

The Abbey Parish Newsletter

10th May, 2020 Fifth 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	Holy Abbots of Cluny
Tuesday	Eastertide
Wednesday	Eastertide
Thursday	St. Matthias
Friday	St. Pachomius
Saturday	Eastertide

"Oremus pro invicem"

Please pray for those who are sick:
Geraldine Thompson Pat Hedges
Margaret McAvoy Fred Cooke

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

Phone line for prayer: call 01364 72768

Parish Priest: Fr. Francis Straw;
01364 645526; parish@buckfast.org.uk

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

[Youtube.com/c/BuckfastAbbey](https://www.youtube.com/c/BuckfastAbbey)

Facebook [@buckfastabbeyofficialsite](https://www.facebook.com/buckfastabbeyofficialsite)

Marriage Matters:

Reflections on the Sunday readings.

I am in you and you are in me

Jesus says, "To have seen me is to have seen the Father". In our married life, through the visible sign of the way we love each other, when people meet one of us we can be a sign that 'when seeing me, you see the one I love, in me and with me', thus emulating Jesus' relationship with His Father.



Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Mary Channing; Lavinia Ash; Margaret Winstanley; Wingrave Tench; Donald Beard;
Dom John Kraft; Montagu Godfrey; Charles Walmsley; Leslie Deane; Dom Charles Norris;
Beatrice Bebenek; Mortimer Bullen; Blanche Bracchi; Nicholas Scott Maddocks; Kathleen Sheehan; Br. Paul Lascaraboura; Pam Reynolds;

May they rest in peace

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

Often, when you say or sing the psalms at the Divine Office, they aren't particularly expressive of your own mood or situation. That's fine of course – our prayers are for, with and from everyone in the Church. But sometimes your heart does resonate with the words on your lips. Last Thursday at Matins, we were singing psalm 83, which expresses the Chosen People's longing for the Temple of the Lord when they were in exile far away from it. It brought to mind everyone in the family of the Church who is unable to visit our church buildings and receive the sacraments. As I prayed it, I thought of you all, and prayed that it won't be long before we're able to be together again in the House of God. With the final lines of the psalm I hoped that all of us, in spite of our absence from the place where we sense God's presence in a special way, know that He is our protector, that He blesses us with so many gifts, that if we place our trust in Him we will know true happiness.

God bless you.

Fr. Francis

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning, is yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God.

The sparrow herself finds a home and the swallow a nest for her brood; she lays her young by your altars, Lord of hosts, my king and my God.

They are happy, who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

They are happy, whose strength is in you, in whose hearts are the roads to Zion. As they go through the Bitter Valley they make it a place of springs; the autumn rain covers it with blessings.

They walk with ever growing strength; they will see the God of gods in Zion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob.

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; look on the face of your anointed.

One day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

The threshold of the house of God I prefer to the dwellings of the wicked.

For the Lord God is a rampart, a shield; he will give us his favour and glory.

The Lord will not refuse any good to those who walk without blame.

Lord, God of hosts, happy the one who trusts in you!

As you may know the school has been open, apart from one week at Easter, throughout the lockdown and the days have taken on a new routine of their own. All of a sudden, we have been doing this for nearly two months - where has the time gone? I, for one, have been as busy as ever, although, I must confess, much more organised and much less stressed due to the chance to get work done without so many interruptions. The teaching staff continue to set work and communicate with the children online and phone parents regularly. A rota of staff continues to provide the childcare cover required in school for the children of keyworkers.



The children have also been kept busy when they have been in - for example, they have been planting various beds around the school. One of our Teaching Assistants, Mrs Freeborn, regularly appears with a tray of plants for the children to put in. This week it was tomato plants of various types. We have so many areas planted with fruit and vegetables around the site now, it is nearly a full time job in the summer to keep them all looking tidy. As you can see from the photos, the children have been planting in an old sandpit outside Venford and also in a newly created "snake-shaped" bed outside the old convent.

However, this week, in a break from routine, new or old, the staff were very pleased to be offered a "thank you" pizza lunch by the staff at the Dartmoor Lodge who were doing their bit to support key workers in their vicinity. It was a very welcome surprise and we will be looking to repay their kindness when we can visit them again for one of our staff meals. The children also had pizza although they had to make their own. However, as they thoroughly enjoy the excitement of using the pizza oven in the woodland area, I don't think it was too much of a hardship. The results are always (surprisingly) tasty! We look forward with interest to the next phase of the battle to keep Covid19 at bay, whatever that may look like, and I am sure, with careful planning, collectively we shall rise to the challenge.

"Stretch Out Your Hands" The Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) needs your help now more than ever !

In every country and community across the world, the coronavirus pandemic is turning children's lives upside down. We urgently need your help so that we can continue to support vulnerable children and their families throughout the Diocese. The number of grant applications we receive has already begun to increase as a result of Covid-19 with more families needing our help to meet their basic needs such as a working cooker or a proper bed or cot for their children to sleep in. And we envisage that this number will continue to rise as more families living in Devon, Cornwall and parts of Dorset are affected.

We rely entirely on the generosity of our supporters, parishioners and schools but with so many of our planned fundraising events cancelled, we now need to look for alternative sources of fundraising and funding. And this is where your help comes in please.

We have already secured some funding from the Devon Coronavirus Response & Recovery Fund and we have also set up a crowdfunding page. We hope to raise between £3,000 and £6,000 which would enable us to help at least 40 children directly (although more likely 80-100 family members would directly benefit).

£6,000 would allow us to purchase for example –

10 children's beds/cots and mattresses - £1,000 + 10 cookers - £2,000 + 10 fridge/freezers - £1,500 + 10 washing machines - £1,500. Please help us to reach our target by donating at: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/catholic-childrens-society-plymouth-1?tk=66698bb1ee6de155fddab240e0ce9c4e7ffea7bf>

The link to our crowdfunding page can also be found via our website www.ccsplymouth.org.uk where you can also find alternative ways of donating ONLINE via Virgin Money Giving, Charities Aid Foundation or the Big Give. Simply visit www.ccsplymouth.org.uk and click the DONATE button to find out how.

Thank you – we can not do what we do without you !

MISSION MADE POSSIBLE

Is the thought of sharing your faith with family friends and others just too scary? Are you thinking; 'that's not for me, I could never do that' or perhaps you just don't know where to start? Well you are not alone. JOIN CATHOLICS IN OUR DIOCESE AND ACROSS THE GLOBE WHO FEEL EXACTLY THE SAME WAY.

With the encouragement of Bishop Mark, you are invited to take part at home, and learn how to have these conversations appropriately and without feeling awkward.

If you would like to learn more please send an email with your telephone number to jonathan.bielawski@prcdtr.org.uk and follow this link to watch the overview video titled 'How to Evangelise' <https://wp.me/paTncV-8rl>

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

