

The Abbey Parish Newsletter

24th May, 2020 Seventh 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	Our Lady of Buckfast
Tuesday	St. Aldhelm
Wednesday	St. Augustine of Canterbury
Thursday	Eastertide
Friday	Eastertide
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

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

CAFOD, launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30 April. Coronavirus (Covid-19) has now spread worldwide, with confirmed cases in many countries where CAFOD works. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries are likely to be devastating. Many countries have very weak healthcare systems and will not be able to cope. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water, possibly living with other diseases, will be particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. It is not just a public health emergency. Many of the world's most vulnerable people will lose their jobs and be unable to support their families. The poorest and most marginalised communities, working hard to transform their lives, will be pushed further into poverty. CAFOD is adapting its programmes to help manage the risk of coronavirus in communities and working with local Church aid agencies on the frontline of this crisis. They are already working to get food to where it is needed most; to improve hygiene, handwashing and sanitation in communities and households; producing radio messages, posters and leaflets in local languages on risks and prevention; and training community volunteers to carry out awareness campaigns. In order to continue protecting and improving the lives of those in poor communities, your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever. While we are not able to hold collections in our church, you can donate at <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal>



Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

George Torrington; Dom Richard Rotter; Alan Wakley; John Henle; Dana Taylor Speicher; Agnes Withers; Edith Robinson; John Bissett; Mildred Smyth; Br. Anselm Maigler; Margaret Lindsay; Dom Winfrid Rechtsteiner; Austin Concanon; Lester Davis; Mary Burrows; John Bourke; Dom Thomas Plesch; Agnes Komiensky; James O'Dea;

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

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

New Law on Organ Donation

On 20 May, an opt-out system for organ donation was introduced in England. The Catholic Church has consistently encouraged its followers to consider organ donation. The act of donating organs before or after death has been considered a gift and an intrinsic good. However, a system of presumed consent risks taking away the right of the individual to exercise this decision, and therefore potentially undermines the concept of donation as a gift.

Following the change in the law, all adults in England will be considered donors in the event of death, unless they have recorded a decision not to donate or are in one of the following excluded groups: those under the age of 18; people who lack the mental capacity to understand the new arrangements and take the necessary action; visitors to England, and those not living here voluntarily; and people who have lived in England for less than 12 months before their death.

The Catholic Bishops' of England and Wales have produced Guidelines for Catholics on Organ Donation, and how to record this decision online via the Organ Donation Register (ODR). The ODR also allows you to record your faith beliefs so that they may be respected in the event of death and organ donation. These Guidelines are available from the parish Priest, or by visiting:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/04/Organ-Donation-Guidelines-Feb-2020.pdf>

You can find more information via the Organ Donation NHS website and register your decision at: <https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/register-to-donate/>. Here you will be able to access the Organ Donation Register (ODR), record your faith/beliefs, or 'opt-out'. If you have already registered via the ODR, you can change your decision, or withdraw (remove your name) from the register at any time via these means too.

News from our Parish School (Courtesy of Mitzi)

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

As another week flies by and we are still in the “Will they? Won’t they?” situation, you may be pleased to know that people at St Mary’s have kept themselves busy. Or rather, with the addition of two new classrooms, Miss Slack has taken the opportunity to get the staff and builders to move everything an inch to left, clean underneath it, move it two inches to the right, up two floors to the storage rooms or down a floor to the classrooms. Conversations have been of the “that needs to go up”, “do you mean up? Or up, up?” variety as the builders tried to follow the directions as to which storey items had to be transported to. I have to confess, there have also been a few “oh sorry, that doesn’t belong / look right there, it will have to go down / across / over there.” The builders, who were probably initially pleased to have work through the lockdown, may well be hoping for the opportunity to lie in a darkened room for at least a week to recover from the rigours of working at St Mary’s. However, through the efforts of all concerned, and not least of Miss Slack, who leads from the front in these circumstances as always, staff have declared themselves happy with the position of everything.

There is the added bonus that, through this process, the classrooms are now all laid out with the correct social distancing measures as prescribed by the government. Coincidentally, the new classrooms are prepared for use three months ahead of schedule as we were not expecting them to be available until September.

Whilst this was all going on, the staff have also taken the opportunity to give their rooms a really good sort out. Old and broken equipment has been thrown out, trays and their contents have been washed and new labels printed. Any soft furnishings have been hidden away for the time being, being considered a risk at present as they cannot be easily cleaned on a daily basis. Zones for the different children have been identified with different coloured symbols to ensure a separation of the individual groups as far as possible.

So, the buildings are ready to welcome back more children on the 1st June, 8th June, 1st September and any date before, during or after any of these. The staff, too, are committed to doing whatever is deemed best for the children although, I am sure, attitudes and concerns will mirror the wide range of opinions being discussed across the media.

Meanwhile, it is now half term - time to relax and enjoy the sun - hopefully at home - when you live somewhere so beautiful why go anywhere else!



The latest Aid to the Church in Need report on Syria is now available at <https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/syria-appeal-2020>

Offering a lifeline to Syria is more important than ever – with the economy in freefall and ever-increasing numbers of people plunged into desperate poverty, the country is totally at the mercy of the coronavirus.

Last year ACN completed 125 projects and is now aiming to provide the following:

- Food baskets and sanitary items for 1,400 families in Lattakia;
- Soup for the needy in Damascus
- Christian education, including catechesis, in Homs

You can donate online at <https://acnuk.org/get-involved/donate/>

The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem has condemned an incursion of several thousand Israeli settlers on Church-owned land in the West Bank in February. The plot of land was near the village of Tayasir, near Tubas in the northern West Bank, and was one of several towns invaded by the settlers, who have been urging the Israeli government to annex the area. The Patriarchate noted the settlers did not have permission to enter the land, calling the action a violation of private property. “It should be mentioned that settlers brought their cows, some days ago, to the Patriarchate lands and caused considerable damage there,” the statement said.

“It should be mentioned also that the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem protested to the Israeli authorities on similar violations of its property near Tayasir by settlers, but - so far - violations to our property continues to take place while the authorities are practically not prohibiting them.” The Patriarchate added “very concerned not only from the settlers’ violations of its properties, but also from the lack of action by the Israeli authorities to put an end to such offences.”

The Patriarchate urged the Israeli authorities “to make sure that law to be respected by all people under their control and to ban further illegal breaking into our properties.”

According the Wafa Palestinian news agency, Israeli settlers also attacked Palestinian shepherds near Tuwaneh village, in the southern of West Bank, forcing them to leave the area, while the Israeli security forces looked on.

Fouad al-Amour, a Palestinian official in charge of monitoring Israeli settlement activities in the area, told Wafa the Israeli soldiers in the area did not intervene to stop the settlers, and instead provided them protection. www.cruXnow.com

Marriage Matters: *Reflections on the Sunday readings.* Filled with hope

Today’s readings tell us of the end and the beginning of something new and exciting in the life of the young Church. When we married, we were filled with both excitement and trepidation for our future together. But like the disciples, the Spirit of the risen Lord has been with us since we became “Little Church” on our wedding day.

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

A cat and a mouse died on the same day and went to Heaven. After a few days they met God and he asked ‘How do you like it so far?’ The mouse replied ‘It’s great, but can I have a pair of roller skates?’ God said ‘Sure’ and gave him a pair. Next day God saw the cat and asked him how he liked heaven. The cat replied; ‘It’s really great, you even have meals on wheels!’