

The Abbey Parish Messenger

1st June, 2025 Seventh Sunday of Easter Year C H & S p.872 CTS p. 500

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	Eastertide
Tuesday	St. Charles Lwanga & Comp.
Wednesday	Eastertide
Thursday	Saint Boniface
Friday	Eastertide
Saturday	Eastertide

“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



Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Concetta Collinge; Br. Ignatius Birk; Gabrielle Myhill;
Stephan Kwidzinski; Thomas Stuart; Vera Hubbard; Ernest Minns;
Dom Aloysius Coles; Dom Ernest Graf; Mary Lock;
Margaret Ballenden; Seamus McNally;

May they rest in peace

Second Collection this weekend:

World Communications Day,
Sunday, 1 June 2025

The theme of this year's World Communications Day is: "Share with gentleness the hope that is in your hearts" (cf. 1 Pet 3:15-16)

Your kind donations will go towards the efforts of our Church in England and Wales to use all means of communication to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. There is much evidence that this, whether websites, Facebook and Youtube engagement, podcasts and videos are very effective ways of making contact with young people and drawing them in to the life and love of the Church.

Last weekend's collections

		Gift Aided	Standing orders	Digital Reader
Abbey 9 a.m.	£74.01	£20.00	£8.08	£59.00
Abbey 11 a.m.	£458.42	£30.00	£38.85	£119.00
Buckfastleigh Sat 5 p.m.	£7.00	£25.00		
Ashburton 10:30am	£15.00	£45.00	£6.92	
South Brent 9 a.m.	£70.30	£10.00	£5.77	
Added value through gift aid		£32.50	£14.90	£44.50

Shortly after his election, Pope Leo met the 4,000 journalists who had come to Rome to cover the momentous events of those days and thanked them for their tireless work.

He then talked to them about how vital to a stable, just and peaceful society is good journalism. He encouraged communication to foster peace by caring for how people and events are presented. He invited media professionals to promote a different kind of communication, one that "does not seek consensus at all costs, does not use aggressive words, does not follow the culture of competition, and never separates the search for truth from the love with which we must humbly seek it."

"The way we communicate is of fundamental importance," he said. "We must say 'no' to the war of words and images; we must reject the paradigm of war."

The Pope went on to reaffirm the Church's solidarity with journalists who are imprisoned for reporting the truth, and he called for their release. He said their suffering reminds the world of the importance of the freedom of expression and the press, adding that "only informed individuals can make free choices."

The Pope then thanked reporters for their service to the truth, especially their work to present the Church in the "beauty of Christ's love" during the recent interregnum period. He commended their work to put aside stereotypes and clichés, in order to share with the world "the essence of who we are". Our times, he continued, present many issues that are difficult to recount and navigate, noting that they call each of us to overcome mediocrity.

The Church must face the challenges posed by the times," he said. "In the same way, communication and journalism do not exist outside of time and history. Saint Augustine reminds of this when he said, 'Let us live well, and the times will be good. We are the times'."

Pope Leo continued, saying the modern world can leave us lost in a "confusion of loveless languages that are often ideological or partisan." The media, he said, must take up the challenge to lead the world out of such a "Tower of Babel," through the words we use and the style we adopt.

"Communication is not only the transmission of information," he said, "but it is also the creation of a culture, of human and digital environments that become spaces for dialogue and discussion."

Pointing to the spread of artificial intelligence, the Pope said AI's "immense potential" requires "responsibility and discernment in order to ensure that it can be used for the good of all, so that it can benefit all of humanity."

In conclusion, Pope Leo XIV repeated Pope Francis' Message for the 2025 World Day of Social Communication: "Let us disarm communication of all prejudice and resentment, fanaticism and even hatred," he said. "Let us disarm words, and we will help to disarm the world."

Saint Rita's Honiton

Looking for the perfect holiday accommodation for your family? Look no further than St. Rita's Centre in Honiton! Our retreat centre offers the perfect escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. With its serene surroundings and idyllic countryside setting, St. Rita's is the perfect place to unwind, recharge, and reconnect with nature.

Our second floor with lift access offers six ensuite rooms and twenty cosy beds, making it the ideal spot for big families with lots of children or grandparents who want to gather together.

