

The Abbey Parish Messenger

30th August, 2026 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A H & S p. 392 CTS p. 767

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	St. Aidan
Tuesday	Feria
Wednesday	Feria
Thursday	St. Gregory the Great
Friday	Feria
Saturday	Our Lady on Saturday

"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 is a Second Collection at the Sunday Masses for the

Plymouth Diocesan Catholic Children's Society.

The Essential Grants Programme exists to provide essential items to help meet families' urgent needs. CCSP warmly encourage applications for school uniforms, shoes, beds, mattresses and bedding, clothes for children and newborn babies, cots, bottles, chests of drawers, wardrobes, cookers and fridges.

The Society receives more requests than it can fulfill, so please give generously to this very worthy cause.

Putting All Children First 

The Good Book

A gentle meander through the Bible intended to help us to see the wood for the trees. 20-30 minutes of input followed by a short time for reflection and a discussion over a cuppa and a chocolate biscuit.

Parish Meeting Rooms
Thursdays at 7 p.m.
Starting on 3rd September

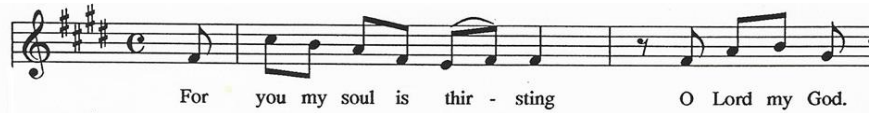


Photo by Aaron Burden on Unsplash

On Saturday September 12th Bishop Nicholas will be celebrating a Mass for Marriage in the Cathedral at 12 noon. All married couples, widows and widowers are invited to take part and we would very much like to celebrate those with significant anniversaries this year.

This promises to be a very positive and upbuilding experience, so please consider attending. contact

Deborah.vanKroonburg@prcdtr.org.uk



Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

*Harold Stanton; Philip Dawson; Frederick Fish; Emily Halkett;
Mary Cory; Elsie Truscott; James Daw; John Beale; John Mason;
Dom Adam Kehrlé; Bishop Charles Graham; Maureen Ellis;
Julia Willington; Mabel Blenkiron; Fr. John O'Neill;
Marian Whitney; Marie Barber; Wendy Williams; Margaret Harvey;
Florence King; Walter Greaves;*

May they rest in peace

Last weekend's collections

		Gift Aided	S.O.	Card Reader
Abbey 9 a.m.	£115.05			£65.00
Abbey 11 a.m.	£344.19	£35.00	£8.08	£131.00
Buckfastleigh Saturday 5 p.m.	£5.00	£35.00	£38.85	
Ashburton 10:30am	£30.00	£40.00	£6.92	
South Brent 9 a.m.	£70.00	£35.00	£5.77	
Added value through gift aid		£36.25	£14.90	£49.00

PARISH HARVEST MASS

Saturday 26th September at 11 a.m.

Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Buckfast Abbey

Marking the Season of Creation 2026

There will be a collection of items for local foodbanks;

Followed by ploughman's lunch.

*Please obtain tickets for lunch in advance
so that we provide the right amount of food:*

£5 per head (additional donations towards the costs gratefully received);
under-19s free. From Fr. Francis or Sue Lethbridge

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

This retreat will explore how to jump-start your prayer life. The sessions are: Come and rest a while, The still small voice, Reconciliation, Called to serve - as prophet priests and king. 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/>

Sacraments of Initiation.

Practising Catholic parents, resident in this parish, are invited to contact Fr. Francis if you have a child or children who are of an age to receive their First Holy Communion or to be Confirmed.

Adults resident in this parish who are thinking of being baptised as Catholics or, having been baptised in another denomination, thinking of becoming Catholic, are invited to contact Fr. Francis



Catholic adults of this parish who, for whatever reason, missed out on being Confirmed as teenagers, are also welcome to speak to Fr. Francis who can obtain permission to Confirm you after appropriate preparation.

