



Buckfast Abbey

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## LIVE STREAMED SERVICES

Daily Conventual Mass, sung by the Monastic Community can be viewed online by visiting [www.buckfast.org.uk/live](http://www.buckfast.org.uk/live) or on the Abbey's Facebook page.

17:00 Mass (Monday–Friday), 12:05 Mass (Saturday),

11:00 Mass & 15:00 Vespers & Benediction (Sunday)

## FROM FR DOMINIC

Thank you all for the warmth of your welcome to me as your new Priest. I am touched at all the cards and sentiments of goodwill.

Thank you for your comments on the new look of the newsletter. Some of you have said to me that you have found it rather sparse in content. Again, I would ask you for your patience during this time of transition. As I said to you last Sunday, change can sometimes be difficult because of the readjustment that is required. I would be most grateful if you could suggest possible content for your newsletter. I wish this document to be as informative for you as possible.

I look forward to hearing your comments.

I ask you again for your prayers as I undertake the new ministry. I assure you that you are all held closely in my thoughts and prayers.

Yours devotedly,

Fr Dominic

## MASSES WITH CONGREGATION

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MONDAY- SATURDAY: 12:05 Mass in the Abbey Blessed Sacrament Chapel

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SATURDAY: 17:00 Vigil Mass, St Benedict's, Buckfastleigh

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SUNDAY: 09:00 Mass in the Abbey Blessed Sacrament Chapel

09:00 Mass, St Dunstan's Church, South Brent

10:30 Mass, Our Lady of Lourdes, Ashburton

11:00 Conventual Mass in the Abbey Church

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To comply with government Covid-Safe restrictions,  
it is necessary to pre-book a seat to attend the above Masses.

Please visit the Abbey website [www.buckfast.org.uk/servicetimes](http://www.buckfast.org.uk/servicetimes)

## CONFESSION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available between 11:00–11:45 in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of the Abbey Church.

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY Ss Philip & James *Feast*

TUESDAY All Martyrs of  
England & Wales *Feast*

WEDNESDAY Eastertide feria

THURSDAY Eastertide feria

FRIDAY Eastertide feria

SATURDAY Eastertide feria

Amongst the Forty Martyrs of England & Wales is St Richard Reynolds, born in Devon in 1492. Richard was a Bridgettine monk of Syon Abbey, and was tried for the denial of the royal supremacy of King Henry VIII. He was executed at Tyburn Tree in 1535.

St Richard Reynolds, pray for us.

**ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH** Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of: George Crook, Greta Tench, Samuel Sproston, Dom John Stephan, Marcelle Bickford, Emma Stickland, Maude Whately, George Daire, Phyllis Bromage.

**FOR THE SICK:***Let us pray for those who are sick:*

Geraldine Thompson

Margaret McAvoy

John Goulden

Pat Hedges

Fred Cooke

Maureen Purtell

**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

		<i>Gift Aid</i>
Buckfastleigh	£12	£25
Abbey 9am Mass	£28	£0
Abbey 10:30 Mass	£110	£40
Ashburton	£0	£5
South Brent	£25.20	£35

Phone line for prayer:

call 01364 727 768

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

**FROM ST MARY'S SCHOOL (Courtesy of Mitzi)**

Firstly, I would like, on behalf of the whole school community, to thank Fr Francis for all his hard work as our Chair of Governors and wish him well as he starts a new role in North Devon. I have been asked if I will continue to share news from school for the Parish Newsletter, which I am very happy to do. However, the new editor suggested an ideal word count and, unfortunately, I had to inform him that I have no idea how many words I write so he may have to change the font accordingly i.e. large font = not much news to share!

The children returned to school last week and, with the dry weather continuing, albeit rather chilly, they have been able to spend plenty of time outside, both playing and learning. Miss Slack, quite rightly, continues with the early morning regime of flinging open all the windows but I am sure that, eventually, the children will be able to wear less additional layers of clothing in the classroom.

With the start of term comes new topics, going from the titchy to large (children), they are:

Meldon – The Secret Garden;

Venford – Ready, Steady, Grow;

Avon – How does your garden grow?

Fernworthy – What would happen if there were no insects?

Burrator – Circle of Life

As always, if any of these topics are an area of particular enthusiasm or expertise which you could share with the children, please contact the school and maybe we will be able to 'zoom' you into a classroom to share your knowledge!

