

# The Abbey Parish Newsletter

19<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

**Confessions: 11 a.m. on Saturdays in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel**

**Facebook page: search for Buckfast Abbey Parish**

## Liturgical Calendar:

|           |                              |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| Monday    | Feria                        |
| Tuesday   | Feria                        |
| Wednesday | <b>St. Mary Magdalene</b>    |
| Thursday  | <b>St. Bridget of Sweden</b> |
| Friday    | Feria                        |
| Saturday  | <b>St. James</b>             |

### "Oremus pro invicem"

Please pray for those who are sick:  
Geraldine Thompson Pat Hedges  
Margaret McAvooy Fred Cooke  
Bob Beard

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:

Colin Ford; Florence Mallins; Sheila Wakley; Harold Witt; John Cotter;  
Dom Dominic Maier; Florence Keen; Norman Devonport; John Mallins;  
Abbot Leander Lemoine; Rowena Carpenter;

**May they rest in peace**

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

## Attending Holy Mass

The online booking system is now in operation. Just go to the Abbey's website, <https://www.buckfast.org.uk/> and click on "Book Mass Seating". This is an added hassle for all of us, but it's surely worth it to keep everyone safe.

Phone line for prayer: call 01364 72768

## Live-streaming will continue:

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

Facebook @buckfastabbeyofficialsite



From Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> July, the **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)** will again be available in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 11 a.m. COVID guidance from the Bishops requires that a 'confessional box' is not used, so the priest will sit in a pew in the Blessed Sacrament chapel. Penitents will need to make their preparation in the Abbey church itself and then wait to be invited by the steward to enter the chapel one at a time for the celebration of the Sacrament. There will be a chair available 2 metres from the priest for 'face to face' confession; those who prefer not to be seen by the priest should kneel in the pew two rows behind him.

CAFOD has joined with the UK Disasters Emergencies Committee to help millions of people whose lives are at risk, as coronavirus spreads across refugee camps and countries suffering conflict. You can donate at [www.cafod.org.uk/coronavirus](http://www.cafod.org.uk/coronavirus) to help CAFOD scale up its coronavirus response through our global Church family. Or use CAFOD's Summer of Hope fundraising ideas with your family and friends to transform lockdown and raise money for the appeal: [www.cafod.org.uk/summerofhope](http://www.cafod.org.uk/summerofhope)

**CAFOD**  
just one world

On 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2016, the Holy See raised the commemoration of St. Mary Magdalene to a Feast. In a Decree to mark the occasion, Archbishop Arthur Roche, Secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship, explained the decision: "Precisely since she was an eyewitness to the Risen Christ, she was also the first to testify before the apostles. She fulfils the mandate the Risen Christ gives her: 'go to my brothers and say to them ... Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her'. In this way she becomes, as is already known, an evangelist, or rather a messenger who announces the good news of the resurrection of the Lord; or, as Rabano Mauro and St. Thomas Aquinas said, 'apostolorum apostola' (apostle of the Apostles), as she announces to the apostles what they in turn will announce to all the world. The Angelic Doctor is right to apply this term to Mary Magdalene: she is the witness to the Risen Christ and announces the message of the resurrection of the Lord, like the other apostles. Therefore, it is right that the liturgical celebration of this woman should have the same level of festivity given to the apostles in the General Roman Calendar, and that the special mission of this woman be highlighted, as an example and model to every woman in the Church",



