

The Abbey Parish Messenger

19th July, 2026 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A H & S p. 369 CTS p. 746

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	Feria
Tuesday	Feria
Wednesday	St. Mary Magdalene
Thursday	St. Bridget of Sweden
Friday	Feria
Saturday	St. James, Apostle

"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

Sunday, 19th July at 6:30 p.m. in the Catholic church in Ashburton. An ecumenical prayer service with Taize chant



All welcome.

An immersive audio-visual experience in Westminster Cathedral is wowing audiences this summer. Luminiscence, a ground-breaking take on the concept of son et lumière, is a 360° video projection concert that narrates the story of London and the iconic Neo-Byzantine mother church of the Diocese of Westminster. Voiced by Paddington and Downton Abbey star Hugh Bonneville, this 50-minute performance is more than just a light show, it uses 24 laser projectors, which bring the Cathedral to life in breath-taking ways with colour and imagery, culminating in a vision of what the Cathedral may one day look like fully covered in mosaics. The stunning visuals are blended with live performances of the great composers brought to life by the Lux Aeterna choir. There are performances on four nights of the week, Wednesday to Saturday, from July to mid-September 2026.

Tickets can be booked online by visiting:
<https://luminiscence.com/london/>



Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Colin Ford; Florence Mallins; Sheila Wakley; Harold Witt; John Cotter; Dom Dominic Maier; Florence Keen; Norman Devonport; John Mallins; Abbot Leander Lemoine; Rowena Carpenter;

May they rest in peace

Last weekend's collections

	Gift Aided	S.O.	Card Reader
Abbey 9 a.m.	£130.00		£83.00
Abbey 11 a.m.	£480.17	£85.00	£167.00
Buckfastleigh Saturday 5 p.m.	£10.00	£35.00	£38.85
Ashburton 10:30am	£48.00	£15.00	£6.92
South Brent 9 a.m.	£57.20	£35.00	£5.77
<i>Added value through gift aid</i>		£14.90	£62.50



2nd Collection: Apostleship of the Sea

	Gift Aided
Abbey 9 a.m.	£69.70
Abbey 11 a.m.	£39.00
Buckfastleigh Sat 5 p.m.	£14.70
Ashburton 10:30 a.m.	£32.00
South Brent	£44.46
<i>Added value through gift aid</i>	£2.50

There is a pastoral letter from Bishop Nicholas this week. A Youtube video of him saying it is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rli9s20vS9o>.

People with a hearing impairment can access subtitles via the settings icon at the bottom of the screen but please note that there are some errors in the auto-generated subtitles.

Catholicism

A series of discussions on the blessings of being Catholic.

Tuesdays in July at 7 p.m. in the Parish Meeting Room at the Abbey

Marriage Matters *Reflections on the Sunday readings:* Attentive listening. The Gospel today raises questions about our ability 'to listen'. We easily hear criticism in a comment, or a question which often puts us at odds with each other. But if we listen with our hearts, in the way Jesus commanded us to do, we are enabled, in all our relationships, to follow His command "...listen, anyone who has ears".

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

"Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one his younger employees.

"Yes, Sir" he replied.

"Well, then, this won't be too much of a shock for you, perhaps," the boss went on,

"About half an hour after you left yesterday after asking for time off to go to your grandfather's funeral, he stopped in to see you!"

Panting & perspiring, two men on a tandem at last got to the top of a steep hill.

"That was a stiff climb" said the one at the back.

"Certainly was," said the other "and if I hadn't kept the brake on, we would have slid down backward."

Eucharistic Congress, 10th October 2026

Fr. Chris Findlay-Wilson is organising a coach for the diocese, for anyone who would like to attend, going to London and returning the same day. It will leave Plymouth at 5 a.m. and pick up at Exeter Services.

More information: 01202 746539

<http://www.catholicparkstone.org>

In Southwark Cathedral:

1030: Presentations on Eucharistic Art and Life. Noon: Mass celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson, followed by "The Eucharist: Our sacrament of hope in dark times" by Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe OP.

3 p.m. Eucharistic Procession to Westminster Cathedral, 5 p.m. Solemn Benediction.

Prayer retreat, 12th-16th October, led by Dr Sue Price.

