

The Abbey Parish Newsletter

26th July, 2020 17th 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	Ss. Martha, Mary & Lazarus
Thursday	Feria
Friday	St. Ignatius Loyola
Saturday	St. Alphonsus Liguori

"Oremus pro invicem"

Please pray for those who are sick:

Geraldine Thompson Pat Hedges
Margaret McAvoy 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:

Rev. Alexandre Dodard; Gertrude Cabusac; Eduard Bandwiski; William Swindell; Elizabeth Bailey; Emma Striffler; Gladys Baverstock; Kathleen Chaffe; Maurice Ferrero; Mary Keer-Kennedy; Stephen Hanrahan; Margery Pairpoint; Jean Preston-Cooke; Rose Martin; Francis Sibeth; Dom Stephen Kramer; Bessie Clarke;

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.

A Reflection by Fr. Francis on Praying for Vocations.

Those of you who have been regular online participants in the Mass with the monks over the last few months will have noticed that, when the liturgical calendar makes it possible, we devote one Mass a week to prayer for vocations to the monastery. Whether you 'tune in' digitally and spiritually to those Masses or not, we hope that you will add your prayers to ours, that the Lord Jesus will call generous and faithful men to join our Community. By giving themselves whole-heartedly to the monastic life, we pray that they come to know 'true life and enjoy good days' (Rule of St. Benedict) and to be instruments in the Lord's hand, spreading his Good News.

In making this request of you, I wouldn't want you to think I do so because there is an urgent need. As a Community, we feel confident that will be active and productive for years to come. We are very buoyed up in our determination by your prayers and good wishes and by the support and assistance we are so grateful to receive from the wonderful people who work alongside us at the Abbey.

By its nature, a religious community needs new members to continue its existence, but we never seek them simply to keep numbers up. We do so because we want to share this wonderful way of life with them and continue the outreach and mission our Community has engaged in here for nearly one hundred and forty years. So, as you pray, please encourage people to think of joining us in our efforts to grow in our knowledge and love of God and of his Son, Jesus Christ.

By praying for vocations we aim to trust in God's providence and not worry about numbers. If we were unable to let go of such anxieties we would be robbed of the pleasure of acknowledging the blessings God bestows on us here and now. When I joined the Community forty years ago there were many more monks here, but, just like today, there were people lamenting how few of us there were then. People who do that are fretting about the people who are not in the choir stalls, rather than giving thanks to God for the faithful presence of those who are. We never forget Jesus' promise: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

There is nothing to be gained by pretending one is stronger than one is, but there is even less to be gained from being preoccupied by one's frailty. Think of the Parable of the Talents. You can look at us online and see us either as few and weak, or as persevering and committed to praising God for His unending care for us, and doing all we can to love our neighbour as God wants us to. Please God, we are worthy of that description, because it is that impression of who we are which will attract people to join our life and mission.

News from our Parish School (Courtesy of Mitzi)

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

We said "farewell" to our Year 6 children on Tuesday. Seven out of the nine of them were able to join us for an open air presentation of our Annual Awards and the Leavers' gifts. Awards are given for achievement in everything from art to sport to environmental awareness. One of my favourites is "The Sheila Cocks Award for Endeavour" which is a cup given in honour of one of our former governors and a parishioner, who sadly passed away some years ago. Sheila had been a headteacher and she took a particular interest in the progress of our children with additional educational needs. Her late husband, Stan, who used to be a Church Steward in the Abbey, would join us to present it to the child who had shown the greatest determination and resilience in overcoming disadvantage. I am really pleased that we continue to award this cup even though the connection to the Cocks family has understandably faded.

We were able to give the children, what has become somewhat of a badge of honour for Year 6, their leavers' hoodies. John Hughes, from the Conference Centre, adapted his annual gift of cake into individual muffins, each one iced with a child's name. Also, this year, as the children had missed the annual class photos due to lockdown, we collated a Leavers' photo. This presented some challenges as not all of the children were able to provide a recent photo of themselves so we had to scour the most recent curriculum activity photos and the only photo we could find of them as a group was them dressed for this year's Nativity – not quite what they were expecting, but it's a lovely photo, hopefully one which will make them smile at fond memories in years to come.



Each class also made a short video to say goodbye to the Year 6 – this was almost scuppered when the school internet went down all day but a bit of ingenuity with a phone and a visualiser saved the day! Another triumph over adversity which produced an even more moving experience than the 'normal' leavers' assembly.

All-in-all, it is not what the children and their families would have envisioned a year ago but, as they passed out through the guard of honour made by staff and the Year 5 children who were in school, it was an occasion duly marked as best we could!

"And finally", the final statistics for the term – our greatest number of children in school on any one day was fifty-four and sixty-two out of one hundred and eleven on roll came in at some point between March and July.

We all know what wonderful work members of the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul** do, quietly, in many parishes throughout the country. If anyone felt inspired to start a group in this parish, I'd be very keen to support them. In the meantime, SVP Young Vincentians have written to tell us of the resources and activities they provide on their website for youngsters in each of three age-groups:

Mini Vinnies (7-11 year olds) <https://www.svp.org.uk/mini-vinnies>

Youth SVP (11-14 year olds) <https://www.svp.org.uk/youth-svp>

B-Attitude (14-18 year olds) <https://www.svp.org.uk/b-attitude>

They've also just launched an Instagram account with the aim of accompanying young people in their spiritual journey and in their acts of charity carried out within their local communities and further afield.

<https://www.instagram.com/svpyoungvincentians/>

Please encourage the young people you know to visit these sites and get involved.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)** is 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.

Marriage Matters:

Reflections on the Sunday readings.

Discover what loving really means
Instead of praying for 'treasure', King Solomon prayed for wisdom 'to discern good from evil'. When discerning what 'loving' really means, you find 'hidden treasure' in these weekly reflections on Scripture. They will also help you to discover the 'hidden treasure' in each other. Sharing this, you sow 'seeds' of love in the minds and hearts of others.

Phone line for prayer: call 01364 72768

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

Live-streaming of daily Mass and the Divine Office continues. You can view online in any of these places: www.buckfast.org.uk/live
Youtube.com/c/BuckfastAbbey Facebook @buckfastabbeyofficialsite

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

A man lay sprawled across three seats in the theatre. When the usher came by and noticed this, he whispered to the man, "Sorry, sir, but you're only allowed one seat." The man groaned but didn't budge. The usher became impatient. "Sir, if you don't get up from there I'm going to have to call the manager."

Again, the man just groaned. In a few moments, both the usher and the manager returned and stood over the man. Together the two of them tried repeatedly to move him, but with no success. Finally, they summoned the police. They asked "All right buddy, what's your name?" "Sam," the man moaned. "Where ya from, Sam?" With pain in his voice, Sam replied, "The balcony."