

The Abbey Parish Newsletter

6th September, 2020 23rd 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	Birthday of Our Lady
Wednesday – Saturday	Feria

“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

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”.

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

Parish Collections

From now on it will again be possible to give your contribution in cash at the Sunday Masses. To avoid risk to health, there will not be a collection during Mass, but there will be a basket available to you to put something in as you leave.

You are encouraged to gift aid if you are a UK taxpayer, but **you will need to bring your own pen to write on the envelope as these must not be shared.**

To make it clear: this will be what has been known as the ‘First Collection’ which goes to parish funds. ‘Second’ collections for special causes have been suspended by the Bishops, though the newsletter will give information as they would have fallen due so that you can donate to them online if you wish.

Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Rev. Rudolph Bullesbach; Arthur White; Catherine Huxtable; Stephen Scarrett; Charles Parkhurst; Ruth Naylor; William Mueir; Abbot Stephen Denis; Winifred Bridge; Clement Burge; Evelyn King; James Durkin; Alan Cookesley;

May they rest in peace

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

Phone line for prayer: call
01364 72768

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

Last weekend's collections

	Gift Aided	Online
Abbey 9 a.m.		£5.00
Abbey 10:30 a.m.		£15.00
Buckfastleigh Sat 5 p.m.	£7.00	£15.00
Ashburton 10:30am	£50.00	£5.00
South Brent 9 a.m.	£8.00	£100.00
Added value through gift aid		
	£28.75	£6.25

Parish Meeting

Saturday 12th September, 2020 at 2.30 p.m.
in the Parish Meeting Room at the Abbey

(Directions available from Fr. Francis)

Introductory Meeting about setting up a parish conference of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Attended by Mr. Simon Coombs, Exeter District SVP Rep, who will say a few words about how the SVP works and take questions.

If you feel able to, you are most welcome to attend the meeting ‘physically.’ This will offer the better experience. But if you would prefer to attend by Zoom, please let Fr. Francis know. You can get an insight into the St. Vincent de Paul Society by visiting:
<https://www.svp.org.uk/what-we-do>

We will also spend a little time looking at case studies on the SVP website (if Fr. Francis can manage the technology of doing that and Zooming at the same time!)

Fifteen people have already indicated their desire to attend, so please come along and join in this exciting new venture.



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

News from our Parish School (Courtesy of Mitzi)

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

I am happy to say that all staff reported for duty this week, fit, healthy and raring to go, as we started the term with a couple of In-Service Training (Inset) Days. I think it is fair to say that we will all be pleased when we have got Monday out of the way and we can start to set our new routines for the coming weeks. One thing is sure, for the first few weeks, we will all be walking considerably further as we have to take quite a long detour from the car park to the classrooms to avoid the work being carried out on the playground wall. I have already decided that a new pair of trainers may be in order! As was the system towards the end of the summer term, staff will be waiting by the car park gates each morning to escort the children to their classrooms. Funnily enough, now that they can no longer enter the site to walk their children into class, parents seem to be very pleased not to have to tackle the hill twice a day.

As we gathered together for a (socially distanced) reflection at the start of the first day, we were pleased to congratulate Mrs Hutchinson who announced that she has been teaching for thirty years this month and also Mrs Freeborn who announced that it was her thirty-seventh wedding anniversary. We were also able to congratulate Mrs Freeborn on the success of her daughter Ellen who won another European Gold Medal this month for her powerlifting. You may remember that, in the past, Ellen has also been a world champion! It just proves that life goes on even through Covid and it is lovely to share a colleague's pride on their, and / or their family's, achievements.

The prayer focus this week is based on "I have a dream...". Each day the children will be thinking about, and agreeing together, what they wish for, and that God would like too, for their classroom, their school, their family, their town, their country and the world. They will ask God each day to help them be the change they want to see in the world. Not for many years, or even generations, have children had so much to challenge them as they grow but also so many opportunities to write their own future. The world is on its head - let the children decide which way up to put it back!

CHALATENANGO, El Salvador — On a bright and clear January afternoon, Bishop Oswaldo Escobar Aguilar walked into a cemetery and gently dusted off a white name plate on top of a sky-blue block of tombs. Making plans for the year ahead, he told secretary Violeta Esmeralda Serrano nearby that they needed to make sure the tombs were decorated with flowers Dec. 2.

That's the day when, in 1980, two of three U.S. Maryknoll sisters buried there were killed near the country's capital of San Salvador, along with two other American Catholic women. Though the killings came as a shock around the country and in the U.S., the loss of the Maryknollers was keenly felt in the Diocese of Chalatenango, in northern El Salvador, where the women lived and served.

Today, almost four decades after their deaths, the women are remembered, not because of how they died, but as examples of Christian lives well-lived, with the words "martyrs" and "saints" thrown about by those keeping their memory alive. They appear in murals of Salvadoran martyrs, such as the one in Zaragoza, in the department of La Libertad, where Kazel and Donovan lived, and in the pages of a 2017 pastoral letter on the country's martyrs issued by Archbishop José Luis Escobar Alas of San Salvador.

Some time in the 1980s, remembers Father Manuel Acosta, the community of Chalatenango began a quiet remembrance, with a Mass and procession on the day of the women's death, with particular interest in the Maryknoll sisters, tying it to the collective sacrifice of local Catholic martyrs.

After a letter requesting more Maryknoll Sisters by then-Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador, the order increased its presence in the country, even as civil conflict started, and among the hungry, exploited masses of predominantly Catholic Chalatenango, Clarke and Ford were sent to lead Bible study groups. Though Donovan and Kazel lived in another part of the country, they often traveled to Chalatenango, meeting and organizing with Clarke and Ford, to transport food, medicine and sometimes wounded children to safety.

"They (the women) came to embody the Salvadoran reality, they came here to be poor, to be persecuted, they came to endure what all the poor endured at that time, which was persecution," said Acosta. "They left their culture, they left their comfort, and they came here to live the daily life of the poor. Then, they were washed away by rivers. They were subjugated to (police) searches many times, until they were killed."

"They could have lived in better (economic) conditions in their native country than here, but, not only did they show solidarity with the poor, but also suffered the same fate as the poor, the thousands of murdered catechists, delegates of the Word, at the hands of a bloody repression," Escobar said

He said that even though it's not under his purview to officially declare anyone a saint, he believes Chalatenango, where the women are buried, is home "to these great saints, which, to me, they are because they were martyrs, because they lived out the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the most extreme of consequences." Full article: www.cruxnow.com

Marriage Matters:

Reflections on the Sunday readings.

To listen is to Love

Matthew reminds us of Jesus' promise "...where two or more meet in my name I will be with them". In all the practical ways we look after each other, we are saying; 'your concerns are my concerns'. Nothing is too small or insignificant in our marriage, and my beloved is beside me to call me back to our life together.

He fills your mouth with laughter and your lips with rejoicing"

(Job 8:21)

A film crew was on location deep in the desert. One day an Old Indian went up to the director and said, "Tomorrow rain." The next day it rained. A week later, the Indian went up to the director and said, "Tomorrow storm." The next day there was a hailstorm. "This Indian is incredible," said the director. He told his secretary to hire the Indian to predict the weather. However, after several successful predictions, the old Indian didn't show up for two weeks. Finally the director sent for him. "I have to shoot a big scene tomorrow," said the director, "and I'm depending on you. What will the weather be like?" The Indian shrugged his shoulders. "Don't know," he said. "Radio broken."

