

# The Abbey Parish Newsletter

14<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 Fourth 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	Lent
Tuesday	Lent
Wednesday	<b>St. Patrick</b>
Thursday	Lent
Friday	<b>St. Joseph</b>
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](http://www.buckfast.org.uk/live)  
Youtube.com/c/BuckfastAbbey  
Facebook: @buckfastabbeyofficialsite

Phone line for prayer:  
call 01364 72768

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

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

*Teresa Smith; Ann Ilbert; Stanhope Reeves; Gertrude Richards; John Alexander; Herman Maier OSB; Edith Newton; William Collinge; Daniel Scott Maddocks; Thomas Nicholl; Angela Bull; Urban Bernard OSB; Richard Caunter; Saturnina Barber; Reginald Simpson; Beatrice May; Amy Vasey; Mary Hewett; Henri Lecourt-Lory; John Farrell; Doris McKinlay; Mary Wallace; Mary Vaughan;*

**May they rest in peace**

### Last weekend's collections

	Gift Aided	Online
Buckfastleigh 5 p.m. Sat	£2.00	£15.00
Abbey 9 a.m.	£52.00	£22.31
Abbey 10:30 a.m.	£80.00	£40.00
Ashburton 10:30am	£40.00	£58.30
South Brent 9 a.m.	£15.00	£29.62
	£37.56	£50.00

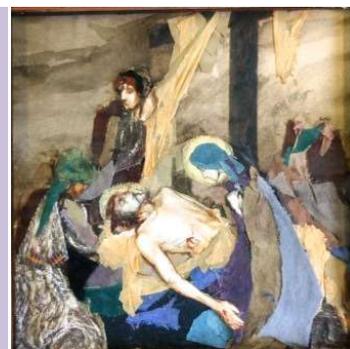
Added value through gift aid

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 Stations of the Cross on Zoom

Fridays in Lent at 7.05 p.m.  
About 20 people enjoyed this last Friday, so if you would like to join them, click on:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8629636202?pwd=NkRka2QrTkE1dUpMUCtOWXVqYkxaZz09>  
or go to the Zoom website and use Meeting ID: 862 9636 2027 Passcode: 507713



*The monks of Buckfast will be coming together on 9<sup>th</sup> April to elect an abbot.*

*May I ask that you keep us in your prayers, that together we will discern the will of the Holy Spirit for the good of our Community, for all who work here and for all who come here for worship, spiritual growth, rest or relaxation.*

*Fr. Francis*

Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter in Buckfast Abbey Parish.

Unlike last year, the Services of this most important time in the liturgical year will have a congregation present. This is a great blessing, although the safety measures in place demand a much simpler liturgy than usual:

On Palm Sunday there will not be a procession; palms will be available on entering the church. The priest will come to the top of the nave to bless the palms (without using holy water) and the first Gospel will be proclaimed. Thereafter, Mass will be as on a normal Sunday. The shorter form of the Passion is read by a single reader.

On Maundy Thursday it is sadly not permitted to have the Washing of the Feet or a procession to the Altar of Repose.

From Good Friday until Easter Sunday, the monks will sit in the sanctuary so that more space is available for the congregation. Thus, the safe capacity of the Abbey church will be increased to 80. **Please make sure you reserve your place in advance; it would be very sad if the stewards were forced to refuse entry to anyone once capacity is reached, but it is essential that they do so to keep those attending safe and to avoid the closure of churches by the authorities.**

On Good Friday, the Passion of St. John is read as usual, though crowd parts should not be exclaimed by the congregation. The Cross is unveiled at the Sanctuary Steps. The *Ecce Lignum* is said rather than sung. The Celebrant alone kisses the Cross, then holds it aloft for the Congregation to venerate in silence without leaving their places. Holy Communion is distributed as usual.

At the Easter Vigil there is no fire outside. The Paschal Candle is prepared at the foot of choir then put in place under the tower. The congregation do not have candles. The Exultet is sung. There will only be three readings before the Epistle. The baptismal water is blessed and all renew their baptismal promises, but holy water is not used to bless the congregation.

