

# The Abbey Parish Messenger

9<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 First Sunday of Lent Year C H & S p. 817. CTS p. 207

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 – Saturday	Lent
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**“Oremus pro invicem”**

Please pray for those who are sick:

Kathy Smith	Keith Halle	Wendy Williams
Bridget Woodhead	Pauline Roberts	

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



**Lent Devotions** in the Parish at 6 p.m. on the following Fridays:

14 <sup>th</sup> March	Buckfastleigh
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Ashburton
28 <sup>th</sup> March	South Brent
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Buckfastleigh
11 <sup>th</sup> April	Ashburton

Stations of the Cross, the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. Followed by refreshments.

As we endeavour to do a little extra for those in need during Lent, you are invited to join Fr. Francis and other parishioners in a **time of prayer and reflection** on the six themes chosen by Pope Francis for this Jubilee Year in which we are called to be Pilgrims of Hope:

11 <sup>th</sup> March	Care for Creation
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Food Poverty
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Modern Slavery
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Managing Debt
8 <sup>th</sup> April	Forgiveness
15 <sup>th</sup> April	Rest and Worship

7 p.m. on Tuesdays during Lent in the Parish Meeting Room at Buckfast Abbey. Each meeting will last about half an hour and end with refreshments.

Contact [parish@buckfast.org.uk](mailto:parish@buckfast.org.uk) for information and directions

During Lent there will again be a box in each of the churches in the parish for you to **donate food to the local foodbanks**. Buckfastleigh foodbank is particularly in need of the following: Tinned fruit (400gms); Small tins of Beans and Pulses; Sugar; UHT milk (1 litre); Breakfast Cereals; Bags for life.

If you prefer to donate cash, please put it in an envelope marked 'Foodbank' and place it in the collection basket at Mass.



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

*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 Fennessy; Dame Agnes Hughes; Teresa Smith; Ann Ilbert; Stanhope Reeves; Gertrude Richards; John Alexander; Trevor Cooke;*

**May they rest in peace**

**Last weekend's collections**

		Gift Aided	Standing orders	Digital Reader
Abbey 9 a.m.	£61.46		£8.08	£66.00
Abbey 11 a.m.	£405.13	£30.00	£38.85	£134.00
Buckfastleigh Sat 5 p.m.	£20.00	£32.00		
Ashburton 10:30am	£33.39	£41.00	£6.92	
South Brent 9 a.m.	£38.00	£25.00	£5.77	
		<b>£32.00</b>	<b>£14.90</b>	<b>£50.00</b>

**The raffle at the Mardi Gras party in aid of CAFOD raised £194. Thank you, everyone who bought tickets, and thank you for also supplying the prizes!**

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March, we joined with Churches together at the Methodist Church in South Brent for the World Day of Prayer written by the people of The Cook Islands, remotely situated in the Pacific Sea. It was a lovely service, with parishioners from all three churches taking part in the readings, it was enjoyed by all. We collected £191.50 at the service for the World Day of Prayer Movement who support communities all over the world, then enjoyed tea with parishioners from the other two churches.

**LENT RETREAT DAY**

**SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2025 AT ST RITA'S CENTRE**

**"WHO AM I? A TOURIST OR A PILGRIM?"** by Fr. Ignatius Paul Raj  
The day will begin with coffee/tea on arrival at 9.30am. First Talk will start at 10am, second talk will be at 11am. Exposition and Adoration of the holy Sacrament in silence will be at 12pm. Lunch will be served at 1.00pm, Mass at 2.45pm and there will be an opportunity for Confession. The charge for the day, including lunch, is just £25.00. Booking can be made by phone, email or online <https://www.stritascentre.org/events-retreats-1/len-retreat-day-who-am-i-a-tourist-or-a-pilgrim>. Payment can be made on the day.

**Medjugorje Pilgrimage 2025** A pilgrimage to Medjugorje will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025, price is £785 half board and inclusive of flights from, and returning to, Bristol for two people sharing a room. There is a £150 supplement for a single room. Please email [plymouth-plympton@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:plymouth-plympton@prcdtr.org.uk) to register your interest.

From the Abbey Choristers: Chorister Tour 2025

This July, the Choristers are embarking on a tour to Germany. The location for their trip is the homeland of Buckfast's second Abbot, Anscar Vonier, in a region of South-West Germany known as Swabia. The choristers will sing for Mass at Abbot Vonier's birthplace, and sing locally in a former Benedictine monastery known to him. Many other young men also came from Swabia to Buckfast at the same time as Abbot Vonier to answer God's call, and the trip will also be an opportunity to meet with their relatives and rekindle this connection from the past.

