

# The Abbey Parish Messenger

21<sup>st</sup> June, 2026 Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A H & S p. 353 CTS p. 731

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	<b>Ss. John Fisher &amp; Thomas More</b>
Tuesday	The Holy Nuns of England
Wednesday	<b>Birthday of John the Baptist</b>
Thursday	Feria
Friday	Feria
Saturday	St. Cyril of Alexandria



Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

*Stanislaw Marshall; Jeremiah Pyne; William Alcock; Leslie Payne;  
 Alexander Rowe; Lilian Brown; Dennis McMahon;*

May they rest in peace

## "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

## Last weekend's collections

	Gift Aided	S.O.	Card Reader
Abbey 9 a.m.	£54.10		£61.00
Abbey 11 a.m.	£393.53	£8.08	£124.00
Buckfastleigh Saturday 5 p.m.	£20.00	£38.85	
Ashburton 10:30am	£11.00	£6.92	
South Brent 9 a.m.	£75.00	£5.77	
<i>Added value through gift aid</i>	£38.75	£14.90	£46.25

Mrs. Lesley Clark, Chair of Governors of our parish school, writes:

St Marys Catholic Primary School, Buckfast is looking for another Governor to join our Governing body. We meet twice a term and support whole school activities and consider the effectiveness of the school curriculum. You do not need to have been a teacher to become a governor, just have an interest in securing the best for our pupils and support our Catholic ethos.

If you are interested, please contact me via email [lclark@buckfast.org.uk](mailto:lclark@buckfast.org.uk)

Next Sunday, we celebrate the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. This is the traditional occasion upon which there is a **collection** for Peter's Pence, which supports the Pope's charitable works. Find out more here: <https://www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html>



Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> June at 6:30 p.m. in the Catholic church in Ashburton  
 An ecumenical prayer service with Taize chant



All welcome.

This Sunday we mark *Day for Life*, the day in the Church's calendar when we come together to celebrate the dignity of all human life from conception to natural death.

This year's theme is 'The Wonder of the Child in the Womb'. A child is a gift from God to be nurtured and cherished, but the theme also recognises the tragedy of babies who died before birth and the grief experienced by their parents and families.

**There will be a second collection this weekend** which will go toward the Day for Life Fund which distributes grants to organisations that promote respect for life from conception until natural death. More info: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life/>  
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life-fund/>

Father Abbot, Father Andrew and Father Francis have to attend the General Chapter of the English Benedictine Congregation which will take place at Kylemore Abbey in the West of Ireland, beginning on 29<sup>th</sup> June and lasting for ten days. This leaves just two active priests in the monastery, so the following regular services are **cancelled**:

Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	1205 p.m. Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	10.15 a.m. Mass in Ashburton
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	5 p.m. Mass in St. Benedict's, Buckfastleigh
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	9 a.m. Mass in St. Dunstan's, South Brent. 10.30 a.m. Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes & St. Petroc, Ashburton
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	1205 p.m. Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	10.15 a.m. Mass in Ashburton

The Masses in the Abbey at 5 p.m. Monday to Friday, 12.05 p.m. on Saturday, and 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sunday will take place as usual.

### Magnifica Humanitas

I suppose you could say I'm biased if I extol the virtues of Pope Leo's new encyclical on preserving and enhancing the fundamental dignity of every human being, made in the image of God, in the light of Artificial Intelligence, so I'm pleased to tell you that Alistair Campbell, former Downing Street Press Secretary and avowed atheist, recently talked of "my new hero, Pope Leo, who recently wrote a 235 page encyclical on AI" he acknowledged that this "is the first attempt for a very significant global public figure to make the moral case for how we should think about AI."

If you don't have time to read the whole encyclical, which is available here: [Encyclical Letter of His Holiness Leo XIV Magnifica Humanitas \(15 May 2026\)](#) you may like to watch a video of the official launch of the encyclical in the Vatican.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JxcXcP6NyRM>

Much of it is in Italian, but there are also two very insightful contributions in English which explain what it is trying to do and how helpful it is to those who are developing AI:

Professor Anna Rowlands Department of Theology and Religion at the University of Durham starts her presentation at 35 min. 15 sec. into the video.

