

# The Abbey Parish Messenger

1<sup>st</sup> December, 2024 First Sunday of Advent Year C

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

Confessions: Blessed Sacrament Chapel Saturdays 11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Facebook page: search for Buckfast Abbey Parish

## Liturgical Calendar:

Monday	Advent
Tuesday	St. Francis Xavier
Wednesday	Advent
Thursday	Advent
Friday	Advent
Saturday	St. Ambrose



### “Oremus pro invicem”

Please pray for those who are sick:

Kathy Smith	Bob Beard
Bridget Woodhead	Keith Halle
Wendy Williams	Pauline Roberts

If you or someone you know would like to be included here, please contact Fr. Francis

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will not be the usual Mass in Ashburton on Wednesday this week

We know that poverty is a significant issue both in the UK and globally. In the weeks running up to Christmas parishioners are invited to donate Christmas treats to our parish foodbank collections. You will find a box in each church where you can leave donations. We will give the donations to local foodbanks in the week of 9 December to allow time for distribution.

As Advent begins, all are welcome to join in one or more of the crib blessings in our smaller churches around the parish. They are simple and brief, but very charming services, led by the children and staff of St. Mary’s School. Followed by refreshments.

**Crib Blessing Services –**  
All begin at 2 p.m.

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. Ashburton  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. South Brent  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. Buckfastleigh

### Advent Service of Light

A joyful time of reflection on the meaning of Advent, preparing to meet the Child Jesus once again. A great opportunity to share a time of prayer with other Christians whom we have invited to join us. Followed by refreshments.

Our Lady of Lourdes & St. Petroc, Ashburton, TQ13 7AT. 7.30 p.m. Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

St. Dunstan’s, South Brent, TQ10 9AQ. 7.30 p.m. Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December

Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Nora Prosser; Hilda Goddard; Madeleine Batten; Siobhan Thomas; Elizabeth Alison; Catherine Parr; Frederick Walters; Dom Wilfrid Schneider; Robert Wilshaw; Harold Truscott; Bertha Prowse; Edgar Smith; Mary Everall; Henry Slessor; Peter Donovan; Br. Adalbert Walsh; Catherine Cross; Nancy Carlisle; Dorothy Walmsley; Patrick Boston; Kay Jones; Tullius Noblet; Venessa Anne Emmett; Eileen Ashton; Sheila Cocks; Katie Gayton; Hilary Beard; Edith Sibeth; Kathleen Cawley; Margaret Fennell; Edward Phillipps; Beryl Gompertz; Margaret Sawdye; Edith Major;

May they rest in peace

### Last weekend’s collections

		Gift Aided	Standing orders	Digital Reader
Abbey 9 a.m.	£41.40		£8.08	£41.00
Abbey 11 a.m.	£82.00	£25.00	£38.85	£79.00
Buckfastleigh Sat 5 p.m.	£20.00	£37.00		
Ashburton 10:30am	£5.00	£22.50	£6.92	
South Brent 9 a.m.	£18.15	£35.00	£5.77	
Added value through gift aid		£29.88	£14.90	£30.00

The **second collection this weekend** supports the Catholic Charity, the Prison Advice and Care Trust in providing Christmas treats for the children of prisoners. In this way they hope to minimise the pain of separation and the emotional, behavioural and social damage which it causes.

Your donation will be match-funded, so that every pound you give will turn into £2 at no extra cost to you. PACT will use your donation to:

- Help children and families to keep in touch with their loved ones in prison.
- Develop resources for children and young people to help them process events and emotions surrounding their loved one’s imprisonment
- Help people in prison to build healthy relationships and live good lives, reducing reoffending
- Work with people in prison and their families to help them make a fresh start.



“I was in prison and you visited me.”  
Matthew 25:36

### Support for Pensioners on Low Incomes

Check your eligibility at [www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator) or get advice via phone on weekdays - 0800 99 1234.

It could earn you an extra £3,900 a year, and guide you to other financial support such as winter fuel payments.

More info: [caritas@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:caritas@prcdtr.org.uk) or call 01364 645421.

## **Mothers' Prayers Women's Prayer Group**

Are you a mother, godmother, grandmother or auntie? Would you like to meet to pray for the children with whom you are connected?



