

The Abbey Parish Newsletter

16th August, 2020 The Assumption of our Blessed Lady

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	Feria
Thursday	St. Bernard
Friday	St. Pius X
Saturday	Feria

Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Frances Berington; Mrs. Routley; James Kelly; Eric Pinerey; Mother M. Cecilia;
Hazel McCracken; Peggy Wood-Pottle; Marjorie Nuttall; James Stuart;
Br. Alphonsus Vogt; William Asb; Edward Hutton; Caroline Tapper; Catherine Carter;
Sam Sobey; Dom Cuthbert Smith; Reg. Couch; Alice Daley; Dom Erkenwald Piersch;
Wallace Fluter; Dom Gall Keckeisen; Arthur Gayton; Michael Bracelin;

May they rest in peace

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

"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

We all know what wonderful work members of the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul** do, quietly, in many parishes throughout the country.

You'll remember from previous newsletters that I've encouraged parishioners to consider starting a group in this parish. I'm very grateful to those who have stepped forward to put their faith into action in this way. Trusting that God will help us, we are starting an SVP Conference in the Parish. The Society has given us a lot of advice and will continue to support us as we take our first steps.

Many people in the parish already do a lot to support and care for those in need around them. By joining in this initiative they can share their wisdom and experience and benefit from the support and encouragement which a sense of shared mission in this admirable Society can bring.

So, please do contact me and express your interest in helping the parish to grow in this way.
Fr. Francis

Reserving your place at 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.

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

Facebook @buckfastabbeyofficialsite

Parish Collections

As you know, we are trying to avoid handling cash, so it's been a bit of a hassle for you to make your Sunday parish offering.

It's now possible to do this via the Buckfast Abbey website. Just go to:

<https://www.buckfast.org.uk/donate>

You can then select the church whose collection you wish your offering to be added to. You will also be given the opportunity to gift aid your donation if you are a UK tax payer.

You may be interested...

Congratulations to Nigel and all the staff at the Abbey's Northgate House Hotel. They heard yesterday that they have obtained a Travellers' Choice Award from Trip Advisor. This means that, based on users' feedback, they are in the top 10% of venues worldwide. Such an accolade is doubly valued at this time, since it comes in the wake of all the extra work and planning which has taken place to re-open after the lockdown, and continues as they maintain a safe environment for all their guests.

Less welcome on Thursday was the 'flash flood' which, I'm sure, many parishioners also experienced during the afternoon. The wisdom of ancient monks in locating their monasteries conveniently close to water-courses has the disadvantage of siting them at the lowest point in the landscape. So in extreme conditions, as gravity does what comes naturally, much water ends up where it shouldn't be. On this occasion, the north cloister and St. Michael's Chapel found themselves wetter than is good for them.

Thanks to the vigilance and prompt action of Matthew Searles, one of the Abbey organists, it was quickly a case of 'all hands on deck' and within an hour and a half most of the water had been sent off toward the river. Many thanks, too, to Simon, our maintenance manager and staff members Robert and Brian, who rolled their sleeves up and got stuck in, despite the calamity happening just as it was time to go home (why does that always seem to happen?).

We have recently welcomed for short stays in the monastery two men who are discerning whether God might be calling them to religious life in our Community. After their experience, their interest in us and our way of life continues. We invite you to pray with us that, if it is God's will, they and others like them will join us as we try to live well in this 'school of the Lord's service.' (Prologue of the Rule of St. Benedict)

News from our Parish School (Courtesy of Mitzi)

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

Last week I shared some of the letters from children in Fernworthy to their friends who hadn't been able to come into school since the lockdown started in March. The children in Burrator also wrote letters which were, as one would expect from older children, rather longer and more detailed. There were some recurring themes and, overwhelmingly, they sound like children who are confident about being in school.

On social distancing – “One of the best things about school is we get our own table.”

“We have our own bubble (Burrator are the pink hexagon bubble)”

“So first we have separate tables to social distance and we all remember to stay two metres at all costs.”

