

The Abbey Parish Newsletter

21st February, 2021 First Sunday of Lent

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

Confessions: On request after 1205 Masses in Ashburton

Facebook page: search for Buckfast Abbey Parish

Liturgical Calendar:

Monday	Chair of St. Peter
Tuesday	Lent
Wednesday	Lent
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

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

Phone line for prayer: call 01364 72768

Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Adela Carter; Angela Simpson; Rev. Edward Damen; William Spiller; Mother Mary Angela; Br. Bernard Seymour; Karl Pole; Mary Knowles; Mildred Gray; Isabel Hodge; Leonard Bragg; Anne Morin; Mgr. David Barry; John Billington; Bessie Stuart; Hilda Robertson; Dom Raphael Stones; Lucy Kaylor; Brian Cross;

May they rest in peace

Last weekend's collections

	Gift Aided	Online
Buckfastleigh 5 p.m. Sat	£2.00	£9.00
Abbey 9 a.m.	£15.90	£22.31
Abbey 10:30 a.m.	£72.95	£10.00
Ashburton 10:30am	£2.25	£58.30
South Brent 9 a.m.	£3.00	£34.62
	£31.31	£43.75

Added value through gift aid

To donate on line, visit <https://www.buckfast.org.uk/donate> and scroll down to select which Mass you normally attend.

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

CAFOD Lent Appeal

We are encouraged to fast on Friday 26th February and donate the money we save.

Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. **Donate online** at www.cafod.org.uk/lent

You can also give via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10*. *Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460. For more information, please see CAFOD's Privacy Policy: www.cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice

As, at present, it's not possible for us to gather in church for Stations of the Cross, I am offering a version which you can join in with on your computer, tablet or smart phone. It will be a Zoom video call during which images of the Stations of the Cross in the Abbey Church will be displayed.

I plan to do this each Friday from now until 26th March, beginning at 7.05 p.m. or as soon as Vespers is over.

If you haven't used Zoom before and need help setting it up, please do send me an email and I will find someone to assist you. Otherwise, it should just be a case of clicking on the link below at the time stated above.

God bless, Fr. Francis

To Join Zoom Meeting, click on:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86296362027?pwd=NkRKA2QrTkE1dUpMUcUOWXVqYkxaZz09>

Meeting ID: 862 9636 2027 Passcode: 507713

YOUR FAITH IN ACTION

We are all called by God to play our part in making the world a better place! But how?

action
/ak'ʃajn/ noun (n)

Join our community of young people aged 13 - 25
5 sessions starting 22nd February 2021 7.30 - 8.30
Contact Youth Event: youth@prcdtr.org.uk to book a place

The Twelfth
Station

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Last week, it being half term, school was obviously a lot quieter than the week before. However, it was not entirely deserted as the lack of children and staff meant that a number of statutory checks and repairs could be carried out on the building and equipment. For example, on Tuesday, the fire extinguishers were all checked for their sell by date and positioning; the boilers were checked for their ability to turn on safely (one that you probably don't notice until they don't a - turn on or b - rather more worryingly, do so safely); the extraction fans were all checked for excess fluff or something; a rogue intruder alarm, which had kept us all on our toes recently by sounding at odd times for no particular reason, was excluded from the system. And finally, a nice gentleman from a security company came to collect some keys so that, when a rogue intruder alarm goes off out of hours, it will be a security guard who will check the site rather than a rather bleary-eyed teacher.

Over the week, various gentleman from the Abbey Estate Team (formerly known as the Works Department), also took the opportunity to repair leaks and lights. The latter in the safe hands of Brian, the electrician - I say safe because there were a number of loud-ish fizz-bangs (if you have ever heard one of the bigger fuses blow, you will understand the "fizz" bit) before we were plunged into relative darkness. However, not once did Brian emerge with curly hair, nor with any signs of consternation for that matter. He patiently pursued the whereabouts of an escaping bolt of electricity until, that too, like the rogue intruder alarm, was bypassed to bother us no more.

Half term over, there will be a staff training day on Monday before the pupils return on Tuesday, by which time we may be slighter the wiser about how many children we shall be welcoming back over the next few weeks and when. Before the holiday, there were just over thirty children in school each day, from a pool of some forty or so attending on different days. With the fall in infections and the rise in vaccinations, I feel that number will increase over the coming week, regardless of what the government says, as those parents who were entitled to send their children in but were holding back due to safety concerns, will now decide to take up their places. For our part, I think everything will look the same as we will be sticking to our various Covid-secure measures for a while yet. To be honest, having got a bit more adept at carrying out the old lateral flow tests, with rather less coughing and sneezing, I rather like the feeling of certainty it gives me for two mornings a week and for the time being I see no reason to stop any measure that has carried us safely to this point. Let us get well clear of the finishing line before we even think about stopping running!

Marriage Matters:

Reflections on the Sunday readings.

We hunger for closeness 'Wilderness' can be a reality in our marriage relationship at times, a kind of 'desert experience': hungering for a gentle touch or return of the closeness in our relationship. Yet, we can look back on such times and recognise the Spirit was at work. God's grace was in our yearning, calling us to choose life and turn away from self-indulgence.



If you want to pass on the Easter story as well as the chocolate, the Meaningful Chocolate Company sells 'Real Easter Eggs.' There's an Easter story book in the box, the egg is made of Fairtrade chocolate and the sales support charitable projects.

Visit [Real Easter Egg — Meaningful Chocolate](#) for more information and to purchase for delivery to your home.

From Bishop Richard Moth, Lead Bishop on Social Justice.

We were distressed to learn this weekend of reports, from MENCAP which reiterated the statement of the Care Quality Commission in December 2020, that people with learning disabilities have been given Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) orders during the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a time when we are being given so much hope by the efficient roll-out of the vaccination programme, it is shocking to hear that people with learning disabilities are being made the victims of such discrimination. Their carers have shown deep love and compassion during the pandemic to ensure that they are as safe as possible.

All human life is endowed with equal God-given dignity from the moment of conception until natural death. Our worth as humans should never be determined by the status of our mental health or capacity.

Pope Francis recently said, 'If we deprive the weakest among us of the right to life, how can we effectively guarantee respect for every other right?' It is wholly unacceptable and immoral to suggest that the challenges which some people with learning disabilities face with communicating symptoms should make them candidates for a DNACPR order. Furthermore, the issuing of such orders in a blanket fashion ignores the unique gift of each person, instead treating people with learning disabilities as though they were all the same. There should be no discrimination of this kind in our health service.

The bishops continue to pray for an end to the pandemic, for fair and person-centred access to treatment, and for those working tirelessly on the front line to fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

Hee, hee!

A meek little man in a restaurant timidly touched the arm of a man putting on an overcoat. "Excuse me," he said, "but do you happen to be Mr. Smith of Newport?" "No, I am not!" the man answered impatiently. "Oh...er...well," stammered the first man, "you see, I am, and that's his overcoat your putting on."

"Every time I have a cup of coffee, I get a stabbing pain in my right eye. What shall I do?"
"Take the spoon out of your cup."