

The Abbey Parish Messenger

24th August, 2025 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C H & S p.948 CTS p. 1045

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	Dedication of the Abbey Church
Tuesday	Feria
Wednesday	St. Monica
Thursday	St. Augustine of Hippo
Friday	Beheading of John the Baptist
Saturday	Our Lady on Saturday

Please note, there will not be Mass in Ashburton this Wednesday.

"Oremus pro invicem"

Please pray for those who are sick:

Kathy Smith	Keith Halle	Wendy Williams
Brigid Woodhead	Pauline Roberts	

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

PARISH HARVEST MASS

Saturday 27th September 11 a.m.

Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Buckfast Abbey followed by ploughman's lunch

Marking the Season of Creation 2025

There will be a collection of items for local foodbanks; those who wish to contribute will be invited to place their donations before the altar during the offertory procession. These are the sort of items the foodbanks are most in need of at the moment:

Tinned fruit, small tins of beans and pulses, sugar, UHT milk cartons, breakfast cereals, bags for life, coffee, biscuits, toiletries.

Followed by ploughman's lunch in the Grange restaurant.

Please obtain tickets for lunch **in advance** so that we provide the right amount of food:

£5 per head (additional donations towards the costs gratefully received); under-19s free. from Fr. Francis or Sue Lethbridge

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



Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Mahalat Quinet; Harold English; Beatrice Morris; Clara Craig; Marie Power; Sr. Margaret Morrim; Siofra Donfield; Leonard Hares; Mary Hall; Eldon Simons; Fr. John Allan; Ellen Baker; Brian Mitchell; Harold Stanton; Philip Dawson;

May they rest in peace

Last weekend's collections

		Gift Aided	Standing orders	Digital Reader
Abbey 9 a.m.	£84.00		£8.08	£63.00
Abbey 11 a.m.	£316.22	£30.00	£38.85	£127.00
Buckfastleigh Sat 5 p.m.	£20.00	£10.00		
Ashburton 10:30am	£121.50	£20.00	£6.92	
South Brent 9 a.m.	£10.00	£74.50	£5.77	
Added value through gift aid		£33.63	£14.90	£47.50

Can you help us to make more of your generosity?

If you are a UK taxpayer, gift-aiding your contribution to the Sunday collection will increase its value by one quarter at no cost to you, so if you give £5 by gift aid, it becomes worth £6.25 to the Abbey parish. All you have to do is put your donation in one of the yellow gift aid envelopes which are at the back of each church in the parish; there are pens available and it only takes a moment to fill in your details. Then pop it in the collection plate when it comes round.

Canon John Deeny, Chair of Caritas Plymouth writes:

"The Catholic Children's Society Plymouth is an effective means through which the grace of Jesus reaches out to children and their families. Week after week, the Society responds to those in serious need of support. While they make every effort not to turn anyone away, there is always unmet demand.

The Society has benefitted enormously from your compassionate and generous giving for which they are truly grateful. The Annual Appeal is one important way in we can continue to show solidarity and support for the work of the Society.

*Together, let us answer Pope Leo XIV's call: "Let us go to Jesus: He can heal us, He can revive us. Jesus is our hope." By putting **all children first**, may we help extend that reviving grace of Jesus to those in need of it, and truly give **hope to all**."*

There will be a second collection for the Catholic Children's Society this weekend in South Brent, Buckfastleigh and Ashburton and **next weekend at the Abbey**

CAFOD: Response in Gaza

Your donations to Gaza since the start of the conflict have been a vital lifeline. Right now, CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and providing medicines to treat chronic illnesses. We have helped 1,400 households with cash to buy supplies in the last month and we are currently feeding 2,000 people with new stocks of flour and rice. Despite the restrictions on aid coming into Gaza, CAFOD's local partners are working tirelessly to help people. And with your ongoing support, they will do all in their power to keep doing so. You can find out more about how you can make a difference in Gaza at cafod.org.uk. Thank you for backing our work through holding collections for our Family Fast Day appeals and for continuing to [pray for peace](#) in the Middle East.

Sacraments of Initiation For those who live in this parish:

- Would you like your child to receive their First Holy Communion next year?
- Does your teenage son or daughter wish to be Confirmed?
- Are you a Catholic adult who missed out on Confirmation and would like to be Confirmed?
- Are you a baptised Christian who would like to become a Catholic?
- Are you a Christian who has not been baptised and wishes to be baptised and received into the Catholic Church?

For a conversation about any of the above, please contact Father Francis.