“At lunch we get to watch a movie and we eat our food in the classroom, how cool is that.”

On washing hands - “If you are worried it's okay because we wash our hands when we leave the classroom and when we enter.” “We are always washing our hands so don't be worried ☺.”

On having time with a counsellor and sports coach - “Mel and Ben come in for the whole day. It is very fun.”

“With Mel we do relaxing things like colouring, brain work and outdoor thinking. With Ben, we do tennis, football and races. He shows us lots of cool tricks too.”

The rest of the day - “We get longer playtimes but we have to social distance and everyone is super nice J.”

“We do art most of the time to relax and lots of free time to talk and not rush.”

“We do art for no particular reason but to calm us down”

“Sometimes with Mrs Batey, we make birds, fish and even more cool stuff with chicken wire.”

“Burrator have been going outside a lot lately. We have been bird watching, nature makes and being mindful of our surroundings.”

“We have been doing outdoor education more. We have been working towards our John Moore* award which is an outdoor award done up and down the country.”

* *This should be “Muir” – they aren't working towards a catalogue award!*

And finally, the children have been following a workout online, just to clarify, in case this sounds a little alarming - “Every morning we go down to the hall to workout with an American guy and we need you to get us up the table.”

Britain's leading Catholic refugee agency says Prime Minister Boris Johnson's declaration he wanted to “send away” asylum seekers might “pre-judge people's asylum claims without considering them individually.”

Speaking on Monday, Johnson called Channel crossings by asylum seekers a “very bad and stupid and dangerous and criminal thing to do,” and added his Conservative government wanted to “look at the legal framework that means that when people do get here, it is very, very difficult to then send them away again,” referring to “the panoply of laws that an illegal immigrant has at his or her disposal.”

Sarah Teather, the director of Jesuit Refugee Service UK (JRS UK), noted that people are making the “perilous journeys” across the Channel “because they are desperate and because their lives are under threat.” “If the government is serious about preventing Channel crossings, it must provide safe routes for people seeking sanctuary to come to the UK,” she told Crux in a statement. “Instead, we hear those forced to undertake dangerous crossing described as criminal. To protect human life, it is vital that we uphold the right to seek asylum, making it safer to cross borders in order to do so, and not prejudging the cases of those obliged to cross informally,” Teather added.

The prime minister's office said the current regulations are “abused by both migrants and their lawyers to frustrate the returns of those who have no right to be here.”

A JRS UK spokesperson took issue with the language used by the prime minister, saying the government “should prioritise a culture of protection, bringing an end to the current culture of disbelief and the hostile environment which already have a devastating effect on the lives of those seeking asylum here.”

“First, it is important to note that people are allowed to cross borders informally in order to seek asylum, so it is inaccurate to describe them as ‘illegal immigrants.’ In fact, our experience is that people often have to struggle for years to get international protection they badly need. Many initially refused are ultimately recognised as refugees, which raises worrying questions about how many people we are forcibly removing back into danger after refusing their asylum claims,” “Unfortunately, comments like the PM's do seem to pre-judge people's asylum claims without considering them individually, and if this were carried over into the asylum determination system, which is already crippled by a culture of disbelief, that would be very disturbing and deny many refugees international protection,” JRS UK added.

Full article: www.cruxnow.com

Phone line for prayer: call 01364 72768

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

Marriage Matters:

Reflections on the Sunday readings.

We are exalted

Today we celebrate that Jesus exalted his mother in special way. As married couples we too can take heart from Mary. Although everything will be changed by the death of one of us, it is not the end! Nothing of our love for each other will be lost, but, as the Lord promised, will be made glorious in heaven.

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

An old man was wondering if his wife had a hearing problem. So one night, he stood behind her while she was sitting in her lounge chair. He spoke softly to her, “Honey, can you hear me?” There was no response. He moved a little closer and said again, “Honey, can you hear me?” Still, there was no response. Finally he moved right behind her and said, “Honey, can you hear me?” She replied, “For the third time, Yes!”

What do you call Bible verses that are spray painted onto walls?.....EVANDALISM!