

# The Abbey Parish Newsletter

24<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 Third 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	Conversion of St. Paul
Tuesday	Holy Abbots of Citeaux
Wednesday	Ss. Timothy & Titus
Thursday	St. Thomas Aquinas
Friday	Feria
Saturday	Feria

### "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](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)

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

Mary Ash; Phyllis McCabe; Helen Hamilton; Duncan Matheson; Mary Alder; Czeslaw Bebenik; Winifred Weaver; Mary Lee; Mary Roberts; Rose Piers; Enid Green; Josef Lawenaki-Maddicott; Marjorie Lewis; Joan Edwards; Richard Townsend; Dom Columba Kimber; Helen Dent; Phoebe Stanton; Joseph Dodard; Winifred Phillips; Jack McAvoy; Frances O'Dea; John Gregory; Norah Torrington; Dame Mildred Murray-Sinclair; Dom Martin Bruchlen; Florence Phillips; Evelyn Hatch; Joyce Bullard; Phil Nunn;

**May they rest in peace**

### Last weekend's collections

	Gift Aided	Online
Buckfastleigh 5 p.m. Sat	£2.00	£50.00
Abbey 9 a.m.	£30.00	£17.31
Abbey 10:30 a.m.	£55.00	£81.37
Ashburton 10:30am	£0.00	£6.92
South Brent 9 a.m.	£0.00	£29.62
	£33.81	£90.50

Added value through gift aid

The 'Online' column includes the generous donations made over the last two weeks – apologies that the relevant data wasn't included in last week's newsletter. To donate online, please visit <https://www.buckfast.org.uk/donate>

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

## Sunday of the Word of God

In 2019, Pope Francis asked that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (i.e. this Sunday) be 'the Sunday of the Word of God,' "a Sunday given over entirely to the word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people"

Please take a few minutes to read Pope Francis' beautiful letter explaining this. It can be found at: [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu\\_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190930\\_aperuit-illis.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190930_aperuit-illis.html)

## An Update from the Parish SVP Group.

Last weekend, our Parish SVP group met once again on Zoom-we are getting quite proficient at these remote meetings, although we are looking forward to being able to meet in person later in the year-we hope!

After devotions, led by a group member, we reviewed our efforts over the Christmas period and we must thank everyone in the Parish who helped us with the South Dartmoor appeal, by giving groceries for the Christmas food parcels. Our Christmas greetings campaign, with bookmarker cards, was much appreciated by the recipients and we have received letters and emails of thanks.

In normal times, the those SVP members who feel able to do so would be visiting those who cannot get out and about, but at present our "visiting" needs to be done over the phone or internet. Fr Francis reminded us all that it is important for those we know to be able to contact us for a catch-up, especially with some of us unable to attend church at this time, and he encourages us all to share our contact details with friends who might not have them. If Fr Francis does not have your contact details, and you would like him to have them, please do pass them on to him. He will not forward these to anyone without your permission.

The meeting went on to think ahead to ways in which the SVP can make a difference in the challenging weeks ahead, and our youngest member, Jude, has already begun crafting for Easter Greetings.

Preparations continue for the creation of an SVP garden in the Abbey grounds. Rachel and Anna had a useful meeting with the Head Gardener, and some gentle advice was brought to the discussions by experienced gardeners in the SVP, so that we do not embark on an impossible challenge! Optimism tempered by realism would be the best way to describe our conversations. Our hope is to create a Garden of Witness with the participation of the Mini Vinnies from St Mary's School.

Our meeting ended with prayer led by Father Francis.

We will be gathering again in February and if you are interested in becoming involved yourself, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Father Francis, Mike Lang or Kelvin and Rachel Ellacott.



