

The Abbey Parish Newsletter

7th March, 2021 Third 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	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

Parish Priest: Fr. Francis
Straw; 01364 645526;
parish@buckfast.org.uk

Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Albert Pruett; Patricia Bachelor; Dr. Ironside; Mary Witt; Johnnie Walker;
Florence Ratcliffe; Anne Hogg; Gertrude Hutchinson; Mary Vine; Francis
Bowen; Maria Hirsch; Felix Murdin; Ena Hartley; Ronald Hext; Albert Bond;
Richard Northcott; Sheila Horak; Mary Hooper; John French; Robert Coates;
Maureen Williams; Ruth Milton; Charlie Trude; George Garrett; John Murphy;
Dom Gilbert Fennesy; Dame Agnes Hughes;

May they rest in peace

Last weekend's collections

	Gift Aided	Online
Buckfastleigh 5 p.m. Sat	£22.00	£25.00
Abbey 9 a.m.	£36.00	£37.31
Abbey 10:30 a.m.	£81.00	£20.00
Ashburton 10:30am	£5.00	£58.30
South Brent 9 a.m.	£15.00	£44.62
Added value through gift aid	£40.06	£3.75

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.

Buckfast Abbey Parish Lottery

Covid restrictions meant the monthly draw for February took place a little later than usual. The lucky winners are:

1st Prize (£25) 33 Mrs. J Nuttgens
2nd Prize (£12) 3 Mr. G. Hawkins
3rd Prize (£9) 73 Mrs. G Braunton
4th Prize (£7) 64 Mr. B. Coleman

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

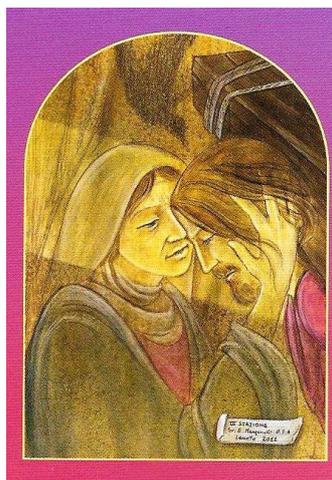
Do you know what an infographic is? Do you want to? As I imagine your answer, I'll encourage you to make use of the one which is attached to the email by which you received this newsletter. It has been sent to us by Bishop Mark and is a handy way of grasping the main messages of Pope Francis' recent encyclical, Fratelli Tutti. If it helps us to be fine brothers and sisters of one another and of the world, it will be worth looking at.

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/86296362027?pwd=NkRKa2QrTkE1dUpMUCtOWXVqYkxaZz09>

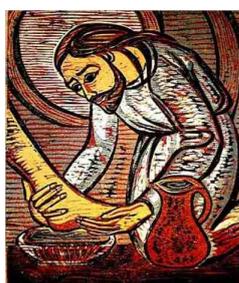
or go to the Zoom website and use Meeting ID: 862 9636 2027 Passcode: 507713



Marriage Matters: Reflections on the Sunday readings.

God's love is our strength

Let us remind each other constantly that our marriage is as unique and as special to God today as it was when we first married.



We are blessed with a love that transforms ordinary everyday events into something quite different and special. Our faults and weaknesses become our strengths if we strive to love one another as God loves us.

Once again, we are on the threshold of a school restart. This time we have to feel more hopeful that we are beginning to leave the uncertain times behind.

Since January, we, at St Mary's, have been welcoming approximately a quarter to a third of our total number of children on roll into school each day. We have, to a great extent, continued with the same Covid secure practices, for example, separate zones / bubbles, albeit with less children. All staff have been in school throughout this latest lockdown so, in some ways, Monday will not be that different in terms of routine. However, since the start of January, the teaching staff have been working on two fronts - real and virtual - and, in order to have the capacity to do this, they have had more time "out of class" than usual to allow them to carry out the necessary work to deliver learning both home and away. From Monday, they will largely be in class all day in, what will seem like, much more crowded rooms as we expect nearly all the children will be back with us. However, having adopted the practice of good ventilation in all rooms throughout the winter, and steadfastly ignored the part of the guidance which said about keeping the rooms at comfortable temperatures, the increased number of people will be welcome in raising the room temperatures a little. This, helped by a little more sun and the promise of the warmth of Spring, may soften the blow of more people being around!

