

The Abbey Parish Messenger

26th October, 2025 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C H & S p.1066 CTS p. 1180

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	All Souls Day
Tuesday	St. Charles Borromeo
Wednesday	Feria
Thursday	Feria
Friday	Feria
Saturday	Our Lady on Saturday

“Oremus pro invicem”

Please pray for those who are sick:

Kathy Smith	Keith Halle
Brigid 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:

Bishop John Barrett; Barbara Connolly; Winifred Brocklebank; David Carroll; Norah Hamm; Mary Witt; Emelia Cheston; Margaret Northcott; Dom Arnold Weiler; Audrey Lady Petre; Lucy Coombes; Brian Reavey; Ella Roberts; Peter Bray; Evelyn Mitchell; John de Ville; Dom Jean Colin; Carol Karaviotis; Pat Hedges; Mary Ford; Lilian Paynter; Margaret Anderson;

May they rest in peace

The CHOSEN

Parishioners have enjoyed watching together four seasons of this wonderful series on the life and ministry of Jesus.



Beginning on Tuesday November 4th we will be watching the first four episodes of Season Five on consecutive Tuesdays at 7.15 p.m. in the parish meeting room at the Abbey. Everyone is most welcome to join us (for directions, please contact Fr. Francis).

Marriage Matters

Reflections on the Sunday readings:

Do we recognise our sanctity?

Are we married couples among the blessed? St Paul called the members of those churches he visited, saints; he also compared the union of husband and wife with that of Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:22-33). Are we not 'poor in spirit...gentle...those who mourn...those who hunger and thirst for what is right...merciful...pure in heart and peacemakers' in our own relationship?

Last weekend's collections

		Gift Aided	Standing orders	Digital Reader
Abbey 9 a.m.	£67.50	£25.00	£8.08	£77.00
Abbey 11 a.m.	£380.22	£40.00	£38.85	£156.00
Buckfastleigh Sat 5 p.m.	£45.00	£27.00		
Ashburton 10:30am	£55.00	£25.00	£6.92	
South Brent 9 a.m.	£49.50	£20.00	£5.77	
Added value through gift aid			£14.90	£58.25

Thank you for the additional donation of £5 gifted aided to World Mission Sunday in Ashburton.



In addition to the parish priest, two people from each parish can attend the installation of our new Bishop.

This takes place on Saturday 29th November at 12.30 p.m. in the Cathedral.

If you would like to attend, please tell Father Francis BY 12 NOON on MONDAY 3rd NOVEMBER.

In the event of more than two people applying, the successful applicants will be chosen by lot drawn by an independent member of staff at the Abbey.

BEING SIGNS OF HOPE: A day of Reflection and Prayer for the 9th World Day of the Poor on Saturday 15th November 2025 10am-3pm at St Rita's Centre, Honiton.

Caritas Diocese of Plymouth invites you to gather for a day of prayer to reflect on Pope Leo's first message and how we can walk alongside those experiencing poverty. We are delighted to welcome David McLoughlin back to the diocese again this year after his much-celebrated keynote talks at this year's *Gather Conference*. The event will start with a liturgy at 10.00am and end at 3.00pm with closing prayers. A free light lunch will be provided for those attending the day. To register email caritas@procdtr.org.uk or phone 01364 645425

Prize Draw in aid of the Catholic Children's Society

Prizes: an AF140 Ninja Air Fryer and a £100 supermarket gift card of your choice.

You can enter as many times as you like and the more entries you purchase, the more chance you will have of winning. Tickets are priced at £10 for one entry or buy two entries for £20 and receive a third entry for free. The draw will close at 9am on Monday, 24 November 2025.

To enter, please visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/ccsp-ninja-air-fryer-bundle

Parish Priest:

Fr. Francis Straw;

01364 645526; parish@buckfast.org.uk

On Sunday 26 October, representatives from six different religions came together at St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham to mark the 60th anniversary of [Nostra Aetate](#). Published on 28 October 1965, *Nostra Aetate* – 'In Our Time' – was a ground-breaking declaration of the Second Vatican Council focusing on the Catholic Church's relations with non-Christian religions. It is still considered a foundational text for this important dialogue.

The national celebration of *Nostra Aetate*'s diamond jubilee included Sung Vespers with reflections from Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist and Christian representatives, and a panel discussion titled 'Dying to Live' that will explore the challenges faced by Birmingham's faith communities in end-of-life care settings.

