

The Abbey Parish Newsletter

14th February, 2021 Sixth 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	Feria
Wednesday	Ash Wednesday
Thursday	Lent
Friday	Lent
Saturday	Lent

"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

Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Florence Colborne; Bessie Highmore; Dom Boniface Bush; Francis Craig-McFeehy; Elsie Lee; Muriel Taylor; Helen Wetherall; Emily O'Shea; Barbara Scarrett; Frances Shorland; Moira Kerse; Winifred McKenzie; Jean Elton; Muriel Sass; William Crook; William Baker;

May they rest in peace

Last weekend's collections

	Gift Aided	Online
Buckfastleigh 5 p.m. Sat	£44.00	£10.00
Abbey 9 a.m.	£11.00	£17.31
Abbey 10:30 a.m.	£59.41	£61.37
Ashburton 10:30am	£50.00	£106.92
South Brent 9 a.m.	£5.00	£29.62
Added value through gift aid	£53.81	£2.50

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

Phone line for prayer:
call 01364 72768

On Monday, 15th February, there will not be Mass in our church in Ashburton. Sincere apologies for this.

Ash Wednesday Masses

Mass with distribution of ashes will take place at the following times in the parish

Ashburton 12:05 p.m.
South Brent 7:30 p.m.



Marriage Matters:

Reflections on the Sunday readings.

Keeping our love alive

Sometimes we have a sense of being at odds and separated from each other. The question, often unasked, is 'do you love me?' The answer is the same as Jesus gave to the outcast leper 'of course I do!' From being apart, we can be one again. How often do we say to each other 'I love you'?

Special arrangements for Ash Wednesday

The Holy See has issued special instructions for the distribution of ashes this year:

"The Priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes. He sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything. Then he addresses all those present and only once says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal, applying it to all in general: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel", or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return".

The Priest then cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask and distributes the ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places. The Priest takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything."

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Wendy Hird

Who died recently

May she rest in peace

Wendy's funeral will take place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 2.30 p.m. on Monday 22nd February. The number who can attend is limited by law to 30 and close relatives must have priority. If you wish to attend, please contact Gill & Eales Funeral Directors on 01364 642361

At this time of year, it is always good to get to a break from school, whether it is the weekend or the half term holiday, as it is nice not to have to worry about the weather and whether or not (again, pardon the pun) to open the school in icy conditions. It is one thing to be snowed in at work on your own, it is another to be marooned with several children! Fortunately, this year, so far, reports of imminent blizzards have been much exaggerated and barely a sprinkling has been seen on the playground. That isn't to say that we haven't had any wintry activities going on in school. Venford and Avon classes' topic this half term has been "It's f.f...freezing!" and they have been painting wintry scenes and learning about penguins. In fact, several small penguins have appeared by one of the displays in the school foyer.



You may be able to see in the centre of the photo a slightly more exotic type of penguin, sporting colours more fitting to a kingfisher than camouflage in the ice and snow. This little chap is the result of home learning and a resourceful parent not being put off by a lack of black, white or yellow felt and they have helped their child produce a splendid finger puppet with whatever materials were to hand.

(Please note: That photo is not to be confused with the second picture of our children dressed to impress as promised last week.)

We now have a week off before the government tells us the next step in our journey towards a more normal education for our children. They say we will get a couple of weeks' notice of the changes - we just have to ignore a week or more of speculation in the press before we get to that point. But then, if one doesn't have to worry about the weather, maybe one could ignore the news for a week. Now, that would be very restful....



World Day of the Sick, 11 February 2021

"You have but one teacher and you are all brothers" (Mt 23:8). A trust-based relationship to guide care for the sick. The World Day of the Sick 2021 is given special significance by the extraordinary and challenging times through which we are living. Our theme this year is taken from the Gospel passage in which Jesus warns against hypocrisy and urges us to practice what we preach. We are specifically called to remember that we "are all brothers". This echoes Pope Francis's recent encyclical, Fratelli Tutti, in which the parable of the Good Samaritan forms a golden thread showing us "how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbours, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good." (Fratelli Tutti, 67)

Today, we bring to mind all those who are suffering at this time of pandemic, including those afflicted with Covid-19, those for whom treatments and therapies have been delayed or postponed, the mentally ill, the lonely and isolated, those working on the frontline, and the countless thousands of others who have made quiet and selfless acts of sacrifice. We remember and pray especially for those who have died in this last year and their loved ones who mourn them. The fact of our fraternity reminds us that we are social beings, and Jesus's warning against hypocrisy is also an encouragement towards kindness.

Pope Francis writes, "Kindness ought to be cultivated; it is no superficial bourgeois virtue. Precisely because it entails esteem and respect for others, once kindness becomes a culture within society it transforms lifestyles, relationships and the ways ideas are discussed and compared." (Fratelli Tutti, 224)

The pandemic has brought an urgent need for society to take up this call to cultivate kindness, particularly in our treatment of the sick. The last year has generated some tragic scenarios in which heart-breaking decisions have had to be made about who receives urgent care. These decisions, necessary at the time, must now prompt us as a society to reflect on how we view and value the lives of the sick. We are bound to the ill, suffering and dying by their vulnerability. Their trust in us is a gift which we must cherish, honour, and respect, for though their illness may seem to transform them, their God-given dignity always remains.

During the coming season of Lent, we will recall the suffering, death, and glorious resurrection of our Lord. I invite you to join me in making a commitment to open our hearts to an encounter with the human face of Christ in the sick, to judge them worthy and valuable no matter their physical or mental state, and to love them as brothers and sisters. We pray to Our Lady of Lourdes to cover us with her mantle of love, and to give us grace in suffering and healing in sickness.

Bishop Paul Mason Lead Bishop for Healthcare

Hee, hee!

When Joe was a little boy, he took fiddle lessons. One day while he was practising, scraping dismally back and forth with his bow, his dog set up a plaintive wailing and howling. Finally Joan, who was trying to do her homework, stuck her head into the room where her brother was practising. "For goodness' sake!" she complained. "Can't you play something the dog doesn't know?"

"Petrol prices are so high that when I pulled into a petrol station this morning and asked for a pound's worth, the attendant dabbed some behind my ears."