Recently, Archbishop Paul Gallagher, priest of the Archdiocese of Liverpool and Secretary of the Vatican's Secretariat of State (effectively the Pope's 'foreign secretary,' visited Moscow, meeting Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, and Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate.

His schedule confirms the Holy See's determination to continue along the path of dialogue, even at one of the most difficult moments in international relations at the global level.

During the meeting with Mr. Lavrov, several areas of convergence on the main international issues were identified, agreeing on the importance of continuing dialogue between the Russian Federation and the Holy See. Other issues discussed included matters concerning the Catholic community in Russia and humanitarian initiatives aimed at beginning a path toward peace between Russia and Ukraine. During a joint press conference, Archbishop Gallagher said, "the position of the Holy See is clear: the conflict cannot be resolved by military means." Therefore, he stated, "it is essential to create the conditions for a political and diplomatic process."

Later that day, during discussions with the Moscow Patriarchate, Metropolitan Anthony expressed his satisfaction with the ongoing and cordial contacts between the two Churches and the Holy See.

At the conclusion of his visit to Moscow, Archbishop Gallagher met with the clergy, religious men and women, and celebrated Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, attended by the Catholic bishops of the country. In his homily, he encouraged, "The Gospel calls us to become true artisans of peace in our daily lives."



Archbishop
Gallagher

Sergey
Lavrov

The Archbishop expressed his gratitude for the fidelity with which they carry out their pastoral, educational and charitable service, "often in difficult circumstances," as well as for their commitment to promoting ecclesial communion and dialogue with other Christians.

Finally, the Church is called to be a peacemaker and a builder of bridges. This is a mission that Pope Leo himself entrusted to the Church at the beginning of his pontificate, speaking of "disarmed and disarming peace, humble and persevering."

"To build a bridge means recognizing the distance between two shores—the division, hatred and misunderstanding—and refusing to accept that this distance is insurmountable," Archbishop Gallagher said. <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

An extract from a letter from Lord Alton, Baroness Tani Grey-Thomson and Baroness Jane Campbell explaining why they are urging you to write, once again, to your MP

The revived assisted suicide Bill brought back to Parliament by Lauren Edwards MP, which faces its Second Reading on Friday 11 September, is the same dangerous Bill that didn't pass in the last session of Parliament.

The vote on 11 September can be won. As the previous assisted suicide Bill passed the House of Commons by a very small margin, only 12 MPs need to change their minds for the revived assisted suicide Bill to be defeated at Second Reading. A number of MPs have already expressed reservations about bringing it back or forcing it through Parliament. The Prime Minister has now said the debate should wait until palliative and social care are properly funded.

Mounting evidence from the small number of places around the world that have legalised assisted suicide shows that safeguards do not work, and that changing the law can have devastating consequences. If assisted suicide becomes law, thousands of individuals will be placed at risk for years to come. It is, therefore, imperative that this revived assisted suicide Bill is defeated at Second Reading.

From our experience of serving in Parliament over the past four decades, we know one of the most effective ways to persuade MPs to oppose this dangerous Bill is through physical letters or postcards from constituents asking them to vote "no" to the Bill.

Upcoming Events:

1 Sept.	World Day of Care for Creation
19 Sept.	Franciscan at Home Retreat Deborah.vanKroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk
14 October	1-5 p.m. Faith in Action Against Modern Slavery, Plymouth Methodist Central Hall. Join Caritas for an ecumenical event with expert talks and workshops. Free, book https://tinyurl.com/36hftacx
17 October	Catechists Fair at Buckfast Abbey

Marriage Matters

Reflections on the Sunday readings:

The 'sign' of growth is change

St Paul urges us to think of God's mercy and change the way we behave so that the will of God is visible in us. As husbands and wives we can help each other in this endeavour, so that a renewed and deeper love is revealed in our relationship and, in turn, reflected out to our family, friends and community.

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

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him one day, "How ever do you expect to get into heaven if you behave like that?"

The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says, 'Oh, for heaven's sake, Jimmy, either come in or stay out!'"

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