Writing in the programme for the event, Archbishop Bernard Longley, host bishop and Chair of the Bishops' Conference's Department for Dialogue and Unity, described *Nostra Aetate* as 'important' and 'relevant' in today's world:

"At the time of its publication, this short but very important declaration expressed a clear vision and intent on the part of the Catholic Church to recognise those 'rays of truth' and goodness reflected in other religions, so as to initiate and promote a deeper dialogue between us all."

The Archbishop stressed that Pope Saint Paul VI's call to fellowship in *Nostra Aetate* is a guiding principle we can take up today:

"Although these words were written over half a century ago, they remain as important and relevant as ever. Our friendship and dialogue with one another continue to bear much fruit through a mutual understanding and appreciation of the gifts that we share and of those truths we hold in common."

In the same booklet, Bishop Patrick McKinney, Lead Bishop for Interreligious Dialogue, described how the declaration heralded a new era of understanding:

"It was a call to reject prejudice and embrace the universal dignity of every human person as created in the image and likeness of God. It paved the way for a new era of understanding, particularly in Catholic-Jewish relations, and it promoted respect for all religions."

"For six decades the principles of this document have inspired and guided countless initiatives for dialogue, reconciliation and cooperation on the part of the Holy See and Catholic dioceses all around the world."

This national celebration provides the Catholic Church in England and Wales with an opportunity to express gratitude to colleagues from other religions for the warmth of the interreligious dialogue and the close working relationships that have been built up over those years, as well to renew its commitment to fruitful interreligious dialogue.

9th – 16th November is a week of prayer for toleration, cooperation and mutual understanding between different faiths.



As well as the Archbishop of Birmingham and Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the inter-faith event was attended by Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald MAfr OBE, expert on Islam and Christian-Muslim relations and former President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. A member of the White Fathers, by the age of 31 he was a lecturer at the Pontifical Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, being Director of the Institute from 1972 to 1978. After ministering in the Sudan, he was appointed to work in interfaith relations for the Holy See.

From the archives, by Steve Roach:

I'd like to pause our ongoing exploration of Buckfast during the Second World War and focus instead on a forthcoming event of some significance. Anscar Vonier was born on 11th November 1875, and we'll be celebrating his 150th anniversary in less than two weeks' time.

Martin Vonier was born on 11 November 1875 in Ringschnait, near Biberach in Germany. When he was twelve years old, he heard a talk at his village school given by Fr Boniface Natter, a Benedictine monk from St Mary's Abbey, Buckfast. Himself a native Württemberger, Fr Boniface invited youngsters with an interest in the religious life to join him at his monastery in England. On 29 September 1888, not yet thirteen, Martin bade farewell to his family in Biberach, took the train to Buckfast, and began his monastic formation, receiving the name Br Anscar.



After his ordination to the Priesthood in December 1898, Fr Anscar completed a doctorate in philosophy at the Benedictine College of Sant'Anselmo, Rome. Just five years later, in October 1905, he returned to Sant'Anselmo as a professor, an appointment which recognised his significant intellectual abilities. Having spent less than 12 months in this new position, his world was turned upside down by a tragic event on the Mediterranean.

In the summer of 1906, Fr Anscar was instructed to accompany Boniface Natter, now the Abbot of Buckfast, on a visitation to a monastery in Argentina. The SS *Sirio* left Barcelona on 4 August 1906, but tragedy struck when it ran aground and sank off the Spanish coast. Nearly four hundred people died in this maritime disaster, including Abbot Boniface. Fr Anscar was rescued by a fishing ship and taken to the nearby village of Cabo de Palos. Less than six weeks later, on 14 September 1906, the 30-year-old was elected the new Abbot of Buckfast.' *To be continued....*

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

Aliterative fun with the Prodigal Son:

Feeling footloose and frisky, a featherbrained fellow forced his fond father to fork over the farthings and flew far to foreign fields and frittered his fortune feasting fabulously with faithless friends. Fleeced by his fellows in folly, and facing famine, he found himself a feed-flinger in a filthy farmyard.

Fairly famishing, he fain would have filled his frame with foraged food from fodder fragments. 'Phooey, my father's flunkies fare far finer!' the frazzled fugitive forlornly fumbled, frankly facing facts. Frustrated by failure and filled with foreboding he fled forthwith to his family. Falling at his father's feet, he forlornly fumbled, "Father, I've flunked, and fruitlessly forfeited family fellowship favour."

The farsighted father, forestalling further flinching, frantically flagged the flunkies to fetch a fatling from the flock and fix a feast. The fugitive's fault-finding brother frowned on fickle forgiveness of former folderol.

But the faithful father figured, "Filial fidelity is fine, but the fugitive is found!" What forbids fervent festivity? Let flags be unfurled! Let fanfares flare!" Father's forgiveness formed the foundation for the former fugitive's future fortitude!