

The Abbey Parish Messenger

8th March, 2026 Third Sunday of Lent Year A H & S p.131 CTS p. 164
 15th March, 2026 Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A H & S p.137 CTS p. 171
 22nd March, 2026 Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A H & S p.144 CTS p. 177

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 9 th – Saturday | Lent |
| Monday 16 th | Lent |
| Tuesday | St. Patrick |
| Wednesday | Lent |
| Thursday | St. Joseph |
| Friday | Lent |
| Saturday | St. Benedict |
| Monday 23 rd | Lent |
| Tuesday | Lent |
| Wednesday | Annunciation of the Lord |
| Thursday | Lent |
| Friday | Lent |
| Saturday | Lent |

"Oremus pro invicem"

Please pray for those who are sick:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Kathy Smith | Pauline Roberts |
| Brigid Woodhead | |

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

There will not be the usual Wednesday Mass in Ashburton on 11th or 18th March.

Wednesday Workshops – FREE drop-in craft activities for families during the school holidays

Sessions take place in the School Room (next to Buckfast Abbey Church) 10.30am-12pm and 1pm-2.30pm. Suitable for all aged 3+ (all children must be accompanied by an adult).

Dates for the next sessions are:
 Wednesday 8th April and Wednesday 15th April (Easter holidays)

Creative Needlefelting Workshop

Join us for a creative needlefelting workshop on Saturday 25th April, where you'll learn the basics of needlefelting while creating your own charming duck brooch to take home.

Sessions take place in the Education Centre at Buckfast Abbey and run from 10.00–12.00pm or 1.30–3.30pm, and are suitable for adults and young people aged 12 and over (children must be accompanied by an adult). The cost is £10 per person, which includes all materials and expert tuition—no prior experience needed. To find out more and to secure your place, please email education@buckfast.org.uk



Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Dr. Ironside; Mary Witt; Johnnie Walker; 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; Herman Maier OSB; Edith Newton; William Collinge; Daniel Scott Maddocks; Thomas Nicholl; Angela Bull; Urban Bernard OSB; Richard Caunter; Saturnina Barber; Reginald Simpson; Beatrice May; Amy Vasey; Mary Hewett; Henri Lecourt-Lory; John Farrell; Doris McKinlay; Mary Wallace; Mary Vaughan; Emilie Post; Violet Lloyd-Still; Br. Hilarion Mohn; Archbishop Francis Grimshaw; Aelred Hewett OSB; Elizabeth Daley; Ann Hood; Betty Gable; Maude Stafford; Clare Furnieux; Agnes Hodgson; Christine Sampson; May Grout; Mary Anne Daw; Dulcibell Russell; Stanley Allen; Edward Goddard; Edmund Stewart OSB; Dame Bede Wilson OSB; Isabel Andrews; Mabel Gardener; Rose Taylor; Arthur Baker; Alfreda Howe; Kathleen Furlong; Sr. Mary Kelly; Michael Wood;

May they rest in peace

Last weekend's collections

| | Gift Aided | Standing orders | Digital Reader |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Abbey 9 a.m. | £65.50 | £5.00 | £8.08 |
| Abbey 11 a.m. | £340.45 | £75.00 | £38.85 |
| Buckfastleigh Sat 5 p.m. | £27.00 | £35.00 | |
| Ashburton 10:30am | £41.50 | £15.00 | £6.92 |
| South Brent 9 a.m. | £44.90 | £35.00 | £5.77 |
| <i>Added value through gift aid</i> | | £41.25 | £14.90 |
| | | | £35.00 |

CAFOD

| | Gift aided | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|--------|
| Abbey 9 a.m. | £27.00 | |
| Abbey 11 a.m. | £40.50 | |
| Buckfastleigh Sat 5 p.m. | £25.00 | £20.00 |
| Ashburton 10:30 a.m. | £12.00 | £20.00 |
| South Brent | £45.20 | £85.00 |
| <i>Added value through gift aid</i> | | £31.25 |

Torbay Deanery Station Mass

Join Bishop Nicholas and clergy and parishioners from all over the Torbay Deanery at a Lenten Station Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians and St. Denis, Marychurch, on Wednesday 18th March. The Mass begins at 7 p.m. and is followed by refreshments. *(The tradition of Station Masses began as a daily pilgrimage following the footsteps of saints and martyrs, with the first recorded stations established by Pope St. Gregory the Great)*

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

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Thursday 12 th March | Fr. Mark Skelton | The Parable of the Good Shepherd |
| Thursday 19 th March | Sr. Bernadette Reis | The Parable of the Prodigal Son |
| Thursday 26 th March | Mr. Simon Giarchi | The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats |

Open Zoom on your computer (no subscription needed) and enter the Meeting ID: 895 7188 9251 and the Password: 125755

Forming Catholic Student Leaders

Two summer courses exploring faith, ethics and leadership for sixth form students, offered by the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst.

