

# The Abbey Parish Newsletter

31<sup>st</sup> January, 2021 Fourth 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	<b>Presentation of the Lord</b>
Wednesday	St. Anscar
Thursday	Feria
Friday	St. Agatha
Saturday	St. Paul Miki & Comp.

### "Oremus pro invicem"

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

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](http://www.buckfast.org.uk/live)  
Youtube.com/c/BuckfastAbbey  
Facebook: @buckfastabbeyofficialsite

Phone line for prayer:  
call 01364 72768

## Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Harold Sampson; Joseph Walter; Ernest Richards; Helen Kenny; Charles Lord Clifford; Lillian Trude; Doreen Legg; John Ash; Canon Higgins; Freda Alexander; Marion Temple; Edward Stevens; Francis Scarrett; Wilfrid Routley; David Weaver; Canon Robert Lyons; Robert Young; Tom Ashton; Dorothy Gowen; Adab Walker; Edward Banks; William Ryan; Elizabeth Beard; Kate Turner; Emily Richardson; Mary Conlon; Prudence Davies;

**May they rest in peace**

### Last weekend's collections

	Gift Aided	Online	
Buckfastleigh 5 p.m. Sat	£2.00	£25.00	
Abbey 9 a.m.	£41.00	£17.31	
Abbey 10:30 a.m.	£51.20	£71.37	
Ashburton 10:30am	£0.00	£6.92	£5.00
South Brent 9 a.m.	£0.00	£4.62	
Added value through gift aid		£25.06	£1.25

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Francis Straw; 01364 645526; [parish@buckfast.org.uk](mailto:parish@buckfast.org.uk)

## This Sunday is Racial Justice Sunday.

Here is a letter from Bishop Paul McAleenan, lead Bishop for Racial Justice of the Bishop's Conference:

As Pope Francis reflects: "instances of racism continue to shame us, for they show that our supposed social progress is not as real or definitive as we think."

Our brother Bishops in the USA remind us that: "all of us are in need of personal, ongoing conversion. Our churches and our civic and social institutions are in need of ongoing reform. If racism is confronted by addressing its causes and the injustice it produces, then healing can occur." Racism is a sin and a violation of human dignity in which we are all complicit. As Catholics we need to acknowledge and confront our own failings, as individuals and as a Church.

We need to address the lack of visible diversity at every level, so that people can see themselves, their race, their culture and their history in the Church's life. We need to engage suppliers and businesses from all parts of the community, seeking out those which promote diversity and inclusivity. Most importantly we need to actively invite people from different ethnic communities to share their experiences and genuinely listen to their voices, however challenging this may be.



It is not enough to simply denounce racism. This is a time to act. In the words of the Holy Father: "This is a moment to dream big, to rethink our priorities — what we value, what we want, what we seek — and to commit to act in our daily life on what we have dreamed of. God asks us to dare to create something new."

## Buckfast Abbey Parish Lottery

The monthly draw took place this week and the lucky winners are:

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize (£25)	117	Mr. K. Bridgeman
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize (£12)	82	Mr. S. Boden
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize (£9)	77	Ms. H. Saunders
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize (£7)	111	Mr. D. Fieldhouse

### PROCEEDS IN AID OF THE PARISH SYRIA APPEAL.

This lottery has been registered with Teignbridge District Council

New players are always welcome. For an application form please contact Mike Lang, or Fr. Francis on 01364 645526 or [parish@buckfast.org.uk](mailto:parish@buckfast.org.uk)

## Marriage Matters:

Reflections on the Sunday readings.

Change Evangelisation through our Sacrament

St Paul infers a deeper spirituality is found among the unmarried, yet writing to the Ephesians (5:32), he speaks of 'the profound mystery' of marriage and compares it to the relationship between Christ and the Church. The Lord is at the heart of our love for one another, providing the grace for daily living and evangelisation, through our Sacrament.

This week's news is not about the children's learning but new skills that the staff are having to employ with the arrival of new Covid tests. The government have provided all primary schools with lateral flow tests to help identify staff who are showing no symptoms of Covid19 but do, in fact, have it. The tests are done voluntarily and are self-administered at home and provide an accurate result within thirty minutes. Over the past week all staff have been given enough tests to check twice a week for the next seven weeks and all, I am pleased to say, have said they will give it a go. For many people this will be old news but, for those of you who have never done one of these tests, all I can say is that the first attempt is a bit daunting. It feels like you are setting up a science experiment. There are videos you can watch which will help you step by step but ultimately it is down to you to do the process in the right order.

