

# The Abbey Parish Newsletter

14<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 Corpus Christi

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	Feria
Tuesday	Feria
Wednesday	Feria
Thursday	Feria
Friday	<b>Most Sacred Heart of Jesus</b>
Saturday	Immaculate Heart of Mary

### "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



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

*Olive Wordley; Carrie Portelly; Annie Deane; Beatrice Northcote; Beatrice Sasinowska; Bernard Petre; Lucy Gibson; Joseph McElroy; Dom Robert Smith; Denis Pope; John Walsh; Henry Cavalier; Mary Stones; Rosamund Carus; Grace Retallack; Francis Hasslacher; John Heurtley; Bessie Brook; Rosemary Reynolds; Frances Hale; Francis Cawley; Dorothy Modley; Maureen Grassby; Victor Ely;*

**May they rest in peace**

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

### Opening of churches for private prayer in the Buckfast Abbey Parish.

Although it's a welcome development, priests received no advance warning that the Government would announce last weekend that churches could be opened for private prayer from 15<sup>th</sup> June. The official guidance indicated that a strict protocol would have to be observed, but details were not received until a couple of days ago. This has meant that it will not be possible to prepare in time to open any church on Monday, but we will do all we can to be ready as soon as possible thereafter.

The protocol requires, among other things:

- At least two stewards to be present in the church throughout the time it is open for prayer to ensure hand sanitisation occurs at entry and exit, social distancing is maintained by all, only the pre-determined number of people are present in the church at one time and anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms is asked not to enter
- Stewards should be trained in safeguarding and, ideally, first-aid
- The church must be cleaned fully once a day; areas which are likely to be touched should be cleaned much more often, if possible after each use.
- Toilet facilities must not be opened
- People under 16 years may only enter the church if accompanied by an adult
- Collective or communal prayer, including any minister of religion or lay person leading devotions or prayer, is not permitted at this time. It would not be appropriate to arrange to meet other parishioners at the church.
- Places where persons may sit must be clearly marked
- All books and devotional materials intended for repeated use must be removed from the church
- Church buildings must remain closed to tourists.
- Places of worship have discretion over when it is considered safe to open and for how long. They may remain closed or reopen at a slower pace if they wish.

Taking all of this into account, together with the responsibility for the safety of the public which falls upon the Abbey, the stewards will be members of the Abbey's paid staff. The opportunity for parishioners to visit a church for private prayer will be provided by opening one of the smaller churches in the parish in a rota. Initially this will be for one hour a day on weekdays, from 11 a.m. till noon, opening St. Dunstan's in South Brent one day, St. Benedict's in Buckfastleigh the next day, Our Lady of Lourdes & St. Petrock in Ashburton the next day, and so on. The arrangements will be adapted as we learn from experience. The Abbey church will not be opened at this time. The public car park at the Abbey is closed.

### The importance of these measures – a message from the Bishops' Conference:

These measures may seem burdensome, or even a little daunting. They are however necessary, not least because if any churches are seen to be operating in a way that may increase the spread of the virus, there is a risk that stricter measures such as prohibition or enforced closure notices could be re-imposed by local authorities or even national administrations. It is our hope that with priests and their parishioners working effectively together, we will be able to open churches safely for private prayer, as a significant step towards the resumption of the celebration of Mass and the sacraments.

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

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

Last week, when I shared the news that I was approaching my 20th Anniversary at St Mary's School, I thought it had been overlooked in school due to the strange times we are living in. I also thought that I had managed to be a bit vague about when in June it was exactly. One of the reasons for my vagueness was that Miss Slack, being an aficionado of a certain shoe type called "Crocs", had always threatened that we would have a "Crocs" Day to mark the occasion. This would consist of as many people as possible wearing these shoes to school. I also think Miss Slack was considering getting me a pair to celebrate but, as the thought of a Crocs Day and wearing a pair of Crocs literally makes my toes curl, I had tried to keep my head down on the matter, as it were. I thought a day's notice would allow Miss Slack to purchase a bunch of flowers and get a general card signed and honour would be satisfied. So I was more than a little surprised, I would go as far as to say I was stunned, that there were balloons, flowers and gifts adorning my desk on Monday morning. But more than that, a video had been prepared by staff and governors in lockdown with messages of congratulations for me. They say the Lord moves in mysterious ways and I was very pleased that, due to social distancing, I was able to watch this video in glorious isolation whilst sobbing quietly to myself. I would not have wanted to alarm an assemblyful of children if I had had to go through a whole presentation of gifts and video-watching and the flood of tears that would have followed, which would have been the protocol in "normal" times.

The rest of the week passed relatively uneventfully although staff interviews were held for a couple of new Teaching Assistant posts and a new Teacher. I am pleased to say all who were offered jobs accepted them and I wish them all a long and happy career at St Mary's, although wishing them a happy twenty years in post may be going a bit too far!

The numbers attending remained steady at around twenty-five children but next week a handful more are going to give it a try. Setting the question of risk aside, of which I believe the children should be left blissfully unaware, those who are in are thriving on the companionship and routine of school. It is a little different and they are limited in their zones to the same faces each day, but the teachers are taking the opportunity to focus closely on their needs and individual learning weaknesses are being given an intense boost. It is a very silver lining to a difficult time!

### **The Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) needs your help!**

The Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) is looking for enthusiastic, new Trustee Directors to fill vacancies that have arisen as a result of retirement.

We are looking for experienced members of the public to guide the charity and ensure it is managed effectively. We are seeking Trustee Directors who have strategic vision, independent judgement, the ability to think creatively and a willingness to speak their mind. We are especially interested in hearing from people with the time, enthusiasm and commitment to take an active role in the Society - mentoring our staff, attending events and our educational courses. You may also have valuable experience in managing within a small charity.

We are particularly keen to achieve a more diverse board of trustees and we welcome applications from all sections of the community.

The Board meets at least four times a year and whilst the position is voluntary and unpaid, reasonable travelling expenses are paid as per our policy.

To find out more, please contact Shelagh Fearnley or Andrea Rodgers on 01364 645420 for an informal chat and an information pack.

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

Be Feed your love

Without food we die! Our wedding promise was to nourish each other so that we bring life to our marriage. We feed each other in all the little countless ways, but particularly in our tender lovemaking, our talking and listening, support and encouragement, particularly in times of doubt and uncertainty. In these ways our marriage will grow and shine.

### 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

Phone line for prayer:

call 01364 72768

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

Despite being surrounded by war, persecution and destruction, the archbishop of war-torn Aleppo in Syria says that he's still able to find happiness. "Working for the Lord fills my life with meaning and gives me a solid reason for being,"

"I'm happy first of all, because during this despicable war, I found in my everyday life the Lord," he wrote, noting that never before in his life had he felt as confident in and close to God as he has during this time."

"I feel every day, a little closer to each of [the faithful], animated by an inexpressible affection which makes me happy, as much as a parent feels with his own children," the Bishop wrote.

"I am amazed when I see all that the Lord has allowed me to do in these years of war, arid and drowned in a sea of blood, desolation and distress," he wrote.

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

Questions for God from children:

In Sunday School they told us what You do. Who does it when You are on vacation? ...I think about You

sometimes even when I'm not praying

...Who draws the lines around countries?

...Are you really invisible or is that a trick?

...Did you mean for the giraffe to look like

that or was it an accident? ...I went

to this wedding and they kissed right in

church. Is that okay? ...Why is

Sunday School on Sunday? I thought it

was supposed to be our day of rest.

...Thank You for the baby brother, but

what I prayed for was a puppy.