

The Abbey Parish Messenger

5th April, 2026 Easter Sunday Year A H & S p.364 CTS p. 271

Full details of times of Services are posted in the Abbey and the other churches in the parish.

Liturgical Calendar:

Monday - Saturday **Easter Octave**

"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

Our prayers and heartfelt congratulations go to Thomas Phillips-Clegg, received into the full communion of the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil at the Abbey and to Denis Devlin, baptised, confirmed and receiving first Holy Communion on Easter Sunday at St. Dunstan's Church, South Brent

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

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).

Wednesday 8th April and Wednesday 15th April (Easter holidays)

Contemplative Retreats at St. Rita's Centre April 20th – 24th 2026

An Introduction to the Gries Path of Prayer as well as an opportunity for a short retreat. For further details: Contact the retreat co-ordinator Paddy Rylands

paddyrylands@gmail.com
www.stritascentre.org

CAFOD Big Lent Walk

St Dunstan's South Brent Walkers

Mary Shepherd & Geraldine Coleman both undertook the challenge of completing **200km in 40 days** and both ladies have completed their challenge. For their admirable efforts they have so far raised **£920**.

Moneys raised will help bring clean safe water to communities around the world.

Thank you to all those who have already sponsored Geraldine or Mary, but it is not too late to make a donation by visiting one of these pages:

<http://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/geraldines-fundraising-page2027>
<http://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/marys-fundraising-page311>
<http://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/south-brent-walkers>



This is the day the Lo-rd has made; let us re-joyce in it and be glad

Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Beryl Baker; Bryan Hampton; Marie Gordon; Harry Hunt; Jane Simpson; Mother Joseph Magdalen; Thomas Dowling; Jane Parsons; Sydney Goulding; Jane Young; Stanley Hird; Clare Hodge; Mary Le Hunte Ward; Angela Carey; Dorothea Marriott; Norma Small; Mary Moll; Pamela Daly;

May they rest in peace

Last weekend's collections

	Gift Aided	Standing orders	Digital Reader
Abbey 9 a.m.	£91.20	£10.00	£8.08
Abbey 11 a.m.	£585.44	£50.00	£38.85
Buckfastleigh Sat 5 p.m.	£35.00	£37.00	
Ashburton 10:30am	£16.00	£25.00	£6.92
South Brent 9 a.m.	£49.20	£30.00	£5.77
Added value through gift aid	£38.00	£14.90	£66.25

Escort by The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

On Easter Sunday, Knights and Dames of the Western Section of The Equestrian Order of The Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (a religious Pontifical Order of Knighthood) will escort Abbot David Charlesworth OSB., KCHS (a Knight Commander of the Order) and the monastic community at the 1100 hours Mass.

In 1099 at the end of the 1st Crusade upon the capture of Jerusalem, this ancient order of Christian Knighthood led by Godfrey de Bouillon (1058-1100) the first uncrowned king of Jerusalem were welcomed by Franciscan monks, singing the Te Deum as the victorious crusading knights entered the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to pray at the tomb of Christ.

Today, whilst members are on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, this 'solemn entry' is emulated by Knights and Dames formally processing into the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. After 927 years they are still received at the door of the Holy Sepulchre, by Franciscan monks who sing the Te Deum and cense members as they formally process to attend mass in and around the tomb of the Holy Sepulchre.

The current Grand Master is H.E. Cardinal Fernando Filoni CHS. (Knight of the Collar). The Order is headquartered in Vatican City under the unique protection of the Holy See. The Prior of the order is Cardinal [Pierbattista Pizzaballa](#), [Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem](#), formerly Custos of the Holy Land. Today, the order exists to support Christians in the Holy Land (the living stones) physically on pilgrimage, prayerfully and financially.

CHOICE WORDS – NEWTON ABBOT STAFF VACANCY

Part-Time Sales Assistant. 3 days per week

An exciting opportunity to serve God on the High Street at Choice Words, the award winning independent Christian bookshop in Newton Abbot.

The ideal applicant will be: Friendly and welcoming with strong communication skills, passionate about great customer service, well organised, reliable and a team player, comfortable using computers.

Full training will be provided. Please apply by email: roy@choicewords.co.uk Choice Words CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and a registered charity in England and Wales (Charity No 1163536)

Registered address: 71 Queen St, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 2AU

<https://choicewords.co.uk/>

News of our parish school from Sophie Kerswell, Headteacher.

As we come to the end of term, we also find ourselves coming to the end of Lent—a time to pause, reflect and prepare for the joy of Easter. In school, we have been encouraging the children to think about how they can live out this season through kindness, prayer and small acts of service to others.