Things I have learnt are 1) remember to put your glasses on at the start of the proceedings as, although you may know where your tonsils are, reading the number on the test strip is rather more of a challenge, 2) I only need to put the thin, cotton bud like things in the air space between my tonsils for me to start coughing and gagging, never mind actually touching my tonsils, and 3) I have just enough self-control to stop a massive sneeze from coming whilst in the middle of a tricky cotton bud manoeuvre. My main aim was not to have a void result, for two reasons - firstly, if you do, you have to do it all again and secondly, if you have two void results, you have to book for a properly administered test and, I think I am right in saying this, self-isolate until you get the results of that. Fortunately, to date, I have had two negative results (that was also a bit tricky at six-thirty in the morning, usually a negative result is a bad thing but, fortunately, I puzzled my way through and remembered that although a negative result was the right answer, I mustn't report it as a positive result ... if you follow my logic). So far, we have all been negative (which is a good thing) and long may that continue!

Elsewhere in school, you know your Covid-secure "bubbles" are generally working when people are genuinely surprised and pleased to see other people (albeit at a distance) who have been working in the same building for the last month and greet them with a "hello, stranger, haven't seen you for ages!" Hopefully, with each passing week, we are getting closer to those greetings becoming a thing of the past.

A spokesperson for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has commented on the news that Mr RS, a patient at the Derriford Hospital in Plymouth, has sadly died.

Mr RS, originally from Poland, suffered a heart attack and required Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration. This was withdrawn after a court ruling. "We are deeply saddened by the news of the death of Mr RS and offer sincere condolences to all of his family both here and in Poland. "We wish to assure them of our prayers for the repose of Mr RS's soul, and in doing so we will be joined by the Catholic community here, whose hearts have been touched by this tragic case. We pray that what happened here will not be repeated in the future, and hope that all those requiring Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration (CANH) will be treated with proper human dignity. May he rest in peace."

Mr RS was in the care of the University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust. Local bishop the Right Reverend Mark O'Toole, Bishop of Plymouth, said: "I am deeply saddened to hear of the death of Mr RS. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, children, mother, sisters, and niece and with all those who loved and cared for him. "Local clergy will continue to offer pastoral support to the family living in Plymouth, as they have done throughout his time in hospital."

The Catholic Church continues to oppose the definition of assisted nutrition and hydration as medical treatment which has now become the basis of medical and legal decisions to withdraw assisted nutrition and hydration from patients. Providing food and water to very sick patients, even by assisted means, is a basic level of care. This care must be given whenever possible unless it is medically indicated as being overly burdensome or failing to attain its purpose.

The potential loss of money and authority are often at the heart of the opposition against reforming the Catholic Church's annulment process, Pope Francis said.

Departing from his prepared remarks during a Jan. 29 meeting with members of the Roman Rota, a tribunal handling mostly marriage cases, the pope said that after implementing reforms that streamlined annulments in 2015, he "received many letters" and encountered "so much resistance."

"Almost all of them were lawyers who were losing clients. And therein lies the problem of money," he said. "In Spain, there is a saying, 'Por la plata baila el mono' — 'Monkeys will dance for money.' It is a saying that is clear." The pope also said he was saddened to see "resistance in some dioceses by some judicial vicars who with this reform would lose, I don't know, a certain form of power because it became clear that he is not the judge, but the bishop is."

The reforms — which do away with an automatic appeal of all decisions, charge diocesan bishops with responsibility for handling some cases and institute an abbreviated process for cases where the evidence is especially clear and uncontested — were meant to streamline the process and help couples in need of healing.

Hee, hee!

Father: "Do you think it will improve Junior's behaviour if we buy him a bicycle?"

Mother: "No, but it will spread his behaviour over a wider area."

To err is human; to blame it on the other guy is even more human.

A bore is someone who goes on talking while you're interrupting.

Letter home from college: "Dear Mum and Dad, I haven't heard from you for nearly a month. Please send a cheque so I'll know you're alright."

A farmer vows he increased egg production by putting this sign in the henhouse: "An egg a day keeps Colonel Sanders away."

Two barber shops were in red-hot competition. One put up a sign advertising haircuts for £1. His competitor put up one that read, "We repair £1 haircuts."