

The Abbey Parish Messenger

26th April, 2026 Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A H & S p. 285 CTS p. 379

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.

Liturgical Calendar:

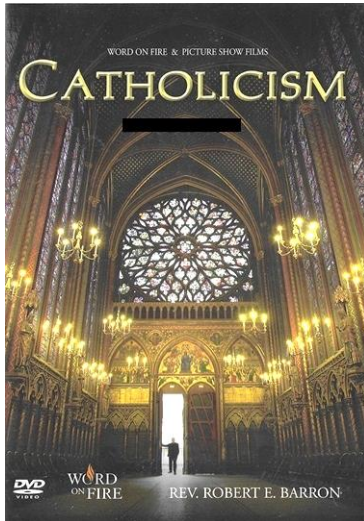
Monday	Eastertide
Tuesday	Eastertide
Wednesday	St. Catherine of Siena
Thursday	Eastertide
Friday	St. Joseph the Worker
Saturday	St. Athanasius

"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



Tuesdays at 7 p.m. from 5th May.

In the parish meeting room at the Abbey.
(contact Fr. Francis for directions)

A series of discussions on the nature of our Church, with insights from the documentary series "Catholicism: The Journey of A Lifetime." A documentary series by Bishop Robert Barron. All welcome.

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



Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Clare Lindsay; Isabel Thomson; John Gilroy; Patrick Stuart;
Graham Cottle; Evan Tredegar; Dom Richard Dillenz; Ernest Long;
Edward Le Hunte Ward; William Macmullen; Francis Gomet;
Alastair Stuart; Dom Alban Lavery; Joseph Moll; Fr. Eugene Reynolds;
Robert Fox; George Crook; Greta Tench; Joy Nunn;
Samuel Sproston; Dom John Stephan;

May they rest in peace

Last weekend's collections

		Gift Aided	S.O.	Card Reader
Abbey 9 a.m.	£64.00			£51.00
Abbey 11 a.m.	£355.14	£75.00	£8.08	£103.00
Buckfastleigh Saturday 5 p.m.	£76.03	£43.00	£38.85	
Ashburton 10:30am	£10.00	£35.00	£6.92	
South Brent 9 a.m.	£66.81	£25.00	£5.77	
Added value through gift aid		£44.50	£14.90	£38.50

Bishop Nicholas has recorded a short video about vocations in advance of Good Shepherd Sunday: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_uH7mi3Rhk

Diocesan Youth Residential Heatree, Dartmoor. May 15th -17th aimed at those aged 9 - 12, typically school years 5-7. It is a great way for our young people to meet others from across the Diocese but also explore the Sunday readings whilst engaging with outdoor pursuits (raft building and high ropes), focused discussions, crafts and games.

A grant has enabled us to reduce the cost to £70. Families sending siblings can also ask for a small reduction.

Follow the link to sign up:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=KidbqQHRkEKiqby9p4ZacZb3hbGtbDxDxGmw1Owwi3-IZUQTlwN0JZSUIOTzJGMjQ2WUtLMUpHMEgyRiQIQCN0PWcu&route=shorturl>

Rise to Our Cause. Catholic Children's Society Fundraiser.

Church of the Assumption, Abbey Road, Torquay TQ2 5NJ

Thursday 14th May

12 noon Mass, followed by two-course hot lunch, then guest speakers, John and Myfanwy Quine who have witnessed incredible movements of God in their lives. They are eager to share how God has responded to their prayers, revealing some truly amazing miracles.

Tickets cost £15 and can be ordered by calling 01364 645420 or from vicki.dunstone@ccsplymouth.org.uk. Proceeds from tickets and a raffle will go towards helping vulnerable children in our Diocese.

YOUTH MINISTRY GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITY

The Diocese of Lancaster has a Youth Ministry team based in Keswick in the Lake District. They run retreats at Castlerigg Manor and also work in Churches and schools around the area. The 'Youth Ministry Internship' scheme comes with high quality training, experience, and recognised qualifications and gives young people (18-25) the chance to join a welcoming community and a vibrant team. Contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk or <https://castleriggmanor.com/join-the-team/>

Interested in training and volunteering as a Relationship Counsellor? Marriage Care is a Catholic organisation specialising in relationship support and we are currently looking for those who are empathetic, understanding and have an enthusiasm for supporting adult relationships, to train on our Certificate in Relationship Counselling (CRC) and volunteer with us. This is a great opportunity to make a real difference to couples and families.