And if you have just lost the habit of going to church and want to find your way back home, come along to Mass where you will be most welcome.

Season of Creation. 1st September is the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and the beginning of the Season of Creation, which ends on 4th October (the Feast of St Francis of Assisi). For more information and inspiration, visit the diocesan website <https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/the-diocese/how-we-work/environment/season-of-creation/>

Our August diocesan newsletter is now available. Just click the link or cut and paste it into your browser:

<https://email.workwithgusto.co.uk/t/t-F551B10A84478E9B2540EF23F30FEDED>

From Pope Leo's message to the Ecumenical gathering of churches in Sweden: "I extend heartfelt greetings to all gathered in Stockholm for the 2025 Ecumenical Week marking the centenary of the 1925 Universal Christian Conference on Life and Work, as well as the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, a profound event in the history of Christianity.

In the year 325, bishops from across the known world gathered in Nicaea. In affirming the divinity of Jesus Christ, they formulated our creedal statements that he is "true God from true God" and "consubstantial (*homoousios*) with the Father." Thus, they articulated the faith that continues to bind Christians together. That Council stood as a courageous sign of unity amidst difference – an early witness to the conviction that our shared confession can overcome division and foster communion.

A similar desire animated the 1925 Conference in Stockholm, convened by the pioneer of the early ecumenical movement, Archbishop Nathan Söderblom, then Lutheran Archbishop of Uppsala. The gathering brought together around 600 Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant leaders. Söderblom's conviction was that "service unites." He therefore called on his Christian brothers and sisters not to wait for agreement on every point of theology, but to unite in "practical Christianity" – to serve the world together in the pursuit of peace, justice and human dignity.

While the Catholic Church was not represented at that first gathering, I can affirm, with humility and joy, that we stand with you today as fellow disciples of Christ, recognizing that what unites us is far greater than what divides us."

Buckfast Abbey has a 'family' connection with Sweden as our Benedictine Congregation includes the monastery of women at Mariavall Abbey in the very south of that country.

Marriage Matters *Reflections on the Sunday readings:* Our calling is to be a sign of God's love

Married couples have a special calling to evangelise. God created man and woman to live intimately together so that the people we meet see a living example of His love for each of us. Many of us at some time have seen a couple together and felt intense joy or sensitivity in them – living examples of His love for us.

From the archives, by Steve Roach:

From the time when the French monks arrived here in 1882, the Buckfast Annals have been an invaluable source of information for the Abbey's history. This is especially true for events of particular importance, such as those which took place between 1939 and 1945. The Second World War affected the monks at Buckfast — the majority of whom had been born in Germany — just as it affected everyone else in the country. Alongside entries which record liturgical celebrations, a train strike, and a day trip to Glastonbury, the final days of August 1939 recount a growing sense of fear and foreboding: 'There are rumours of war; impossible yet to say what will be the outcome. All precautions are being taken. ... Gas masks were distributed today, and windows must be screened from light during the night. ... Fathers Placid, Robert, Charles, and Paulinus went to Plymouth to be examined by the medical board with a view to offering themselves as Army Chaplains in the event of war. ... The political horizon is still very cloudy, though there is still hope of an amical settlement. Every country has mobilised their army, ready to strike at a moment's notice.' The Annalist (Dom Mellitus Hauler) notes that the 1st of September saw the start of regulations concerning blackouts; he also records the evacuation of children from large cities and comments that one of the Abbey's properties, 'Liesse', was being offered to house evacuees. There were further significant developments the next day: '2nd September – This evening in Chapter, Fr Abbot told us that Br Alphonsus [Laurent] had been called up as a French reservist and had left this evening. With regard to the other members of the community, those in Holy Orders are exempt from conscription, whereas everyone else from the age of 18 to 47 is liable to be called up. But as religious, we are not free to offer ourselves "sua sponte" [of one's own accord] for military service. Fr Abbot had asked the Bishop about this, and he received the same answer. Of course, if there is conscription and if anyone is summoned to do military service, then there will be no hesitation. Novices are not bound by the same rules as professed monks and are free to sign up. Br Alban [Ibbott] left today to offer his services.' Next time, we'll read about the dramatic events which took place on the following day, 3rd September 1939.

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

A new Army recruit was given guard duty at 2 a.m. He did his best for a while, but about 4 a.m. he fell asleep. He woke to find the officer of the day standing before him. Remember the heavy penalty for being asleep on guard duty, this smart young man kept his head bowed for another moment, then looked upward and said reverently, "A-a-a-men!"