If you attend the 11am Mass at the Abbey, you might have noticed at coffee afterwards that some weeks there has been a bake sale going on. This is an effort by choristers to raise much needed funds towards their trip. We are also seeking sponsors, individual or corporate, who might be able to contribute, and anyone who might be able to help should contact Robert Pecksmith, the Assistant Master of the Music ([music@buckfast.org.uk](mailto:music@buckfast.org.uk)).

Catholic priests in Nigeria have always been a prized target for kidnapers, but the first two months of 2025 have witnessed a dramatic surge in kidnappings – and sometimes the murder of clergy.

Not less than seven Catholic priests have been kidnapped in Africa's most populous nation since January this year.

The most egregious was the kidnapping and killing of Father Sylvester Okechukwu, a priest from the Diocese of Kafanchan.

The diocesan priest was coincidentally kidnapped and killed on Ash Wednesday. Just a day before his death, Father Philip Ekweli and a major seminarian of Auchu Diocese in Edo State were both kidnapped on March 3.

"Doors and windows in both the rectory and church were pulled down accompanied by gunshots. The local vigilantes engaged the kidnapers in a gun duel," said Father Peter Egielewa, the director of communications for the diocese.

He said the superior weaponry of the kidnapers made it hard for the vigilantes to repel the attackers, and Ekweli was "unfortunately taken away along with the major seminarian serving in the parish into the surrounding forests."

The wave of kidnappings and killings speak to the worsening state of freedom of worship in the country.

In 2024, 13 priests were kidnapped in Nigeria, all of whom were eventually released.

Archbishop Ignatius Ayau Kaigama of the Archdiocese of Abuja in Nigeria has strongly criticized the escalating kidnappings of Catholic priests across the West African nation, attributing the crisis to the government's inability to effectively tackle the surge in abductions.

"Catholic priests and religious have been targeted because of their active participation in politics, their efforts to strengthen Christianity, their role in educating citizens about their rights and privileges, and the large ransoms obtained from the relatives of these priests when they are kidnapped," the archbishop told *Crux*.

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

*From the archives:*

'You have been elected Abbot. Do you accept?' The telegram sent to Dom Boniface Natter at Subiaco on 19th November 1902 was concise and to the point. Fr Boniface knew full well that Buckfast was having its first Abbatial election since 1539: he had been instrumental in making it happen. The Annals record that 15 monks took part in this election. Once complete, the telegram was composed and dispatched to Subiaco.

The response from Italy, which arrived the following day, was noted by the Annalist in these words: 'Circa horam nonam, mane hoc, telegramma venit a Bonifaccio, qui neque consentit, neque dissentit, sed inducias canonicas petit ad deliberandum.' A particularly helpful AI online tool informs me that this can be translated as: 'Around the ninth hour in the morning, a telegram came from Boniface, who neither agrees nor disagrees, but asks for a canonical delay to deliberate.'

It transpires that the principal reason for this delay was to secure the Abbot General's permission and to ensure that a successor to the Curia could be appointed. This delay was only to last several days, before Fr Boniface confirmed his acceptance to be the new Abbot of Buckfast. In a letter sent from Subiaco on 9th December 1902, Abbot Boniface, writing in French, expressed his deep desire to return to Buckfast as soon as possible but acknowledged that his replacement as Curial Consultor had to be appointed first.

His letter combines the longing of a father to see his spiritual sons with practical necessities such as buying an abbatial ring and a pectoral cross. And there was one further financial outlay which he requests with an air of embarrassment: could they please send him some money for the journey home?! Next time, we'll read about Boniface Natter's Abbatial Blessing, how it was an historic occasion and a joyful celebration. *Steve Roach*

**Marriage Matters** Reflections on the Sunday readings: We seek each other

Today's Gospel reminds us that there is more to our life as married couples than we see. Our desire for each other has a deeper yearning – to be loved and accepted for who we are. In this season of Lent let us be led by the Spirit to resist the temptation to lead individual and separate lives within our marriages.

Diocesan Lent talks on Zoom (all begin at 7 p.m.). Link below

13 <sup>th</sup> March	Fr. James Barber	'Commitment to others.'
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Rev. Brian Bargent	'Debt Cancellation'
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Rev. Lizzi Green	'Recognizing Hope.'
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Fr. Gerard Barry	'Peace.'
10 <sup>th</sup> April	David McLoughlin	'Pilgrimage.'

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84052447850?pwd=MmPzcp91dTsGJWDxR0vH5H9zYS4e6.1>

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

Who needs this advice?

On a hair dryer: Do not use while sleeping. On a bar of soap: Directions: Use like regular soap. On Tiramisu desert: Do not turn upside down. (Printed on the bottom of the box.) On packaging for an Iron: Do not iron clothes on body. On CHILDREN's Cough Medicine: Do not drive car or operate machinery. On an Airlines packet of nuts: Instructions: open packet, eat nuts.