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

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

We are drawing near to the Summer holidays after a very unusual term. At St Mary's School, I am proud to say, we have managed to provide a service to our community throughout the lockdown and beyond. In the beginning, it was as childcare for critical / key workers and vulnerable children and then, from the start of June, education focussed provision restarted for more lucky children. I say lucky as it is becoming clear that many of the children have slipped back in their learning and the ones who have been in to school have at least had the chance to have focussed support from the teaching staff which has helped redress the balance a little. The enormity of the task which awaits us in September cannot be underestimated. Some things will be very obvious - children struggling to read words they confidently knew before or to do maths calculations they tackled with gusto in the past - but there will be the added challenge of the anxiety about returning in what will still not be normal times. We have sent a questionnaire to each family asking for information about their child's "Lockdown Experience", for example, has anyone they know had Covid or died from Covid, have they had space to play out or internet to access their learning and so on. At the start of the term, parents and carers will need reassurance that the school is as safe as we can make it and we, as staff, will have to be mindful of the fact that, whilst we have worked throughout, for some families this will be the first time they have come to school in almost six months or even been apart at all in that time.

With regard to our return in September, not surprisingly, yet more risk assessments have been carried out and more plans drawn up. This is all done in the knowledge that many things could change in the next seven weeks and we will have to remain alert to the guidance which will flow over the coming months.

However, we are lucky that we can base our plans on our experience of the last few weeks.

Talking of last few weeks, whilst we have been risk assessing and socially distancing and washing our hands whilst singing happy birthday (twice) and catching our sneezes in our elbows, the plants that the children put in in the early weeks of the lockdown have flourished. And, as you will see, boy, have they flourished! It just goes to show, that whilst we humans run around pontificating and arguing about what we should be doing to save ourselves and our planet, nature just gets on and shows us how it's done!



Last week, a letter to the Government said to insist on debt repayment in the face of the suffering caused by the COVID-19 pandemic "would be an affront to the faith traditions" of the signatories, that included representatives of different Christian, Jewish, Muslim and other faith groups. The signatories included four Catholic bishops: Bishop John Arnold of Salford, Bishop Declan Lang of Clifton, Bishop Joseph Toal of Motherwell, and Bishop William Nolan of Galloway. Other Catholic representatives included Father Damian Howard, the provincial of the Jesuits in Britain; Christine Allen, the director of CAFOD.

The British government helped to lead efforts at the G20 finance ministers' meeting in April to reach an agreement for the temporary suspension of debts owed to other governments by those of the world's poorest 77 countries.

"We now ask you to work with your fellow finance ministers at this month's G20 meeting to cancel, rather than merely suspend bilateral debt payments, as well as to urge the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and private creditors to cancel debt payments owed in 2020 and 2021 by these countries," the religious leaders write.

"These are not normal times and we must respond accordingly. This crisis has emphasized the need to stand together and debt cancellation represents an urgent and essential means of assisting the most vulnerable communities to withstand the suffering the pandemic will otherwise unnecessarily cause," the letter continues.

The letter noted that in his Easter Urbi et Orbi message, Pope Francis called for the reduction of the debt that is "burdening the balance sheet of the poorest nations" and said earlier this year that it is not right "to demand or expect payment when the effect would be the imposition of political choices leading to hunger and despair for entire peoples."

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

### **Marriage Matters:**

*Reflections on the Sunday readings.*

Attentive listening

The Gospel today raises questions about our ability 'to listen'. We easily hear criticism in a comment, or a question which often puts us at odds with each other. But if we listen with our hearts, in the way Jesus commanded us to do, we are enabled, in all our relationships, to follow His command "...listen, anyone who has ears".

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

There's a dropout named Bobby and a super genius named Greg sitting on a bench waiting for a bus. The genius gets bored, leans over to the dropout and says, "Hey, I'll tell you what, I'll ask you a question and if you don't know the answer you have to give me five bucks. If you ask me a question and I don't know the answer I have to give you 50 bucks."

The dropout says, "Alright, man." The genius asks the dropout, "What is the Pythagorean Theory?" The dropout replies, "I don't know." and hands the genius five bucks. "Okay," the dropout says, "What has three legs going up a hill and four legs going down?"

The genius thinks real hard and finally gives up. He hands the dropout 50 bucks then asks, "So, what is the answer?" The dropout says, "I don't know." and hands the genius five bucks.

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