Christopher Olah, Co-Founder of Anthropic starts his presentation at 49 min. 44 sec.

### A call to action on this Day for Life:

Reintroduction of the Assisted Suicide Bill to Parliament. Read the Bishops' Statement here:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/statement-on-the-re-introduction-of-the-terminally-ill-adults-end-of-life-bill/>

This development, deeply disappointing as it is, gives us the opportunity to witness to the steadfastness of our Christian support for all human life from conception to natural death.

Watch this space for information on how to register your opposition to this Bill to your MP, or contact them directly now, using this online tool: <https://www.parliament.uk/get-involved/contact-an-mp-or-lord/contact-your-mp/>

Pope Leo's message to the Church in England and Wales as we celebrate the Day for Life:

"His Holiness was pleased to learn of the theme chosen for this year, focused on the wonder of the full humanity of the child in the womb, as well as of your efforts to support mothers and fathers who have suffered the loss of an infant. Indeed, as he recently reminded us in the Encyclical Magnifica humanitas, from the very moment of conception every human being is endowed with an infinite dignity "simply by virtue of existing, of having been willed, created and loved by God" (No 52). This divine love fills the life of every person with meaning, and, far from ending with death, invites us to a new fullness in eternity.

His Holiness prays that all parents grieving the loss of a child, especially an infant, may find comfort and peace in the knowledge of God's love for them and for their child, "for to him all of them are alive" (Lk 20:38). It is likewise his hope that these parents find the support they need in the Church community and especially in a life nourished by prayer and by the Sacraments.

In thanking you for your continued commitment to bear witness to the marvellous gift of life in all its grandeur and inherent dignity, the Holy Father assures all taking part of his prayerful closeness and cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of comfort, strength and peace in Christ." Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State.

## Plymouth Diocese Summer Camp

For children between the ages of 9 and 12. Buckfast Abbey, 27<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> July

Exploring the Pope's encyclical 'Dilexi Te,' the words of the Lord in Revelation 3:9, 'I have loved you.'

A time of fun, friendship and faith. £150 per person. Help with the cost available from the parish (apply to Fr. Francis)

More information: [summercamps@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:summercamps@prcdtr.org.uk)



Catholicism

Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the parish meeting room at the Abbey. (contact Fr. Francis for directions)

A series of discussions on the blessings of being Catholic. All welcome.

### Marriage Matters Reflections on the

*Sunday readings:* Fear conceals itself...

How easy to become paranoid, to wonder what others might be saying about us. These aspects can be present outside our relationship and within it; at their core is fear! Jesus continuously exhorts the Twelve, "do not be afraid...every hair on your head has been counted". Living our life now in Christ, we will not fear what others think..

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

A collector of rare books ran into an acquaintance of his who had just thrown away an old Bible that had been in his family for generations. He happened to mention that Guten something had printed it.

"Not Gutenberg?" gasped the book collector. "Yes, that was the name." "You idiot! You've thrown away one of the first books ever printed. A copy recently sold at auction for \$400,000!" "Mine wouldn't have been worth a cent," replied the man.

"Some clown by the name of Martin Luther had scribbled all over it."

*Random rib-tickers:* Went to the Air & Space Museum, but there was nothing there...Hold the door open for a clown; it's a nice jester...The second mouse gets the cheese

The Safeguarding Reps in this parish are:

Abbey	Lesley Clark
Buckfastleigh	Mary Coates
Ashburton	Deborah Fisher
South Brent	Mary Waterman

Parish Priest: Fr. Francis Straw; 01364 645526; [parish@buckfast.org.uk](mailto:parish@buckfast.org.uk)

Safeguarding: Abbey: Andy Kings [akings@buckfast.org.uk](mailto:akings@buckfast.org.uk) 01364 645577

Parish: [safeguarding@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@prcdtr.org.uk) 01364 645430

Survivor support: 0300 303 1056 [SafeSpaces@Firstlight.org.uk](mailto:SafeSpaces@Firstlight.org.uk)