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND & WALES

We wish to pay tribute to all in the Catholic community who have shown such courage, generosity and understanding in the face of adversity this past year. Across England and Wales, families and parish communities have risen to the challenge of sustaining one another through times of great isolation, loneliness and grief in an impressive variety of ways, spiritual, emotional and practical. We thank all who have worked tirelessly in prisons, in hospitals, care-homes and across the medical profession for giving of themselves so generously. We thank all who have worked valiantly in our schools, facing unforeseen demands and meeting them with characteristic professionalism and dedication.

We wish also to pay tribute to those who have given of their time and energy to keep open our churches as havens of peace and prayer. Churches up and down the land have realised the vision of Pope Francis that they be like village-wells where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey; and centres of “constant missionary outreach.” We thank all who have developed diverse new patterns of outreach – of prayer, catechesis, study and spiritual solidarity; all who have made participation in the Mass possible through the internet.

‘Vibrant’ is a word which seems to have characterised so many of our parishes throughout the pandemic. We wish to salute our priests in particular for the leadership they have shown in this time of crisis. We thank them for their deep devotion to both the liturgy and to their parishioners. We commend every priest who made of his parish “a ‘sanctuary’ open to all” and with a particular care for the poor; and the many Deacons who have exercised with such generosity their mission of charity.

What will be the pace of our emerging from this pandemic remains as yet unclear. What is clear is the challenge we face of bringing our communities and the practice of the faith to a still greater expression and strength. As your bishops, we are aware of a threefold pattern to this challenge.

- a) There are the fearful and weary, anxious about coming into the enclosed spaces of our churches; those who have simply lost the habit of coming to church. Personal contact, clear reassurance, and sensitive invitations will all be needed.
- b) There are those who will have reassessed their pattern of life and priorities. The practice of faith within the community of the Catholic Church may not be among those priorities. A gap may have opened up, or widened, between the spiritual dimension of their lives and any communal expression of that spiritual quest. They represent a particular focus and concern for our outreach.

In facing these challenges, we are endowed with veritable treasures which serve to resource and enrich us. There is also the remarkable work of social outreach which has grown exponentially during these long months of pandemic. On this, too, we must build. But the greatest treasure is, of course, the sacramental life of the Church, and, pre-eminently, the Eucharist.

It is the Eucharist, the celebration of the Mass, that makes the Church; and it is the Church, in the gift of the Holy Spirit, which makes the Eucharist. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the lifeblood of the Church. It requires our active participation and, to be fully celebrated, our physical presence.

At this moment, then, we need to have in our sights the need to restore to its rightful centrality in our lives the Sunday Mass, encouraging each to take his or her place once again in the assembly of our brothers and sisters. We face the task of seeking to nurture the sense of Sunday as “a weekly gift from God to his people”, and something we cannot do without; to see Sunday as the soul of the week, as giving light and meaning to all the responsibilities we live out each day; to see the Sunday Eucharist as food for the unique mission with which we have been endowed.

In the time to come we can do no better than to rekindle in our hearts, foster and encourage, a yearning for the Real Presence of the Lord and the practice of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, a gift so deeply appreciated in these times of lockdown. We need to begin by fostering this in ourselves. For the Eucharist should be the cause of our deepest joy, our highest manner of offering thanks to God and for seeking his mercy and love. We need to make it the foundation stone of our lives.

The invitation to Sunday Mass resonates all the more deeply when we consider, as Pope St John Paul II reminds us in the Encyclical Letter *Dies Domini*, that the Sabbath rest is nothing if not a call to remember the gift of God’s Creation. The Eucharist is indeed a celebration of the created world, called into life by the Eternal Word, for the bread and wine of the earth becomes the Body and Blood of Christ who is that same Lord of all life. The Christ to whom we come so close in the Eucharist must be the foundation of our strivings, not least in the urgent task we face of caring for creation and our environment.

Pope St John Paul II spoke of our amazement at the gift of the Mass and the abiding Presence of our Blessed Lord in the Sacrament of the Altar. Herein lies our treasure, enriching our relationship with Jesus and bringing together every aspect of our life and mission. This is such an important focus for our task in the coming months.