Please note that there are costs associated with training on our CRC. These costs are far lower than with alternative training providers. In line with our ethos as a charity, no one is excluded on the basis of their ability to pay. To find out more please visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk or email: volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk

On Saturday 11th July, the **Catholic Union of Great Britain** will hold its annual Summer Gathering at Buckfast Abbey. The day will include an introduction given by Rt Rev Nicholas Hudson, Bishop of Plymouth and Ecclesiastical Adviser to the Catholic Union, and Mass in the Abbey. There will also be a talk by Abbot David Charlesworth OSB and from a Catholic member of the House of Lords.

The Summer Gathering is an opportunity for members and their guests to come together in convivial surroundings at a place of special interest and devotion. The day will close at 4.00pm when we will be able to enjoy the ever-popular Fauré Requiem in the Abbey sung by the Choristers.

The Catholic Union was founded in 1870. It exists to address the pressing social challenges of the day and equip and protect the ability of Catholics to contribute to those debates and in wider public affairs. Future work to focus on increasingly working with Catholic and other parliamentarians, while continuing to make representations to Parliament, to Government Departments or to other public authorities, take action through members of either or both Houses of Parliament, the Scottish Parliament, or the Welsh Assembly to secure our advocacy goals, enhance our media profile and impact and to cooperate with other societies or organisations who share our goals. Membership of the Catholic Union is open to practising members of the Catholic laity in Great Britain and includes people from all parts of the country and all walks of life. It includes doctors, nurses, teachers, lawyers, and civil servants – we represent a wealth of lay Catholic experience and expertise. For more information, and to join the Union, go to <https://catholicunion.org.uk/>



Baroness Sheila Hollins
President
Catholic Union
of Great Britain

Forthcoming events at the Christian Heritage Centre, Stonyhurst, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 9PZ

2-3 May Called to Love

A retreat for singles, dating and engaged young adults who want to think more deeply about relationships and the call to marriage. 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. Saturday 2nd to Sunday 3rd May, with the option of staying Friday night.

Forming Catholic Student Leaders

Two summer courses exploring faith, ethics and leadership for sixth form students. 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. <https://christianheritagecentre.com/>

National Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse. 5th May, 2026

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)

The theme for this year's Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse looks at the scourge of domestic abuse which causes pain and fear that prevent its victims from living the life Jesus came to bring. Immediately before the much-loved part of this verse from the Gospel of John, we hear Jesus's words: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy." This is how abuse feels to those who experience it – their dignity and value as a unique child of God is stripped away and destroyed. The physical danger domestic abuse presents to life is clear. A woman is murdered by a partner or ex-partner every five days in the UK. Between three and 10 women die by suicide each week due to domestic abuse. Abusers can also perpetrate spiritual and coercive abuse, disrupting their victims' relationships with God and the Church. This can lead victims – adults and children – to feel guilt and shame that push them away from the support that the Church has to offer. At its best, the Church can – and should – be a safe haven where support is available for victims and survivors so that they can live life without fear and begin to experience the life in abundance Jesus came to bring. This hope is what we pray for this year.

Marriage Matters

Reflections on the Sunday readings:

Feeding your sheep

John 10:10 describes us as 'sheep'. God watches over and feeds us with his Word, and in the Eucharist. With God's help we have created a few more sheep, so we pray for His help, read books, use the internet to protect our children from the harm done by the 'media' and many of today 'addictions'. That's being good shepherds.

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

A minister wound up the services one morning by saying, 'Next Sunday I am going to preach on the subject of liars. And in this connection, as a preparation for my discourse, I would like you all to read the seventeenth chapter of Mark's Gospel'

On the following Sunday, the preacher rose to begin, and said, 'Now, then, all of you who have done as I requested and read the seventeenth chapter of Mark, please raise your hands.'

Nearly every hand in the congregation went up. Then said the preacher, 'You are just the people I want to talk to. There are only sixteen chapters in Mark.'