

The Abbey Parish Newsletter

13th September, 2020 24th 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	Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Tuesday	Our Lady of Sorrows
Wednesday	Ss. Cornelius & Cyprian
Thursday	St. Hildegard
Friday	Feria
Saturday	Ss. Theodore & Adrian

“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

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children asks you to sign a petition urging MPs to vote against Bills which would restrict the right to offer an alternative to abortion in the vicinity of abortion clinics. The effect of such a law would be to deny help to vulnerable women, increase the number of babies killed by abortion and attack freedom of speech. To sign the petition go to:

www.spuc.org.uk/SaveTheRightToSaveLives



Society for the **Protection** of Unborn Children

Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Ellen Conlon; Sheila Straw; Leslie Powne; Helen Ruth; Christine Harris; Yvonne Horak; Francis Lee; Victor Tapper; Tom Egan; Pam Squires; Lisa Alison; Dorothy Hamilton-Dean; John Cotter; Dom Anscar Cawley;

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. 30/8/20	£298.00	
Abbey 9 a.m. 6/9/20	£94.50	
Abbey 10:30 a.m.	£174.00	£10.00
Buckfastleigh Sat 5 p.m.	£9.00	£50.00
Ashburton 10:30am	£10.00	£45.00
South Brent 9 a.m.	£13.00	£15.00
<i>Added value through gift aid</i>	£28.75	£30.00



“A civilization which has no place for prayer is a civilization in which old age has lost all meaning. And this is terrifying. For, above all, we need old people who pray; prayer is the purpose of old age... The prayer of the elderly is a beautiful thing.”

Pope Francis

In this article from Vatican News, Bishop John Arnold speaks about the Season of Creation and the work his own diocese of Salford is doing to care for our common home.

The Season of Creation is now well underway, with faith communities praying and organising events that are aimed at contributing to the protection of our common home. Writing about the season Pope Francis said, “this is the season for letting our prayer be inspired anew,” a season “to reflect on our lifestyles,” and a season “for undertaking prophetic actions... calling for courageous decisions... directing the planet towards life, not death.”

Only last week, during an audience with a group of ecological experts, the Pope welcomed the fact that “the issue of ecology is increasingly permeating the ways of thinking at all levels and is beginning to influence political and economic choices, even if much remains to be done and even if we are still witnessing too slow and even backward steps.”

Over the past two years Bishop Arnold has written Pastoral Letters calling on schools and parishes in his diocese to take the environmental crisis more seriously and to make small changes in their day to day lives. He has also responded to the challenge of Pope Francis’ encyclical on the care for creation, by launching a project in his diocese aimed at encouraging environmental sustainability.

Continued overleaf

News from our Parish School (Courtesy of Mitzi)

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

Well, out of one hundred and ten children who could have come to school this week, an amazing one hundred and eight were present! Both the children who weren't in had very good reasons not to be - one is in a far-flung place waiting for flights to resume and the other had been on holiday to a more near flung place and was having to self-isolate on their return.

The start and end of day collections have been busy affairs with parents being unable to come onto site and, consequently, staff bringing their classes to and from the field. As you can imagine, at the end of the day, the distribution of over one hundred children individually passed out through one small gate to parents who are standing back in order to socially distance themselves is a quite long-winded and somewhat noisy affair. Also "The Walk" has been added to the mix.... "The Walk" is the long and circuitous route which now has to be followed in order to reach the field from the school and is caused by the detour due to the wall repairs. Staff ped-o-meters have been working overtime as we now have to walk three long sides of a rectangle, through various locked gates, to bypass the building work. Think of it like those roadworks you hear about where the closure of a small bridge leads to a fifty mile detour. If one is going to meet children one can take the shortcut up the path by the road and I am aware when I have done this that I am wearing a look of grim determination (my husband wisely calls it my "concentrating" face, others might call it a frown) as the hill seems to go on and on and on. Fortunately, the weather has been dry so far which has been a real blessing but we know this will not last so I am sure the process will be coming quicker and slicker as a bit of rain seeping down one's neck always concentrates the mind!

The other alternative, and I shan't rule it out at this stage, is to create some sort of catapult / trebuchet affair to launch children over the small gap which the building work occupies but I feel that make take a little time and practice to perfect. Until then we can watch our communal fitness levels rise!

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Bishop Arnold says people are becoming more conscious of environmental damage and the importance of caring for the earth: "People hear about it a lot more, certainly the media very frequently have much more news, not only about the weather, but the impact of the weather in terms of climate change: the storms, the droughts, the wildfires."

Over the course of his pontificate, Pope Francis has said the world is in need of an ecological 'conversion' in order to manifest the Church's vision of an integral human ecology. He has also said that "one thing about ecological conversion is that it makes us see the general harmony, the correlation of everything: everything is connected, everything is related."

Bishop Arnold notes that Pope Francis has "done us a great favour by saying that everything is connected, and he's done that in his encyclicals all the way through. Everybody and everything is connected and when we do something in one place it has repercussions in so many other different spheres of our society." He adds that the pandemic "has caused great difficulties for many people but I think it has placed before us some very important questions about our care for one another, our priorities as we emerge from the pandemic..." The people who are suffering most in this pandemic, Bishop Arnold says, are those in the poorest nations and "we've got to be much more aware of them and their poverty and their need for basic care; healthcare."

One of the most rewarding aspects of pursuing the question of the environment, the Bishop says, has been the reaction in schools and in particular primary schools. "Every school I go into seems to be very much aware of the environment; very much enthused about it, not in sense of all getting very scared about damage but actually being educated in a very positive way about how we must care for creation. It's quite extraordinary, you know, seven-and eight- year- olds being really quite articulate about these things and enjoying the subject."

Five years ago Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*: On the Care for Our Common Home, was published. The document called on the entire global community to recognize how every person is connected and dependent on one another, as well as on the world in which we all live. Marking this fifth anniversary, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development has launched the celebration of a Special "*Laudato Si'* Anniversary Year" which runs until 24 May 2021. "I think Pope Francis has been the global voice really with *Laudato Si'*", says Bishop Arnold, who has created an environmental project named after the encyclical, which includes a walled garden, vegetable patches and beehives. The project, he explains is aimed at education of schools and parishes coming to visit to talk about the environment and about issues such as bio diversity. "At the moment we are promoting a project aimed at measuring our carbon footprint so that we can hopefully help other dioceses in England and Wales to follow a policy of reducing our carbon emissions," he says. Stressing the urgency of dealing with the climate crisis, Bishop Arnold expresses the hope that current awareness of the problem will lead to a turn around, and repair the damage that has been inflicted on our planet.

Marriage Matters:

Reflections on the Sunday readings.

The call to forgive

How can I love my spouse and bring life?
We are called to set aside resentment, to listen gently to our beloved, seeking understanding. In today's gospel the servant who is forgiven refuses to forgive the man who owes him. God forgives us everything, but are we willing to let go of the hurts we have experienced via our spouse?

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

Over at Fortitude Holiness Tabernacle, Dexter Rice, the Sunday School teacher, was telling his class the story of the Prodigal Son.

Wishing to emphasize the resentful attitude of the elder brother, he laid stress on this part of the parable.

After describing the rejoicing of the household over the return of the wayward son, Dexter spoke of one who, in the midst of the festivities, failed to share in the jubilant spirit of the occasion.

"Can anybody in the class," he asked, "tell me who this was?"

Nine-year-old Olivia Crombie had been listening sympathetically to the story. She waved her hand in the air. "I know!" she said beamingly. "It was the fatted calf."