*Mothers' Prayers is an ecumenical organisation with groups meeting for prayer all over the world. The meeting follows prayers in an especially written Mothers' Prayers prayer book, offering the opportunity to pray for our children young or old, read a passage from the Bible and to find a confidential space of mutual support.*

*Our next meeting will be on Wednesday December 4th at 7pm in the church rooms at Ashburton. **We meet monthly but please note we will not be meeting in January as our usual date falls on New Year's Day.***

*For further details, please speak to Erika Smith or Rachel Ellacott.*

**Marriage Matters** Reflections on the Sunday readings: Keeping the star of our love burning brightly  
Jeremiah's joy reminds us of the weeks before our wedding, a time when we were deeply aware of our love for one another. Since then, many cares have threatened to divert us from that love and it has sometimes been necessary to make a special effort to share, listen and forgive to keep the star of our love burning brightly.

Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues, writes:

"We are disappointed that MPs have voted in favour of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill progressing through parliament. We believe that this bill is flawed in principle and also contains particular clauses that are of concern. We ask the Catholic community to pray that members of parliament will have the wisdom to reject this bill at a later stage in its progress. In addition to being opposed to the principle of assisted suicide, we are particularly concerned with clauses in the bill that prevent doctors from properly exercising conscientious objection, provide inadequate protection to hospices and care homes that do not wish to participate in assisted suicide and allow doctors to initiate conversations about assisted suicide.

Genuine compassion involves walking with those who need care, especially during sickness, disability and old age. The vocation to care is at the heart of the lives of so many people who look after their loved ones and is the sign of a truly compassionate society.

It remains the case that improving the quality and availability of palliative care offers the best pathway to reducing suffering at the end of life. We will continue to advocate for this and support those who work tirelessly to care for the dying in our hospices, hospitals and care homes."

Full article:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/news>

*From the archives:* I think it was around 1990 that I visited a Greek Orthodox parish in Welshpool for the first time (it's a long story). What was unique about this particular community was that the Parish Priest and his family had built a small chapel in their back garden! It was an extraordinary act of faith, which lay the foundation for their parish which now thrives and worships at a Saxon church in Shrewsbury. But back in 1990, only a dozen or so people could squeeze into a building which, although tiny, was full of candles, icons, and faith. An equally courageous faith was instrumental in establishing the 'Ashburton Mission' some 110 years ago. Over recent weeks, we've seen how, in 1911, the Catholic community in Ashburton began to grow, with Mass being celebrated in the Herring-Mason family home. The next chapter of the Ashburton story, coming just before World War One, was the construction of a little chapel in the Herring-Mason garden, hence my memories of Welshpool! However, the chapel in Roborough Lane was a more substantial building, and one with a Cornish connection, as an article in The Tablet from 6th June 1914 explains: 'For some time past Mass has been said at Ashburton in the house of Mrs Herring-Mason, but last Thursday saw the opening of a church by the Benedictines of Buckfast Abbey, the same building having been in use at Launceston, prior to the erection of a permanent building there. The Benedictine Fathers had the little church transferred to Ashburton, and Thursday last saw the crowning of their labours.' Another article in The Annals describes the chapel itself as 'a plain, comfortable building, with accommodation for about 200. The interior is neatly painted; the high altar is pretty, and there is a side altar.' But let's return to the opening Mass, which included some prophetic words from the Bishop of Plymouth: 'In the course of a fervent address, the Right Rev. Dr Keily observed that there was something exceedingly touching in the opening of a little chapel. The day would come, he went on to say, when that simple place would give way to something more permanent.' In next weeks' Parish Messenger, we'll see how this 'something more permanent' gradually became a reality in Ashburton. Steve Roach

**"A joyful heart is good medicine" (Proverbs 17:22)**

One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. So they picked one scientist to go and tell Him that they were done with Him. The scientist walked up to God and said, "God, we've decided that we no longer need you. We're to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things, so why don't you just go on and get lost." God listened very patiently and kindly to the man. After the scientist was done talking, God said, "Very well, how about this? Let's say we have a man-making contest." To which the scientist replied, "Okay, great!" But God added, "Now, we're going to do this just like I did back in the old days with Adam." The scientist said, "Sure, no problem" and bent down and grabbed himself a handful of dirt. God looked at him and said, "No, no, no. You go make your own dirt!"

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