With the combined anxieties of the children who have been in school (who have, by their own admission, enjoyed being in a much smaller group and are not actually that keen on the others joining them) and those who have been at home for the last two months, not to mention those of the staff, next week will be a challenge. However, by the end of next week, we will be bobbing along in our new routines, settling down to another new normal. We will probably be, in fact, in a safer environment than we were in September - all staff are carrying out lateral flow tests twice a week, a trickle of staff are also starting to have their vaccines and the infection rates are falling. Add to that the new normal of children in the habit of washing their hands with great regularity and, you have to agree, we are making it as hard as possible for any germs, not just Covid, to get past our defences.

We shall not be dropping our guard any time soon, though, and my office continues to be full of sanitising sprays and Covid tests but I look forward to the days when it will be filled once again with the members of Pokemon Club (small boys, generally) discussing the relative merits of a doglepuff to a chiridopple..... well, I think I do.....

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland has set out the case for protecting Britain's international development commitment, following recent calls from Cardinal Nichols and other church leaders to continue spending 0.7% of Gross National Income on supporting the world's poorest people.

Writing to MPs in November Cardinal Nichols said: "A clear measure of a nation's greatness is the manner in which it responds to the needs of its poorest. The same is true for the response to poverty between nations. If we truly wish to be a great nation, then cutting the overseas aid budget is a retrograde step."

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland's briefing, which asks people to call on their MPs to oppose proposed cuts to aid, explains: "The global pandemic is the biggest humanitarian crisis in a generation, and has pushed an estimated 150 million people worldwide into extreme poverty. At this crucial time, more international assistance is needed, not less."

It also highlights the importance of ensuring all aid is spent on tackling global poverty, explaining: "It is vital when talking about the amount of aid spent that we also focus on the quality of that aid too. Unfortunately, there have been examples of 'bad aid' - involving abuse, fraud and mismanagement. These make media headlines which can contribute to declining public trust in UK aid. But this should not mean that we cut the aid budget. On the contrary, it means we should improve the way we spend aid."

This call was made before the Budget, which saw overseas aid cut from 0.7% to 0.5% of national income.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-55064019>

On 6th March, newspapers reported a government leak indicating plans to cut aid to Syria by 67%, Libya by 63%, Somalia by 60% and South Sudan by 59%. On the same day, it was revealed that £2.6m has been spent on a briefing room in Downing Street.

"Every good I have in my life comes from an encounter with Christ. I figure, then, if I can introduce others to the Lord, or help them grow closer to Him, then I am doing a very great good. Everything else that you and I care about - the life of the family, justice in society, care of our common home - all of that radiates out, and has historically radiated out, from an encounter with Christ. But how can I best do this, in my facts and circumstances? Well, I am skilled as a translator and interpreter. Why not, then, besides writing works on Aristotle or St. Thomas, apply those skills to the Gospel texts? In fact, like other Christians, I spend some time each day reading the Gospel, for me usually in Greek. When I would do so, it often seemed that I was "seeing" things, in the details and emphases of the Greek text, which others weren't capturing. Therefore, I thought, if I am doing this anyway, why not write a book about it and share it with others?"

But why John's Gospel? Strangely, because of a poem of Robert Frost, which I had lately come to know - sonnet entitled "Never Again Would Birds' Song Be the Same," which explores the conceit that Eve's voice, lifted in the air by her song, had mixed with the songs of birds, so that it could still be discerned in birds' songs today. I was astonished by the beauty of this poem, memorized it, and contemplated it frequently. In my imagination, by some kind of alchemy of piety, Eve transformed into Mary and the birds into the evangelists. This led me to wonder, had the voice of Mary mixed with John's account - because after all she had lived with him many years?"

"Mary's Voice in the Gospel of John" by Michael Pakaluk, Professor of Ethics and Social Philosophy, Catholic University of America

Hee, hee! In the traffic court of a large Midland city, a young lady was brought before the judge because of a ticket given her for driving through a red light. She explained to His Honour that she was a school teacher and requested an immediate disposal of her case in order that she might hasten on to her classes. A wild gleam came into the judge's eye. "You're a school teacher, eh?" said he. "Madam, I shall now realize my lifelong ambition. I've waited years to have a school teacher in this court!" "Now, sit down at that table and write 'I must not go through red lights' 500 times!!"