Well, we're back! Back to some kind of new normal on Monday with the sounds of happy and excited children echoing around the school. In fact, that has been one of the most noticeable things this week, the noise! Those of us who have been in throughout, both adults and children, were surprised by the amount of noise made by normal life! Having said that, Matthew Searles, who leads the Chorister Programme in the school, did point out that some of the "noise" has been the joyful sound of the choristers coming together for singing practice. It is very true that it is both ethereal and uplifting to hear the sounds of choral music floating along the corridors in the morning. Matthew also said the children were so pleased to see one another that some of them almost sang the "A" word! Fortunately, the choristers are sufficiently knowledgeable to restrain themselves but were bursting with happiness all the same.

The Chorister leadership have had to be tenacious and flexible over the past few months as singing has had more restrictions placed upon it than other subjects. They have kept in touch with the children by "zooming" theory lessons and even meeting outside last summer - luckily there were some sunny days as you can see by the photo. Even now, the children are meeting in reduced groups, according to the "bubbles" in school. Fortunately, we have our lovely hall which allows them to keep their distance from each other. But it is a testament to the combined efforts of Miss Slack, our headteacher, and Philip, Matthew and Hannah, from the Abbey Music Department, that from the small seeds of a few years ago, the Chorister group continues to grow, even with all the challenges put in their way over the past year. The programme offers such great opportunities for our older children to develop their musical skills and knowledge which in turn, helps them to grow in confidence. I know Philip and Matthew will themselves be overjoyed when the programme can return to its full capacity and the children will once again be able to sing in the Abbey Church.



"In the past few days, the Lord allowed me to visit Iraq, carrying out a project of Saint John Paul II," Pope Francis said. "Never before has a Pope been in the land of Abraham. Providence willed that this should happen now, as a sign of hope, after years of war and terrorism, and during a severe pandemic."

"I strongly felt a penitential sense regarding this pilgrimage," said the Pope. "I could not draw near to that tortured people, to that martyr-Church, without taking upon myself, in the name of the Catholic Church, the cross they have been carrying for years; a huge cross, like the one placed at the entrance of Qaraqosh." Pope Francis explained that he felt this sense in a special way when he saw the still open wounds of the destruction, and even more so, when he met with and listened to the witnesses who had survived the violence and persecution. However, at the same time, the Pope noted that he saw all around him, the "joy of welcoming Christ's message" and "the hope of being open to a horizon of peace and fraternity" which were summed up in Jesus' words expressed in the motto of his Apostolic visit to Iraq: "You are all brothers" (Matthew 23:8). This hope, the Pope insisted, he saw in the discourse of the Iraqi president, in the many greetings and testimonies, in the songs and gestures of the people, and on the luminous faces of the young and in the vivacious eyes of the elderly.

Recalling his meeting with religious leaders in Ur during his Apostolic journey, Pope Francis said that Christians, Muslims and representatives came together to pray in Ur, where Abraham received God's call about four thousand years ago. He further explained that Abraham is our father in faith because listening to God's voice promising him descendants, he left everything and departed. And at Ur, standing together under the same sky in which our father Abraham saw us, his descendants, the phrase "You are all brothers" seems to resound once again. "God is faithful to his promises," the Pope said. He "guides our steps toward peace still today. He guides the steps of those who journey on Earth with their gaze turned toward Heaven." *Full article:* <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/news-and-media/news/>

**Marriage Matters:** *Reflections on the Sunday readings.*

Called to be a 'sign'

The world often ridicules marriage saying 'it's just a piece of paper', but Scripture draws attention to God's powerful message. St. Paul says: "We are God's work of art; created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning He had meant us to live it." Let us shine out so the world sees what it's missing.

**Hee, hee!**

A boy from New York was being led through the swamps of Georgia. "Is it true," he asked, "that an alligator won't attack you if you carry a torch?" "That depends," replied the guide, "on how fast you carry the torch."

A garage sale is a technique for distributing all the junk in your garage among all the other garages in the neighbourhood.