

The Abbey Parish Newsletter

17th January, 2021 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Full details of times of Services are posted in the Abbey and the other churches in the parish

Confessions: By request after 1205 Masses in Ashburton

Facebook page: search for Buckfast Abbey Parish

Liturgical Calendar:

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Monday | Feria |
| Tuesday | St. Wulstan |
| Wednesday | St. Sebastian |
| Thursday | St. Agnes |
| Friday | Feria |
| Saturday | Feria |

"Oremus pro invicem"

Please pray for those who are sick:
Geraldine Thompson Pat Hedges
Margaret McAvoy Fred Cooke
John Goulden

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

Phone line for prayer: call 01364 72768

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

Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

William Ulyat; Dorothy Lucas; Antony Le Feure; Jane Berry; Ethel Clarke; Patrick Concannon; Dom Fergus Dougherty; Robert Lloyd; John Seymour-Crouchen; Dom Savinien Louismet; Winifrede Sproston; Aloysius Sproston; Mary de Trafford; Thomasine Martin; Anthony Kenley; Dom Gregory Burke; Christopher Laing; Emma Cummins; Kathleen Pilkington; Alice Alison; William Cardinal Godfrey; Charles Carroll; Mary Upham; Rev. Roland Walker; Bernard Miliffe; Marian Harvey; Laura Winstanley; William Denman; Stanley Palmer; Kathleen Brocklebank; Dom Augustine Taylor; Michael Wadey;

May they rest in peace

Last weekend's collections

Buckfastleigh 5 p.m. Sat

Abbey 9 a.m.

Abbey 10:30 a.m.

Ashburton 10:30am

South Brent 9 a.m.

Added value through gift aid

| | Gift Aided | Online |
|--------|------------|--------|
| £4.00 | £5.00 | |
| £41.00 | £17.31 | |
| £50.00 | £86.37 | |
| £47.00 | £6.92 | |
| £10.00 | £49.62 | |
| | £40.06 | |

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

Holy Mass with a Congregation

This week, Bishop Mark gave all parish priests some further advice on the safe opening of churches for Mass with a Congregation. This follows Cardinal Nichols' participation in HM Government's *Places of Worship Task Force*. While re-emphasising the basic principles of keeping the virus at bay:

pre-booking seats; stewarding; no mingling between bubbles inside or outside the church; sanitising hands; wearing a face covering, maintaining social distance; thorough cleaning of churches after use;

the following points are added:

- The length of exposure time for an act of worship is critical and should be minimised – anything that is not necessary should be omitted. In light of this, and that we are in a new 'lockdown', I would ask that we limit singing/ music at our public liturgies, such that these only ever 'cover' the liturgical actions, and do not prolong the Mass in any way. This means no singing of Psalms, Alleluia, or Mass settings for this next period, whilst the present 'lockdown' is in place. We should aim for Masses to be no longer than 30 minutes, even on Sundays, if at all possible. **Sadly, this means that the choir singing at the 1030 Sunday Mass at the Abbey has to cease for the time being. You may also notice that sermons are shorter.** 😊
- All non-essential worship should be postponed or cancelled.
- The task force expressed with great clarity that the Local Authority is empowered to close churches in particular circumstances on the basis of evidence of lack of COVID security.

The Government updated the Places of Worship Guidance on 11th January. This can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-from-2-december>

The Guidance now states: "Where possible, when visiting a place of worship, you should stay local and avoid travelling outside your local area, meaning your village or town, or part of a city."

Last Sunday, a member of the choir was stopped by the police on the A38. Although he was allowed to continue to church, such an outcome may become less certain now.

