The Abbey Parish Messenger

1st November, 2026 Solemnity of All Saints Year A H & S p. 1066 CTS p. 1180

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	**All Souls**
Tuesday	Feria
Wednesday	St. Charles Borromeo
Thursday	Deceased relatives & benefactors
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:

Andrew Dahl; Barbara Rayner; Bishop John Barrett; Barbara Connolly; Winifred Brocklebank; David Carroll; Norah Hamm; Mary Witt; Emelia Cheston; Margaret Northcott; Dom Arnold Weiler; Audrey Lady Petre; Lucy Coombes; Brian Reavey; Ella Roberts; Peter Bray; Evelyn Mitchell; John de Ville; Dom Jean Colin; Carol Karaviotis; Pat Hedges;

May they rest in peace

Last weekend's collections

		Gift Aided	*S.O.*	*Card Reader*
Abbey 9 a.m.	£93.67			£73.00
Abbey 11 a.m.	£295.76	£60.00	£8.08	£147.00
Buckfastleigh Saturday 5 p.m.	£15.00	£25.00	£38.85	
Ashburton 10:30am	£56.20	£20.00	£6.92	
South Brent 9 a.m.	£55.30	£20.00	£5.77	
Added value through gift aid		£31.25	£14.90	£55.00

Wednesday Mass in Ashburton
Fr. Francis has a number of commitments in the next few weeks which necessitate the cancellation of Wednesday Masses in Ashburton. There WILL be Mass next Wednesday, 4th November. Wednesday Masses are then cancelled until the normal routine resumes on Wednesday 16th December.

In preparation for our annual Second Collection in aid of the Prisons advice and Care Trust (PACT), there will be a talk given at **7 p.m. on Monday 16th November** in the parish meeting room at the Abbey by Mr. Joe Mullins, retired Prison Governor and regular worshipper at Buckfast. He will give us his experience of the help prisoners need to stop them re-offending and the ways in which PACT contributes to that. Mr. Mullins' experience includes being Governor of Channings Wood and Wormwood Scrubs, work in the Prison Service Inspectorate and Director of Operations for one of the Private Prison Providers.

Christmas themed craft workshops,
in the Education Centre at Buckfast Abbey.
Needle-Felted Robin Baubles
Saturday 14th November 1:30pm – 3:30pm

- **Price:** £10 per person (includes all materials)
- **Skill Level:** Beginners welcome—no prior experience needed
- **Age Requirements:** Suitable for ages 12+



Booking & Information
Spaces are limited. To book your place, or to ask any questions, please email a member of our Education Team: education@buckfast.org.uk

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. The last meeting this year will be next Thursday, 5th November, at 7 p.m. in the Parish Meeting Room at the Abbey

RETREAT: BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD 20–23 November
Step away from the noise and rediscover the stillness in which we become attentive to God. Led by Fr Roger Dawson SJ, Liz Lord and Steve Noone, this residential retreat explores mindfulness, psychology and the Christian spiritual life. in the peaceful surroundings of the Stonyhurst estate.
Find out more and book:
https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/be-still-and-know-that-i-am-god/

'*Ecce Homo: What is a Man?*'
A conference organised by **Virtus**, a Catholic initiative to explore what it means to be a man in today's world, and how men can live our their faith with greater virtue, courage and responsibility.
Talks, discussions and workshops, with speakers including **Abbot Robert Igo OSB (Abbot of Ampleforth Abbey), Fr Toby Lees OP (Priest Director of Radio Maria England) and Ryan Christopher (Director of External Affairs, Angelicum)**. It will also offer an opportunity for fellowship with other Catholic men, concluding with Holy Mass at St George's Cathedral.

Saturday 21st November 9.30 a.m. – 6.30 p.m.
Amigo Hall, St. George's Cathedral,
Southwark, SE1 7HY.

Tickets: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ecce-homo-what-is-a-man-tickets-1999284278095
Website: https://virtusuk.org/

ADVENT RETREAT DAY ON SATURDAY, 5th DECEMBER 2026 AT ST RITA'S CENTRE "EXPLORING PRAYER AND CONVERSION"

led by Fr. Gerald Wilson OAR

The day will begin with coffee/tea on arrival at 9.30am. The first talk will start at 10am. The second talk will be at 11am. Adoration in silence (with an opportunity for Confession) will be at 12.00pm. Lunch will be served at 1pm. Holy Mass at 2.45pm. Depart at 3.30pm. The charge for the day, including lunch, is just £27.00.