Join us for 6 days in the beautiful Ribble Valley to explore themes linked to The Common Good (Year 12, 10-15 August) and to The Human Ecology (Year 13, 5-10 July). Meet new friends, discuss and share with peers, tutors and academics, learn new skills, develop your relationship with Christ, build your character.

www.christianleadershipformation.com

Called to Love, 2 - 3 May 2026

A retreat for singles, dating and engaged young adults who want to think more deeply about relationships and the call to marriage. A relaxed weekend with input, prayer, discussion and social, as well as the opportunity to meet like-minded others! This year's retreat will have as its theme masculinity and femininity. Runs from Saturday 2nd to Sunday 3rd May, with the option of staying Friday night.

<https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/called-to-love/>

Big Lent Walk

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>
Join Geraldine and Mary who have signed up for the CAFOD Big Lent Walk, or support their efforts by donating at https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/south-brent-walkers?utm_source=CL&utm_medium=DT



Art Exhibition open daily from 10:00 to 16:30 25th March – 12th April

A prayerful and reflective Lenten journey with fourteen paintings by the artist Nigel Groom in the Medieval Guest Hall, Buckfast Abbey. Join us on Saturday 28th March at 10:30am for Reflection followed by mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

From the archives, by Steve Roach:

As early as 1899, The Annals of Buckfast Abbey record that monks were providing pastoral support – chiefly the celebration of Sunday Mass – at several establishments in the surrounding area. These included the homes of Sir Robert Harvey at Dundridge, the Clifford family at Ugbrooke, and Stanley Cary's Follaton House near Totnes.

Their ministry also involved serving as temporary chaplains for the convents at Abbotsleigh, Chudleigh, and Teignmouth. We saw last week how the young Anscar Vonier, before his ordination to the Priesthood, practised preaching in the refectory with his monastic brethren as a first audience. The Annals further record how the newly ordained Fr Anscar supplied for the nuns at Abbotsleigh in July 1899, just 6 months after becoming a priest.

By May 1904, he was informing his sister that these pastoral commitments had increased significantly: 'I'm preaching so much, so often, and for so long, and I'm visiting so many different churches, that if I did the tiniest fraction of what I tell the congregation to do, then I wouldn't need to rely on your prayers for me all the time.'

We noted last week how Dom Ernest Graf, who heard the young monk preach in Buckfast's refectory, described the 'gawky gestures' of his visibly nervous confrère. And it clearly took some time for Fr Anscar to become confident in his new ministry, one that would ultimately play such a crucial part in his life: 'In those early years there were those who thought they detected a certain *hauteur* in Dom Anscar's tone and manner, and in the village there were some who spoke of him as "the proud monk". In my judgement they were profoundly mistaken – the seeming aloofness of the young priest, the firm, dogmatic, one might say authoritative tone he adopted, were undoubtedly due to a certain nervousness, perhaps also to a measure of uneasiness due to the fact that he was speaking in a language he had only recently acquired and not yet completely mastered, but most of all to the circumstance that he was a young monk who, up till that time, had had scarcely any contacts with the outside world. Hence it was not surprising that he should address a very mixed audience more or less in the same strain as when he taught his students or instructed the novices. However, his discourses were characterised by a freshness, an originality, a doctrinal solidity that compelled attention. The voice may have been harsh, the foreign accent strongly marked, the delivery and accompanying gestures by no means in conformity with the manuals devised for public speakers – but here was a man with a message, and who was determined to deliver it.'

We'll see next time how a prestigious invitation to preach in London just a few years later confirmed Dom Ernest's viewpoint and would inaugurate Anscar Vonier's 'career' as 'a preacher to the big wide world.'

Marriage Matters

Reflections on the Sunday readings:

Find our 'living water'

Jesus' message to the woman at the well reminds us of His first miracle at Cana where He changed water into wine. Today, He promises us "living water where we will never be thirsty again...a spring inside...welling up to eternal life". When His grace is poured into us, into our marriages, it can overflow, strengthening us, reaching out to others.

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

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

An American on holiday in England boasted about the size of his State: "Why, in Texas you can get on a train, ride for days and still be in Texas." The Englishman he was talking to nodded sympathetically. "We have the same trouble with our trains," he said.

A man mentioned to his landlord about the tenants in the apartment above his. "Many a night they stamp on the floor and shout till midnight."

When the landlord asked if it bothered him, he replied, "Not really, for I usually stay up and practice my trumpet till about that time most every night anyway."