

# The Abbey Parish Newsletter

3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2021 Second Sunday after Christmas

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

**Confessions: 11 a.m. on Saturdays in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel**

**Facebook page: search for Buckfast Abbey Parish**

Liturgical Calendar:

Monday	Christmastide
Tuesday	Christmastide
Wednesday	<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>
Thursday	Christmastide
Friday	Christmastide
Saturday	Christmastide

### "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

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

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](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](mailto:parish@buckfast.org.uk)

### Holy Mass with a Congregation

Even though we are now in Tier Three COVID  
restrictions, Church Services with a  
congregation are still permitted. But the closure  
of the Abbey to visitors necessitates a change of  
venue for the 1205 Mass:

Until further notice, from Monday to Saturday  
inclusive, the 1205 Mass will take place in the  
Church of Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Petroc,  
East Street, Ashburton, TQ13 7AT.

All Sunday Masses will take place as normal.  
This includes the 0900 Mass in the Blessed  
Sacrament Chapel and the 1030 Mass in the  
Abbey Church.

Regarding the latter, we will seek the  
cooperation and understanding of those  
attending the 1030 Mass on Sundays in the  
Abbey, that they should leave the site as soon  
as convenient after Mass so that it can be closed  
for the rest of the day.

Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Dom Odo Leib; Mary Sumner; Alban Atkins; Frederick Witt;  
Br. Alphonsus Laurent; Kathleen Crowley; Katherine Pruet; Edmund Sanderson;  
Eveline Chichester; Winifred Halse; Angela Burke; William Leech;  
Doreen Trude; Pansy Smith; Robert Everall; Margaret Everitt; Hester Flinton;  
Charles Burke; Dom Patrick Burke; Rev. Michael O'Brien; Henry Major;  
Joyce Mousley, Walter Gable; Dom James Courtney;

May they rest in peace

### Last weekend's collections

	Gift Aided	Online
Buckfastleigh 5 p.m. Sat	£34.00	£15.00
Abbey 9 a.m.	£41.00	£17.31
Abbey 10:30 a.m.	£51.00	£96.37
Ashburton 10:30am	£9.00	£6.92
South Brent 9 a.m.	£10.00	£29.62
Added value through gift aid	£37.56	£12.50

Thank you also for the Christmas donation of £20 given in Ashburton which  
was not included in last week's newsletter.

### Buckfast Abbey Parish Lottery

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

1<sup>st</sup> Prize (£25) 91 Mrs. L. Woolcott  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize (£12) 59 Mrs. J. Hayes  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize (£9) 12 Mrs. K. Goulden  
4<sup>th</sup> Prize (£7) 23 Ms. S. Rowe

### 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)

Last Monday morning Pope Francis received Italian Cardinal  
Marcello Semeraro, who heads the Vatican's Congregation for the  
Causes of Saints, and he authorized formal recognition that a young  
Italian judge assassinated by the mafia in 1990 was killed *in odium  
fidei*, meaning "in hatred of the faith," which is the traditional  
standard for martyrdom and clears the way for his beatification even  
without a recognized miracle.

Of Livatino's deep religious faith there's little doubt. He was a regular  
Mass-goer at St. Dominic's Church in his Sicilian hometown of  
Canicatti, and on his way to work was a judge every morning in  
Agrigento he would stop off to pray at the Church of St. Joseph.  
Livatino's most celebrated phrase also bespoke his religious ardor:  
"It's not important that we're believers," he said. "It's important that  
we're believable."



Explaining the decision, Semeraro cited St.  
Thomas Aquinas to the effect that  
martyrdom happens not just in odium fidei  
but also in hatred of the virtue of justice,  
"which is connected to a willingness to offer  
one's life as a witness of Christ."

Full article: [www.cruXnow.com](http://www.cruXnow.com)



Before Christmas, our Mini Vinnies, who are the majority of our Fernworthy class, made a start on their support for the community by organising a collection of food for the local food bank. Just before the collection was handed over, Miss Slack was able to take a photo of the stack of food with the children, who were all very festively attired in their Christmas jumpers. They will be meeting again, early next term, to decide upon their next project.

When the children return to school on Monday (which, at the time of writing, is still the plan), they will be starting new topics. The Meldonites, our smallest children, will be learning about traditional tales and Miss Teeder, their teacher, has been busy preparing their role play areas which reflect that theme. The children will also be able to use some beautiful, hand-painted, wooden spoons to re-tell the stories that they are learning. Miss Whitefoot, one of the Teaching Assistants is a very talented lady and she has painted the characters of many of the tales onto the spoons. There is even a porridge-related crime scene which, I am sure, will intrigue the children who have already had to turn detective this school year: Before Christmas, they were very busy trying to solve the mystery of the disappearance of one of their toys (I think it was an elf called Robbie, but I might be mistaken) which was later found frozen in ice in the garden. I believe the Grinch was found to be the culprit for stealing Robbie but, luckily, the children used their learning about the properties of water to melt the ice and free the toy. Who knows what knowledge they will need to solve the porridge mystery!

The knowledge I shall be working on will be how to keep the school warm enough to learn in whilst keeping it well-ventilated for safety. The aim will be that the children and staff don't turn blue with cold nor the air around me turn blue when I see the resultant size of the energy bills. I am sure I am not alone in wishing for warmer weather as soon as possible for so many reasons!



Despite the challenges presented by the virus, many people have worked hard to make our churches beautiful for the Christmas Season. Here are a few pictures to celebrate that and thank the Watermans, Mary Shepherd, Peter Hague, Mary Coates, Babs Kiehne, Pat & Jenny Nuttgens, Kevin & Penny Vickers, our stewards, including Mike & Erika Smith, Deborah Fisher, Kelvin, Rachel and Jude Ellacott, Adrian Worsley, Lesley Clark, and everyone who has contributed in any way to our celebrations.



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

You have been chosen

St Paul says "You have been chosen" and John says "All things have life in Him". In a marriage, each partner has been personally called to love their spouse in a lifelong relationship. The fact that God calls us individually means that He has chosen us for a specific reason: to bring life to my partner, to understand and forgive.

### **Hee, hee!**

A new Army recruit was given guard duty at 2 a.m. He did his best for a while, but about 4 a.m. he fell asleep. He woke to find the officer of the day standing before him. Remembering the heavy penalty for being asleep on guard duty, this smart young man kept his head bowed for another moment, then looked upward and said reverently, "A-a-men!"

Deja Vu – When you think you're doing something you've done before, it's because God thought it was so funny, he had to rewind it for his friends.