage Matters:** Reflections on the Sunday readings.

Togetherness

Our 'togetherness' in what we do and say is a 'sign' of our love and a source of joy for us. Sometimes, like Thomas, we can be stubborn, with an attitude of 'I'll believe it when I see it' creating a sense of separation and distance. But together we have the power to stop, reflect, be forgiven, and begin again.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols is leading an Easter appeal for prayers and solidarity for the people of the Holy Land amid growing concerns about the impact of the coronavirus – especially on those who are most vulnerable.

Embrace the Middle East, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) and Friends of the Holy Land (FHL), Christian charities in the region, have warned of dire consequences as the virus spreads in Israel and the Palestinian Territories, with many at risk, especially in Gaza and elsewhere, where there is acute poverty and very poor living conditions.

Leading the appeal for prayer and solidarity, Cardinal Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, said: "As we follow Jesus' last days in Jerusalem culminating in his passion, death and resurrection, we should remember the many people of the Holy Land enduring their own Way of the Cross in the midst of this pandemic. I ask everyone, as we pray for all those suffering from this vicious virus, to pray for the people of the Holy Land particularly as we approach Easter."

Neville Kyrke-Smith, National Director of Aid to the Church in Need, said: "For many of our friends and project partners this is a time of survival. I know from calls and social media that Christians suffering in the Holy Land and Middle East are praying for us this Holy Week and Easter. "We are united with them in prayer and hope – as we know the loving kindness of the faithful benefactors of ACN and other charities."

<https://acnuk.org/>

<https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/>

<https://www.embraceme.org/>

### **"He fills your mouth with laughter and your lips with rejoicing" (Job 8:21)**

Upon entering a little country store, the stranger noticed a sign warning, "Danger! Beware of dog!" posted on the glass door. Inside, he noticed a harmless old hound dog asleep on the floor beside the cash register.

"Is that the dog folks are supposed to beware of?" he asked the owner.

"Yep, that's him," came the reply.

The stranger couldn't help but be amused. "That certainly doesn't look like a dangerous dog to me. Why in the world would you post that sign?"

"Because," the owner explained, "Before I posted that sign, people kept tripping over him."