*22 April 2021*

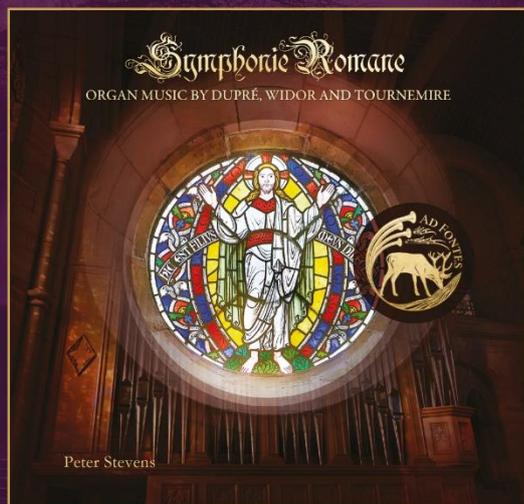
## THE RETURN OF CHORAL SINGING TO THE ABBEY

With the gradual easing of Covid restrictions, we are delighted to announce that from Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May, a schola of singers will return to the Choir stalls to sing at the Abbey 11:00 Conventual Mass. It has been over a year since the Abbey Choir has been able to contribute to our liturgy in this way. The Abbey has completed a robust risk assessment to comply with government guidance for places of worship, taking into consideration advice for the performing arts.

Also, from the 9<sup>th</sup> May, the Abbey Choir will join the Monastic Community to sing Vespers and Benediction at 15:00 on Sundays, which will also be live-streamed. We are very much looking forward to the time when we are able to welcome the congregation to join us for this service. The Second Vatican Council called upon churches to make available the services of the Divine Office to the faithful, and it is hoped that by moving the time of the service to 15:00, it can become a firm parish fixture, and an aid in our devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

## AD FONTES

The record label founded by Buckfast Abbey dedicated to presenting recordings of the finest sacred music.



### Symphonie Romane: Organ music by Dupré, Widor and Tournemire (AF006)

Peter Stevens (Westminster Cathedral) plays works by three towering figures of the French organ world. Widor's *Symphonie Romane* is a meditation on the Gregorian chants of Easter Sunday, and the *Fantaisie-Choral* from Tournemire's *L'Orgue Mystique* is a deeply spiritual reflection on two of the best-known chants of Pentecost. Two contrasting pieces by Dupré bookend the programme: his *Cortège et Litanie* is probably his best-loved work, while the uninhibited confidence of the *Deuxième Symphonie* shows a different side of the composer's personality; its visceral and hard-hitting textures given electrifying voice by the Ruffatti organ of Buckfast Abbey.

visit [www.adfontes.org.uk](http://www.adfontes.org.uk) for more information

**PRAYER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS,  
TO MARY FOR THE MONTH OF MAY**

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God.’

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

POPE FRANCIS

## FROM BISHOP MARK O'TOOL

### Diocese of Plymouth Environmental Policy

Pope Francis, through his encyclical letters *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*, has taken a global lead in encouraging every person on the planet to take action and care for the earth - our common home - and preserve it for future generations, thinking and acting in solidarity with those who are poor and suffering. *Laudato Si'* is a call to an 'ecological conversion' inviting each one of us to recognise the connection between our faith, our planet and the most vulnerable people and to take an active role in preserving the gift of life on earth. *Guardians of God's Creation* argues for 'a more considered relationship with our God, our neighbour and the earth through the way we manage our resources as a Church'. The Diocese of Plymouth environmental policy respects the earth as God's creation and acknowledges that our care for it needs to be integrated into the life and mission of our Diocese.

#### OUR COMMITMENTS

- To pray, study the scriptures, reflect on Catholic tradition and educate ourselves about the interconnectedness of all aspects of our common home in order to develop a spirituality which seeks to understand the effects of our actions on the poorest and most vulnerable people in our world as well as the earth's fragile ecology and the need for economies and lifestyles which reflect God's creation.
- To advocate for and work with people on the margins and people living in poverty since 'a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach;' [integrating] questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" (Pope Francis *Laudato Si'* #49)
- To ensure the mission of the church locally and on a diocesan level includes proclamation on environmental concerns in line with the living out of the gospel in people's lives, and exercising the prophetic voice of the church in support of stewardship and appropriate environmental action, such that the views of the church are heard and widely understood. (cf Pope Benedict *Caritas in Veritate* #51)
- To ensure that our buildings are managed with care for the environment and action plans to reduce negative impacts To minimise our use of the earth's natural resources, reducing our carbon footprint, minimising waste generation, and re-using and recycling when possible.
- To enhance the biodiversity of all Diocesan-owned grounds and gardens and our schools. To encourage ecological education in our schools and parishes.

Full policy and letter: <https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/my-dear-brother-and-sistersi-would-like-to-share-our-first-diocesan-environmental-policy-with-you-this-wasagreed-by-the-diocesan-trustees-in-january-2021-the-policy-is-intended-as-a-sourceof-guidan/>