

The Abbey Parish Messenger

20th September, 2026 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A H & S p. 403 CTS p. 778

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. Matthew
Tuesday	Dedication of the Cathedral
Wednesday	St. Pio of Pietrelcina
Thursday	Our Lady of Walsingham
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

Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Charles Boyle; Freda Knowles; Mary Ubodell; Elsie Foot; Thomas Wills; Louis Coles; James Coombes; Mrs. Cooney; Maria Tutley; Jill Thody; Pauline Grisbrook; Bishop John Kiely; Beatrice McComas; Mary Couch; John Greg Hewett; Raymund Upham; Canon Francis Cantell; Evelyn King; Margaret Snook; Agatha Hodgson; Margaret Miller; Michael Daly; Nellie Lewis; Ruby Joint;

May they rest in peace

Last weekend's collections

	Gift Aided	S.O.	Card Reader
Abbey 9 a.m.	£89.25		£90.00
Abbey 11 a.m.	£419.23	£45.00	£179.00
Buckfastleigh Saturday 5 p.m.	£15.00	£25.00	£38.85
Ashburton 10:30am	£39.01	£30.00	£6.92
South Brent 9 a.m.	£59.48	£50.00	£5.77
<i>Added value through gift aid</i>		£37.50	£14.90
			£67.25

On **Saturday 26th September**, the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be available in St. Michael's Chapel, rather than the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, at 11 a.m.

This Sunday is Home Mission Sunday

The **second collection** will support this work of evangelisation led by the bishops throughout our country: Catechesis and evangelisation; helping to deepen knowledge of the beauty of Holy Scripture; marriage and family life; the National Office of Vocations; loving and protecting the great patrimony of our historic churches and cathedrals; serving the liturgy of the Church; promoting Christian Unity and Interreligious dialogue; supporting the work of chaplaincy in Higher Education and in Prisons; and in supporting the work of those who do much to share the gospel with young people today.

Sunday, 20th September
at 6:30 p.m. in the
Catholic church in
Ashburton
An ecumenical prayer
service with Taize chant



All welcome.

14 October 1-5 p.m.
Caritas: Faith in Action
Against Modern Slavery,
Plymouth Methodist Free,
book

<https://tinyurl.com/36hftacx>
17 October: Catechists
Fair at Buckfast Abbey

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>

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

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.



Photo by Aaron Burden on Unsplash

Marriage Help - Communication failure is a major cause of marital breakdown - 1,000's of couples have found Retrouvaille helped their relationship. Retrouvaille is not counselling but a programme to help married couples work through conflicts more effectively. We focus on helping restore trust and hope.
Bookings close 18th Sept.

www.Retrouvaille.org.uk

+44 7887 296 983

On the 60th anniversary of *Nostra aetate*, the document of Vatican II which opened a new chapter in relations between Catholics and believers of other faiths, three Vatican Dicasteries have published a Note entitled *A Journey of Hope*, renewing the call to counter fundamentalism, protect religious freedom, and build coexistence founded on fraternity. The document's reflection begins with a question of pressing relevance: "How can the call to universal fraternity be lived concretely in societies marked by increasing cultural and religious diversity, by war and violence, and by a growing trend toward secularization?"

The publication of *Nostra aetate* on 28 October 1965 marked "a profound change," because, for the first time, the Church explicitly declared that she "rejects nothing that is true and holy" in other religions and invited the faithful to regard their precepts and doctrines "with esteem and respect."

With the same "conviction," the signatories call for "the same freedom for Christians in countries where they are a minority," highlighting the "persecution" that Christians still suffer today "in various parts of the world at the hands of extremist religious groups." Full article: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/news>

Pope Leo shows the way to fruitful Christian life.

As Bishop of Rome, Pope Leo recently proposed to the Diocesan Assembly a shared method of evaluating its work.

The process, he explained, means stopping to reread what has happened, recognising what has borne fruit, understanding what has not worked and seeking together the reasons why.

Pope Leo began his reflection with the Gospel account of Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb on Easter morning. He proposed Jesus' questions to her — "Why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" — as questions for the Church and the city of Rome. He acknowledged the risk that an abundance of activities can cause communities to lose sight of their evangelical centre.

The Pope said pastoral action should therefore begin not simply by asking what to do, but whom and how to encounter. When Mary hears Jesus call her by name, he said, she recognises him. Likewise, people in Church communities should not remain anonymous or invisible but should be seen, known and called by name.

The Pope identified three principal areas for the Diocese's examination of its pastoral life.

The first is "meeting Christ and helping others to meet him." Activities should be assessed not only by their organisation or participation, but by whether they genuinely lead people to Christ and connect the Gospel with their lives.

The second is "generating community." Christian communities should offer relationships in which people feel welcomed, accompanied, valued and responsible.

The third is "inhabiting and serving the city." Rome, he said, is not simply the backdrop for the Church's activities but the place of its mission. The Church is called to share the city's expectations, fragilities and questions and to recognise where the Gospel can offer an answer.

A fourth concern cuts across all three: the formation of the People of God. Thus, explaining that pastoral activities must help people grow in faith, become missionary disciples, assume ecclesial responsibilities and develop a mature faith capable of being translated into concrete choices of life and service, the Pope reminded those present that pastoral activities may always foster mature faith, missionary discipleship and responsibility within the Church.

Pope Leo noted that the proposed process should not become another burden for priests and pastoral workers. "The art of pastoral evaluation," he said, "does not ask you to do more"; rather, it gives the Church permission to "do less and do it better." Full article: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

Four priests will be installed as Canons during Vespers at Plymouth Cathedral on Monday 21st September at 7pm. Bishop Nicholas Hudson will preside over the celebration, during which Fr. Petroc Cobb and Fr. Mark Skelton will be installed as Canons of the Cathedral Chapter, while Fr. Brian Kenwick and Fr. Anthony Onuoha will be installed as Honorary Canons. The Cathedral Chapter is a college of priests which plays an important role in the life of the Cathedral and the wider Diocese. Alongside celebrating the more solemn liturgical functions in the Cathedral, the Chapter also functions as the College of Consultors who advise the Bishop in matters relating to the governance of the Diocese. As Chapter Canons, Fr. Petroc and Fr. Mark will become members of this body.

The title of Honorary Canon, meanwhile, is a distinction conferred in recognition of a priest's service to the Diocese, without carrying the same membership of the Cathedral Chapter.

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

Young Ernie and his family were invited to have Sunday lunch at his grandmother's house in Monkey's Eyebrow, Arizona, USA. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Ernie received his plate he started eating straight away. 'Ernie, wait until we say grace,' demanded his father. 'I don't have to,' the five year old replied. 'Of course you do, Ernest,' his mother insisted rather forcefully. 'We always say a prayer before eating at our house.' 'That's at our house,' Ernie explained, 'but this is Grandma's house, and she knows how to cook.'

Marriage Matters

Reflections on the Sunday readings:

'My thoughts are not your thoughts'

God can put thoughts into our minds, but how can we ensure these make a difference to our lives? St Paul says, "Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the Gospel of Christ": for example, the need to measure what we contribute within the relationship. Our Sacrament isn't a 50/50 arrangement but a 100%/100% unconditional commitment.

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