On Tuesday, we gathered together for our Reconciliation Service, led by Father Francis, with Chris Davis supporting the music. It was a really special time for reflection, as the children thought about saying sorry to God—placing a pebble into a bowl of water by the altar in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. It was a simple but powerful way to mark this part of our Lenten journey. We feel incredibly fortunate to be part of such a special parish community at **Buckfast Abbey**. The support we receive from the Abbey is something we never take for granted, and it touches so many parts of school life.

Spiritually, the guidance and welcome from the monastic community mean a great deal to us. The opportunity for our children to take part in Masses and liturgies in such a beautiful and prayerful setting is something truly special, helping them to feel part of something much bigger.

Our links with the Abbey's education team are also a real strength. The Advent and Lenten days bring the seasons of the Church to life in such a thoughtful and engaging way. Our youngest children particularly loved *A Donkey's Tale*, led by Nicola Clayton, which helped them experience the Easter story in a way they could really understand.

It is often the quieter, practical help that makes such a difference day to day—with the Abbey looking after our beautiful grounds, stepping in to fix things when they go wrong, or helping us keep everything running smoothly. It never goes unnoticed, and we are very thankful.

We are also so grateful for the many parishioners who give their time to support us in school. Whether helping in classrooms or simply being a familiar, friendly presence, that connection between parish and school is something we really value.

Our Mini Vinnies group, led by Rachel Ellacott, continues to be a lovely example of faith in action. The children really value the time they spend with older members of our parish—sharing coffee, conversation and crafts. Last week, they enjoyed a craft afternoon preparing Easter cards and gifts for parishioners, which was a really special way to give something back.

As we look ahead to Easter, we are reminded how lucky we are to be part of this very special community. We are also reminded that gratitude is a virtue—and like all virtues, it grows with practice. So perhaps this week is a good time to pause,



Mini-Vinnies beautiful Easter crafts



Reconciliation Service

notice what we are grateful for, and remember to say “thank you” in our hearts—or even better, to each other.

And today, as we celebrate Easter Sunday, we are reminded of the joy and hope that the Resurrection brings. After the quiet reflection of Lent, this is a time of new life, light and renewal—something we see reflected not only in our faith, but in the world around us, if we take the time to notice it.

We wish all our parish family at St Mary's a peaceful, joyful and hope-filled Easter.

From the archives, by Steve Roach:

We saw last week how Abbot Anscar had been invited to preach a series of sermons at Westminster Cathedral during February 1911. A report by the Abbey Annalist, records: ‘6th February 1911 – None of us, of course, had the pleasure of assisting at Father Abbot’s sermon yesterday. But already this morning several letters from persons who had been present, assured us that the success was complete. His voice heard all over the cathedral, the subject was enjoyed, and everybody seemed delighted. Father Abbot has chosen as his subject: “The Catholic spiritual life” and will treat it in four sermons on the four Sundays of February. At 5pm today, he was back again in his monastic home, as if he’d only been at Bideford or Ilfracombe.’ Then: ‘15th December 1911 – Father Abbot has just received a fresh invitation to deliver another course of sermons in Westminster Cathedral, during the Sundays of January 1912.’ The Tablet’s account of his first sermon on 14 January 1912 reveals that Abbot Anscar was beginning to make quite an impression: ‘A great crowd flocked to the midday Low Mass to hear the Rt Rev. Anscar Vonier O.S.B., the Abbot of Buckfast, who preached the first of his January sermons on “The Human Soul.” Every seat in the main body of the Cathedral was occupied, the Lady Chapel and the side pulpit had their occupants, and the aisle near the pulpit was impassable owing to the number of those, chiefly men, who stood to listen.’ And as we’ll see in our continued exploration of Abbot Anscar’s apostolate work, his reputation for preaching and leading retreats had begun to spread long before his appearance at Westminster.

Marriage Matters

Reflections on the Sunday readings:

Love our spouse just as they are

The different behaviour patterns of Jesus’ friends are well illustrated in these Scriptures. Jesus loved each of them exactly as they were, just as He loves each of us. Our challenge is to really love our spouse, just as they are, with all the differences that we have. It’s a lifelong journey, but like Jesus’ friends, our understanding can grow.

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

Tom: “I thought the sermon was divine. It reminded me of the peace of God: It passed all understanding.”

Dick: “It reminded me of the mercies of God: I thought it would go on for ever.”

A man walked into his house panting. “What happened, Dear?” inquired his wife.

“I had a great idea,” he gasped. “I ran all the way home behind the bus and saved £1.50”

“That wasn’t very bright,” replied his wife. “Why didn’t you run behind a taxi. That way you would have saved £10!”

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