This week has been quite a tough one. Teachers and parents have been working exceptionally hard on refining the home learning for the children. During the lockdown in March last year, anything that parents managed to do with their children, which could be "remotely" considered to be home learning (pardon the pun), was rightly praised for the efforts put in and the benefits to both adults and children. For example, a walk together looking at nature or joining in with TV exercise sessions would count as learning just as completing the workbooks sent out by school or playing online maths or English games would be. This time the learning is being taken to a whole new level and the teachers are setting a full week's work online with specific English and Maths sessions and proper topics to follow. Most families have been able to embrace this new level of commitment and the school has helped by loaning out some Chromebooks to help the children access the information they need. I would say that some parents are discovering a newfound level of pride in sharing in their child's learning achievements and understanding why it is said that that parents are the primary educators of their children. However, for some families, it has come as a bit of a shock and, last week, the teachers spent a lot of time ensuring that the children and parents knew what was expected of them and that playing maths games online would not be sufficient this time!



The "Dancing in the rain" award this week has been for the enormous leaps forward in IT skills that everyone has made, as staff have discovered how to create online editable forms and how to embed video clips into their work and parents have discovered how to complete said forms and upload their children's work for the staff to see. One silver lining of this pandemic will be the massive advances in IT skills which we are all making, not only to teach our children, but also to see our families from a distance. On a personal note, I have just received a Cream Tea in the post which I shall be enjoying "zoomably" with my sister for her birthday this weekend - now that is definitely dancing in the rain!

Vaccines and their roll-out in the Community. Bishop Mark writes:

1. All faith communities have been asked by the Government to encourage and support the roll-out of the vaccines. You will be aware that St Boniface House is being used for this.
2. In our case, the fact that Pope Francis will be vaccinated next week should be stressed along with his own personal endorsement for vaccination, though perhaps the language is not easily understood in English! See <https://www.rt.com/news/512030-pope-francis-covid19-vaccine/>
3. There was a request for volunteer support in areas with vaccination hubs/centres, or where people have to travel to be vaccinated. Perhaps our SVPs or other volunteers could assist in ensuring that those invited can get to the designated place when they are approached. There are also lots of different roles that are necessary at the bigger centres, such as stewarding, as well as a request for former healthcare workers to assist in the inoculation programme.
4. The Government published the Vaccination roll-out plan yesterday. It is found here: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/951284/UK COVID-19 vaccines delivery plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/951284/UK_COVID-19_vaccines_delivery_plan.pdf)
5. I understand all our hospital chaplains have now received a first dose of the Vaccine. A request was made at the *Task Force* meeting yesterday, that all clergy be considered in the roll-out, given their engagement in the local community and with the most vulnerable.

Bishop Declan Lang, on behalf of the Bishops' Conference:
"On Friday 22 January 2021 the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons comes into force. This is an historic milestone on the path to nuclear disarmament and an opportunity to refocus on genuine peacebuilding rooted in dialogue, justice, respect for human dignity, and care for our planet. In setting out the "moral and humanitarian imperative" for complete elimination of nuclear weapons, Pope Francis reminded us that "international peace and stability cannot be based on a false sense of security, on the threat of mutual destruction or total annihilation." We urge support for the Treaty and repeat our call for the UK to forsake its nuclear arsenal. The resources spent on manufacturing, maintaining and upgrading these weapons of mass destruction, should be reinvested to alleviate the suffering of the poorest and most vulnerable members of our society, for the Common Good of all peoples. At the same time, we implore the government to strengthen its arms control regulations, tackling the manufacture and sale of other weaponry, which continues to destroy so many lives throughout the world."

Marriage Matters: *Reflections on the Sunday readings.* Welcomed in His name
When Andrew and Simon Peter met Jesus, they asked Him: "Rabbi, where do you live?" He said: "Come and see." They went, and stayed for the rest of the day. Did Mary, His mother, return to find strangers in her house and welcome and serve them in her Son's name? Do we welcome and serve one another in His name?

Hee, hee!

Doctor: Hey, the cheque you sent me for my bill came back! Patient: So did my arthritis!

They have all sorts of services these days. Now they've got a dial-a-prayer service for atheists: you call a number and nobody answers.

I've finally figured out why babies suck their thumbs: I tried some of the baby food.