This retreat will explore how to jump-start your prayer life, offering practical tips and shared experience along the way. Dr Sue Price has led retreats for school staff and parishioners alike. The sessions are: Come and rest a while, The still small voice, Reconciliation, Called to serve - as prophet priests and king.

Until now, the retreat has been offered on a residential, half-board basis only. We're pleased to announce that a Day Rate is now available too, for those who'd like to attend the retreat without staying overnight or taking meals. Attend one full day £50; Attend all sessions as day rate £120 (inc. 2 half days & 3 full); Attend full retreat half board from £599. Full details can be found here:

<https://www.buckfast.org.uk/events/prayer-retreat/>

Less than a year after their first encounter during the State Visit of King Charles III and Queen Camilla to the Holy See, representatives of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) travelled to London to meet once again with Her Majesty at Clarence House, sharing stories from the front lines of their mission among some of the world's most vulnerable communities.

The audience on Wednesday offered an opportunity to reflect on the work of Catholic Sisters serving across every continent, particularly their commitment to protecting women and girls affected by conflict, trafficking, poverty and the growing impact of climate change. It also highlighted the continuing collaboration between the UISG and the British Embassy to the Holy See in supporting initiatives that promote human dignity and resilience.

Dr Anabel Inge, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at the British Embassy to the Holy See, described the meeting as "a really special, joyous occasion," noting that the invitation reflected Queen Camilla's deep appreciation for the work of women religious.

"I don't think any of us expected that the sisters would be invited to Clarence House so soon," she said. "It really speaks to the quite deep appreciation of Her Majesty the Queen for the work of the religious sisters."

Having worked closely with UISG over the past five years, Inge praised the Sisters' quiet yet courageous witness.

"I have had the distinct impression that this work is often done very quietly, without fanfare, with great humility and in some of the world's most difficult places," she said, pointing to the qualities she believes distinguish their ministry: "trust, presence and continuity" within local communities.

"They are embedded in local communities... they will stick around even during conflicts, frequently putting themselves at great personal risk." Source: www.vaticannews.va

The Diocese of Plymouth currently has several men at various stages of formation. From time to time we share their reflections on what life is like as a seminarian. Hugo Lomax has been living in Sacred Heart Parish for the last few months before returning to Allen Hall.

"When Jesus was forming his first disciples he didn't keep them with him the whole time, but as is recorded by Matthew, Mark and Luke, he sent them out ahead of him to all the towns he was to visit. My own journey of discipleship this year took me to Sacred Heart parish in Exeter where I have been living for the last few months.

When I talk about what I am doing in Exeter I'll often say something like, "I'm here to shadow Fr Petroc and learn from him", but then I worry that I'm slipping into the language of workplace training and professional development. Jesus didn't just send his disciples out on a fact-finding mission, he gave them authority to preach, heal and cast out demons.

"By Baptism [we] share in the priesthood of Christ, in his prophetic and royal mission" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1268); so I like to think that my time in Exeter has been not so much a looking and learning exercise as a time of growing into the priestly identity I received in my baptism. While the ministerial priesthood differs from the common priesthood of the faithful "in essence and not only in degree" (Lumen Gentium 10), preparation for the former first requires the latter to be discovered and lived out to the full. How is that done? "In receiving the sacraments, in prayer and thanksgiving, in the witness of a holy life, and by self-denial and active charity." (LG 10) So that is really what these months in Exeter have been about; (and, yes, learning how to husband a diva-ish photocopier).



Now as my time here is drawing to an end, I am excited to launch into the next phase of my formation at Allen Hall, but it is with no small twinge of sadness that I will be taking my leave of this place and the people who have made me feel so much a part of their family."

If you are discerning the call, the Diocese of Plymouth is here to support you with our prayers and with our work to help you discern as fully as possible. Please find [here](#) various resources from guidance for prayer, some introductory materials about the priesthood, and ways to take your discernment forward.

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

Safeguarding: Abbey: Andy Kings akings@buckfast.org.uk 01364 645577

Parish: safeguarding@prcdtr.org.uk 01364 645430

Survivor support: 0300 303 1056 SafeSpaces@Firstlight.org.uk