There used to be an advert for the AA in the 80's with the selling point that, when you had a problem and you couldn't fix it, you knew "a man who can" and in one of the adverts said man was described as a "very, very nice man". You may remember a couple of weeks ago, that we had some IT issues which blocked our access to the internet. We have, in fact, been trying to upgrade our broadband speeds to allow us to use our new Chromebooks more effectively. To cut a long story short, we had a new router installed that didn't work and this week saw the return of the same engineer to tackle the installation again. Sometimes, when dealing with IT, you need an interpreter. Our interpreter comes in the form of Gary Wilson, an IT Technician from South Dartmoor Community College, who appears on site at St Mary's approximately eight times a year, and who solves a whole mountain of IT problems for us. He has an expression he uses, "It's all good.", even when it patently is not, but his positivity carries you through the moment (and allows him some time to rapidly consider the options available!). He is the epitome of a very, very nice man and this week he filled the space between ourselves (slightly hysterical at the thought of no internet again) and the IT engineer (slightly puzzled because he couldn't understand what could possibly be wrong with the router.). With positivity, kindness and charm, he explained, in an, at times, foreign language, the problem to the engineer and negotiated us all through what could have been a bit of a standoff, with neither side understanding what the other was saying. If we all faced problems with Gary's calm and positive approach, the world would run a lot more smoothly. With very grateful and heartfelt thanks to Gary, the end result for us this week is that we now have a working router and we will be able to continue to improve the learning for the children at St Mary's. As Gary would say, "It's all good!"

### New Lectionary for England and Wales

*This message is from the website of the Bishops' Conference:*

The Bishops of England and Wales agreed in November 2018 that the Bible translation called the "English Standard Version: Catholic Edition" should be the basis for the new edition of the Lectionary to be used in their territory. Since the beginning of 2020, the Department of Christian Life and Worship of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has been preparing the text of the new Lectionary using the English Standard Version: Catholic Edition, together with the revised translation of the psalms and canticles undertaken by Conception Abbey in America known as "Abbey Psalms and Canticles." As the work has progressed, the bishops have received completed sections every two weeks for their review and comment. The first of these were the texts for Sundays and Solemnities of Advent and Christmas. The Bishops of England and Wales received the first completed volume of the Lectionary at their Plenary meeting in November 2020. This volume consists of Sundays, Solemnities and Feasts of the Lord. Many bishops have spoken of their gratitude for the work undertaken in producing the translation. Work is continuing on the second volume and the text of the Weekdays in Ordinary Time will be presented to the bishops at their Spring Plenary meeting in April 2021. The Catholic Truth Society have been appointed publishers for the Lectionary. They are working closely with the bishops to ensure that the published volumes are worthy, clear in page layout, sturdy and reflect the daily needs of the liturgy.

It is expected that the bishops will complete their approval process in Autumn 2021. The text will then need to be reviewed by the Holy See and others. The earliest date for publication would therefore be in 2022.

*Fr. Francis writes: The Lectionary is the book of Scripture readings for Mass which is placed on the lectern. The change of translation will make all 'Sunday Missals' and 'Weekday Missals' currently in use obsolete, so if you are thinking of purchasing these it would be wise to wait until the new edition is available.*

#### Thinking ahead: **Ash Wednesday**

Assuming the churches are still open for Mass with a congregation on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 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."

#### **Marriage Matters:**

*Reflections on the Sunday readings.*

Change of lifestyle

Jonah the prophet and Jesus call us to repent, to a change of lifestyle. When we married there was a radical change in our lifestyles. He became husband, she became wife and together we became a flesh and blood 'sacrament of marriage'. This is our continued call to each other - live a new life of love in the Lord.

#### **Hee, hee!**

A young girl who was writing a paper for school came to her father and asked, "Dad, what is the difference between anger and exasperation?" The father replied, "It is mostly a matter of degree. Let me show you what I mean." With that the father went to the telephone and dialled a number at random. To the man who answered the phone, he said, "Hello, is Melvin there?" The man answered, "There is no one living here named Melvin. Why don't you learn to look up numbers before you dial them?"

"See," said the father to his daughter. "That man was not a bit happy with our call. He was probably very busy with something and we annoyed him. Now watch..." The father dialled the number again. "Hello, is Melvin there?" asked the father. "Now look here!" came the heated reply. "You just called this number and I told you that there is no Melvin here! You've got a lot of nerve calling again!" The receiver was slammed down hard.

The father turned to his daughter and said, "You see, that was exasperation. Now I'll show you what anger looks like." He dialled the same number, and when a violent voice roared, "Hello!" the father calmly said, "Hello, this is Melvin. Have there been any calls for me?"