

The Abbey Parish Newsletter

23rd August, 2020 21st 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	St. Bartholomew
Tuesday	Dedication of the Abbey Church
Wednesday	Feria
Thursday	St. Monica
Friday	St. Augustine of Hippo
Saturday	Beheading of John the Baptist

"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

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.

Please forgive me for taking this long to find out how to get a report from this system. I'm pleased to tell you that, since 26th July, the following gift aided donations have been made to parish collections:

Abbey 9 a.m.	£12.00
Abbey 10:30 a.m.	£107.00
Buckfastleigh Sat 5 p.m.	£98.00
Ashburton 10:30am	£160.00
South Brent 9 a.m.	£55.00
<i>Added value through gift aid</i>	£108.00

Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

James May; Barbara Carus; Eileen Barham; Mabalat Quinet; Harold English; Beatrice Morris; Clara Craig; Marie Power; Sr. Margaret Morrim; Siofra Donfield; Leonard Hares; Mary Hall; Eldon Simons; Ellen Baker; Brian Mitchell;

May they rest in peace

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

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 system is working well, and I'm grateful for your collaboration in keeping everyone safe. To make it even more effective, can I ask that you cancel your reservation if you find that you won't be able to attend. That will ensure that there aren't empty spaces at a Mass which online appears to be fully booked.

A few of our regulars are not making an online reservation. They just turn up, perhaps because the Mass they attend usually has spaces to spare. It's not ideal, but we can live with it, as long as they realise that, if one day the Mass is fully booked on line, they may well be turned away. We have to bear in mind that the Local Authority has the power to close a church if it flouts the law which limits its seating capacity to maintain social distancing.

It's really inspiring that more people are coming forward to be part of the new SVP Conference which we are starting in this parish. I'm also incredibly grateful to Miss Slack, Headteacher of our wonderful parish school, who has decided to encourage the children to participate in this initiative through the 'Mini-Vinnies' programme, <https://www.svp.org.uk/mini-vinnies>

Please consider joining in, whether or not you have any previous experience of the sort of work which members of the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul** do. To be part of our introductory meeting, please let me know you're interested. It doesn't commit you to anything, and if you decide to participate it will be on your terms, both of the kind of volunteering you do and the amount of time you can give.

Thank you, in hope and anticipation

Fr. Francis

Since the recommencement of Mass with a Congregation, the following parish collections in cash have been gratefully received:

	Buckfastleigh		Abbey 0900		South Brent		Ashburton	
	Gift Aided		Gift Aided		Gift Aided		Gift Aided	
05/07/2020	£5	£100			£17	£5	£50	
12/07/2020		£9		£15		£20		
19/07/2020	£2	£17	£10		£25	£20	£50	£27
26/07/2020	£2	£15	£10	£10	£15	£10		£2
02/08/2020	£2	£15			£10	£30	£10	£2
09/08/2020	£2	£15			£15	£30	£10	£102
16/08/2020	£19	£15	£10			£25		£2

It is hoped that we can now return to a weekly report on parish collections received.

News from our Parish School (Courtesy of Mitzi)

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

I may have mentioned that we have had to do a lot of planning this year due to the pandemic – and we thought we were ready for September with our zones agreed, our routes to and from the car park to the classrooms clearly outlined and our socially distanced bubbles ready to go. I also may have mentioned, with not a small amount of joy, that we haven't had to have any substantial building work done this summer. But you know what they say about the plans of mice and men ... (just in case you don't, it is that they often go awry or, to actually quote the line in "To a Mouse," by Robert Burns: "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men / Gang aft a-gley.")

Over the past few years, the Abbey have been working through a programme of refurbishing and re-pointing walls around the site including the one which surrounds the old convent. This holiday they were just starting on the final section which runs between our footpath and the infant playground. All was on schedule to be done and dusted by the time school opens, when the gentleman carrying out the work said that the wall was held together with more soil than mortar and did we know how far out of line it was. So, the wall has to come down in virtually its entirety to be re-built which means, yes, more plans on how to get people in and out of the school and more builders, more machinery and more mess! Fortunately, by the time the children return, there will be just a couple of people carefully reassembling the wall and all will be under control once more!



On a more positive note, we were pleased to receive our Eco School Award as a result of the work which the Eco Committee has led. This represents two years' hard work to achieve the Green Flag Award, having previously been awarded the Bronze and Silver Eco Awards. Pupils carried out audits, ran competitions to promote energy saving behaviour, carried out litter collections and focussed on ways to encourage wildlife in the school grounds. Talking of which, this week, our bird hide was finally put into position in the orchard so there will be another quiet spot for children (or adults) to sit and reflect and look at the wonder of nature (or just "hide").

Collections, continued...

On 12th July, the following donations to special collections were gratefully received:

Peter's Pence	£5
Day for Life	£5
World Communications Day	£5
Sick & Retired Clergy	£5
Aid to the Church in Need	£10

Marriage Matters: *Reflections on the Sunday readings.*

The key to family life

Today's Gospel places keys at the heart of the responsibility Jesus gives Peter. In spite of his weaknesses and failings, because of his faith, he is entrusted with the 'keys' to the kingdom of God. Our married love is entrusted with the 'keys' of our family life. We are the 'rock' upon which the future of our family will be built.

Phone line for prayer: call
01364 72768

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

Job Opportunity

Buckfast Abbey is looking to recruit an additional Steward to work in the Abbey church and the car park. The salary will be £9 per hour and the hours of work will be 5 days per week, Thursday to Monday inclusive, 32.5 hours.

The work involves welcoming visitors to the Abbey, being a source of general information and ensuring a safe environment for all who come here. The closing date for applications is Monday 31st August, 2020. For further information, please visit www.buckfast.org.uk/careers

The annual appeal of the Catholic Children's Society is next weekend. Please visit their website to understand the wonderful work which the Society does to help struggling children and their families. Thank you

Putting All Children First 

BUCKFAST Abbey's education team are taking their mental health initiatives online to the nation, with the launch of a virtual wellbeing festival available to primary school pupils across the UK.

Called the Take 5 Festival, it is due to take place between Monday September 28 and Friday October 2 and is already attracting substantial interest.

The festival will give the opportunity for pupils to engage in practical and fun workshops with a focus on developing spiritual, emotional and mental health. Originally intended to take place at the Abbey, COVID restrictions have made that impractical, but have opened up new possibilities for participation.

There will be video workshops, guided reflections in the Abbey Church and grounds, live link-ups with Children's Wellbeing Practitioners, Q&A sessions and classroom activities. There will also be a special Teachers' Area with wellbeing and Continuing Professional Development sessions for staff.

Enquiries and bookings have come from places as far away as Cumbria, Yorkshire and Kent. Already, bookings have been made for over 2,000 pupils to attend. For more information: 01364 645517 or education@buckfast.org.uk

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

Little Bobby was spending the weekend with his grandmother. His grandmother decided to take him to the park on Saturday morning. It had been snowing all night and everything was beautiful. His grandmother remarked... "doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God painted this just for you?" Bobby said, "Yes, God did it and he did it left handed." This confused his grandmother a bit, and she asked him "What makes you say God did this with his left hand?" "Well," said Bobby, "we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand!"