Special Offer: Midweek Retreats (Tuesday to Thursday) or Short Notice weekends. From Friday 4:30pm to Sunday 3:30pm (Full board accommodation prices)



* 5 to 15 people 30% discount - £112/p * 16 to 34 people 40% discount - £96/p

August Holiday Weeks: 7 days/6 nights £100/p

For more information and for reservations, please contact us:

<https://www.stritascentre.org/>

Marriage Matters

Reflections on the Sunday readings:

Open to receive

'That the love with which you loved me may be in them and so that I may be in them' – the prayer of Jesus before returning to the Father. God made us to be channels of His love – wife to husband, vice versa, parents to children. Our openness to His love enables it to flow out through us to others.

The Diocesan Newsletter for May is now available at <https://email.workwithgusto.co.uk/t/t-4A106CCA7386F8E42540EF23F30FEDED>

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Let's pray for all Ugandans, especially those who are far from their beloved country, as they celebrate the feast of the Ugandan Martyrs on Tuesday.

From the archives:

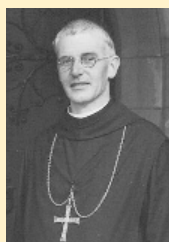
Having attempted a very brief biography of Abbot Boniface Natter and having discussed Abbot Anscar Vonier on more than one occasion, I thought it was high time I provided some information about the 3rd Abbot of Buckfast since its restoration in 1882.

Herman Fehrenbacher was born on 27 July 1895 at Mengen, Baden-Württemberg, and through a remarkable twist of fate, or providential serendipity, our Abbey Choristers will be singing a concert less than 50 miles from his hometown on 27 July this year, the 130th anniversary of his birth! The young Herman, like many of his peers from Baden-Württemberg, made the long journey from Southern Germany to Devon, arriving at Buckfast in August 1910, where he became Br Bruno.

He pronounced his First Vows on 28 October 1913 and was ordained Priest on 19 March 1919. Two years later he followed in the footsteps of Abbot Anscar and began to study philosophy at the Benedictine College of Sant'Anselmo in Rome. Having completed his doctoral studies, he returned to Buckfast where he taught philosophy to the Junior monks before becoming Novice Master.

However, he was packing his suitcase one again in 1937 following his appointment to teach at the Syrian Catholic Seminary at Sharfeh near Beirut. It was there, thousands of miles from his monastic home, that Dom Bruno heard the shocking news of Abbot Anscar's death on 26 December 1938.

He received the news on 27 December and three days later wrote a moving letter to Dom Mellitus Hauler. 'I was too stunned to write before now, and I hope you will excuse me for this. The news was so sudden and so inexplicable that I could only cry and pray. I offer you and the whole Community my sincere condolences. The same loss embraces us all and unites us closer together; the same prayers fall from our trembling lips, and our tears mingle in one cup of sorrow for the departure of our beloved Pastor, Father and Friend.



My prayers and love are for Buckfast and for our dear Father Abbot, that he may receive the full reward for his glorious work: the vision of God in heaven and a worthy successor in the Abbey which he raised and governed so well.'

An entry for The Annals on 4 January 1939 records that the monks would choose this 'worthy successor' on 10 January. Dom Bruno Fehrenbacher couldn't be at the election in person; the distance from Lebanon to Buckfast made this journey impossible in such a short time. But, as we'll see next week, he was clearly very much in the thoughts of those preparing to choose a new Abbot of Buckfast.

Steve Roach

The Lead Bishop for the Holy Land for the Bishops' Conference, Bishop Jim Curry, has echoed Pope Leo XIV's call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza: "This is a humanitarian disaster. Desperately needed aid supplies must be allowed into Gaza to be urgently distributed to civilians. The human cost is intolerably high with tens of thousands of weary, regularly displaced people threatened with starvation. We need an immediate ceasefire to end the suffering. "As Pope Leo said at his first General Audience, children, the elderly and the sick are paying a very heavy price, and I would echo the Holy Father's heartfelt appeal for 'dignified' humanitarian aid to be allowed to pass into Gaza – not just an inadequate trickle of food and supplies that has been promised in recent days."

He went on, "I continue to pray for Fr Gabriel Romanelli and the Christian community sheltering in the compound of the Holy Family Church, north of the Wadi. It is a humbling inspiration to all of us outside the conflict zone to witness their strength of faith in the Risen Christ, and how they continue to lead a humble sacramental life despite the incredible hardship and distress they are facing."

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

When a mother saw a thunderstorm forming in mid-afternoon, she worried about her seven-year-old daughter who would be walking home from school. Deciding to meet her, the mother saw her daughter walking nonchalantly along, stopping to smile whenever lightning flashed. Seeing her mother, the little girl ran to her, explaining happily, "All the way home, God's been taking my picture!"