To register, please complete the application form and let us know of any dietary requirements. You can contact St Rita's Centre by phone at 01404 42635, by email at admin@stritascentre.org, or register online via our website: ADVENT RETREAT DAY- "EXPLORING PRAYER AND CONVERSION" . Payment can be made in advance or on the day.

We need you!

Plymouth CAST is a Catholic multi-academy trust of 34 schools and 1 nursery, spanning the Diocese of Plymouth.

We are looking to expand our Board of Directors. We are particularly interested in hearing from you if you have skills and current or recent experience of education at primary or secondary level, particularly within a multi-academy trust. Please contact the Clerk to the Trust Board for further information, Mrs Leah Paiano lpaiano@plymouthcast.org.uk

Marriage Matters *Reflections on the Sunday readings:*

We too may go through tough times

Today's Gospel tells us that it is not only when we are strong that we live out God's plan for our marriage. Sometimes, when we are weak, our Sacramental way of life is mainly using our energy to minister to each other. A lot of joy can be found when we walk down a difficult road together.

More news from our parish school, from Mrs. Sophie Kerswell, Headteacher

Our children have enjoyed many other opportunities, including Farm to Fork visits and a fascinating workshop with sound artist Jason Singh, who introduced the children to the hidden music of nature, mycelium and beatboxing!

Our Year 5 and 6 football team has made a fantastic start to the Small Schools Football League, drawing 1–1 against Starcross and winning 6–0 against Christow. We are especially proud of their teamwork, kindness and sportsmanship. Their beautiful new football kit has been generously sponsored by several school families, and we are so grateful for their support.

Our faith continues to be at the heart of all that we do. It was a joy to celebrate our beginning-of-year Mass and Harvest together, reminding us of God's blessings and the importance of sharing them. Key Stage 2 also enjoyed a Hinduism Day led by Sandhya Dave from the Global Development Centre in Exeter, developing understanding and respect for other faiths.

The generosity of our community has shone through, including a cake sale raising £127.15 towards school trips. We are grateful to our families, staff and volunteers who give so freely of their time and talents. As we reflect on these first eight weeks, we feel fortunate to belong to such a caring community. St Mary's is a small school with a very big heart. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Abbot, Father Francis, the monastic community at Buckfast Abbey and our wider parish family for their friendship, prayers and support. We hope everyone has had a peaceful half term and ask God's blessing upon all our families.

Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) launched *Persecuted and Forgotten?* A Report on Christians oppressed for their Faith, on Tuesday, 27 October, which concluded that Christian persecution has significantly worsened in more than half of the countries surveyed within the last two years.

Persecuted and Forgotten? provides global and regional analysis of 18 countries of key concern, from Nicaragua in Latin America to Burma (Myanmar) in South-East Asia.

The report found that the situation for Christians failed to improve in any country assessed, while conditions deteriorated in 10, including China, Nigeria and Pakistan.

Sub-Saharan Africa emerged as one of the most dangerous regions in the world to be a Christian.

Six of the 10 highest-ranked countries in the 2026 Global Terrorism Index are in Africa, while terrorist groups in northern Nigeria, the central Sahel and Mozambique have targeted churches, clergy and Christian villages.

Extremist violence is forcing communities from their homes in countries including Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Sudan.

At least 1 million Christians have been forced from their homes in Nigeria alone. In Burkina Faso, at least 40 percent of the landmass has been seized by militant Islamist groups, sparking a mass migration of Christians, amid reports that in one diocese alone 2,000 people had fled within 12 months.

In China, intensified government control of religious teaching and practice has placed further restrictions on underground churches, while arrests of Christians have doubled in Iran.

Nicaragua has expanded its crackdown, with Christian leaders arrested, imprisoned and exiled. In India, anti-conversion laws and Hindutva nationalist rhetoric have contributed to hundreds of incidents targeting Christians, including attacks on churches and worshippers.

In Pakistan, forced conversion and marriage of Christian girls remains endemic, while blasphemy accusations continue to create fear and insecurity. https://acnuk.org/

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

A waiter at a society banquet overheard two of the guests talking. "My ancestry goes all the way back to Alexander the Great." announced one lady to whoever could hear her. She then turned to her neighbour and enquired, "And how far does your family go back?"

"I don't know," was the reply. "All of our records were lost in the Flood."

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