The Abbey Parish Messenger

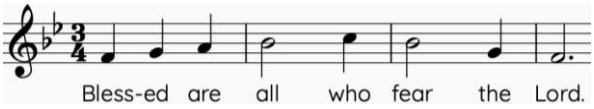
15th November, 2026 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A H & S p. 433 CTS p. 808

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. Gertrude
Tuesday	**St. Hilda of Whitby**
Wednesday	Feria
Thursday	Feria
Friday	St. Edmund
Saturday	Presentation of Our Lady



Please pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Philip Lewis; Ken Mills; George Lewis; Bessie Bennett; William Kennard; Robert Dundas; Marjorie Coleman; Mathilda Battiscombe; Leila Harris; Dora Southwort; Petronel Ferens; George Stuart; Arabella Kelso; Dorothy Mellows; Octavius Hewings; Mildred Beard; Jan Buswell; Walter Herring-Mason; William Tolley; Kathleen Baker; Mani Le Forse; Hilda May; Bertha Waller; Stephen Elliott; Margaret Cork;

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.	£54.35	£10.00		£38.00
Abbey 11 a.m.	£170.78	£20.00	£8.08	£77.00
Buckfastleigh Saturday 5 p.m.	£15.00	£35.00	£38.85	
Ashburton 10:30am	£16.71	£30.00	£6.92	
South Brent 9 a.m.	£34.80	£40.00	£5.77	
Added value through gift aid		£33.75	£14.90	£28.75

7 p.m. on Monday 16th November
in the parish meeting room at the Abbey
(for directions please contact Fr. Francis)

A talk 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 The Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) contributes to that.

There will be a Second Collection for PACT at Sunday Masses on 28/29 November.

Prisoners · Families · Communities
A Fresh Start Together

"I was in prison and you visited me"
Matthew 25:36

Sunday, 15th November at 6:30 p.m. in the Catholic church in Ashburton
An ecumenical prayer service with Taize chant



All welcome.

Plymouth Diocese Young Adults Retreat (18 – 30 years)
20-22 November at Buckfast Abbey
Preparing for Advent: Isaiah 40:3:
"A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."
Prayer, reflection and discussion led by Dominican Brothers Augustine and Reginald. Young people are being asked to make a contribution of £40 each. Sign up here:
Buckfast Abbey Retreat for young adults 20th - 22nd November 2026 – Fill in form

'*Ecce Homo: What is a Man?'*
A Catholic initiative to explore 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)**. 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.
Website: https://virtusuk.org/ Tickets: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ecce-homo-what-is-a-man-tickets-1999284278095

Mr. Martin Christmas-Nelson, Head of Safeguarding for the Diocese of Plymouth, writes:
This Sunday, 15th November, is the annual 'Safeguarding Sunday,' when we reflect and pray about creating a safe environment for everyone. The theme this year is **Love Protects**.
Safeguarding is an expression of our love for one another across the church, from the administrative processes which underpin our employment and volunteering, our training, our volunteers, our management of concerns, all the way through to the way in which we make our churches safer for those who have experienced harm.
on Friday 20th November at 10 a.m. the safeguarding team will be supporting a safeguarding mass in Plymouth Cathedral. **All are welcome to attend and join their prayers with ours.**
I have written an open letter from me as the Head of Safeguarding, highlighting all the ways in which love protects us through safeguarding in the Diocese of Plymouth. Copies of the letter are available in each church and can also be accessed on the diocesan website: https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/love-protects-safeguarding-

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.

Marriage Matters

Reflections on the Sunday readings:

Our love must be nourished

The parable of the talents could be compared to our marriage and the consequences if we, like the lazy servant, do not work at our relationship. Avoiding conflict can mean that the opportunity for forgiveness and growth is allowed to pass by. Let's not allow our love for each other to simply slip away, but work to keep our life flourishing.

Archbishop John Sherrington of Liverpool, and chair of the Department for Social Justice for the bishops' conference of England and Wales, said the Draft Conversion Practices Bill "is very broad in its scope" and could lead to infringements against freedom of religion or belief.

"The bill defines 'conversion practices' as conduct towards someone which intends to make a person have, or not have, a particular sexual orientation or transgender identity, or make them believe they have or do not have such an identity," Sherrington said. "A 'conversion practice' will be defined in law to be 'abusive' if the practice causes either serious harm to a person's physical or mental health, or serious alarm or distress that substantially affects the person's day-to-day life. Such abusive practices will be offenses in law,"

His concern is that the expansion of the definition of abuse could have serious consequences for the Catholic Church in the United Kingdom: "This bill proposes to extend the legal definition of abusive practices in ways that threaten a person's fundamental rights, including freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression. The legislation will also create uncertainty around lawful pastoral care by the Church, family life and open conversations that can take place in a range of social settings,"

The Archbishop said the bill could potentially lead to parents falling foul of the law.

"There are clearly a range of scenarios under this proposed legislation in which legal action of various types may be taken against individuals or organizations, including parents of children, who express well-informed opinions and make well-intentioned statements. We are concerned that this legislation will challenge the Church's ability to fulfill its calling to 'proclaim an authentic understanding of the human person with clarity, simplicity, love and respect.' People of faith must remain free to express their beliefs through speech and prayer," he added.

"The Catholic Church opposes abuse in all circumstances and so, we recognize that it is important for Governments to use appropriate legislation to protect people from harm and abuse. Current legislation, however, already covers such abusive practices and makes them illegal," he said.

"We call on politicians to abandon this bill and focus instead on enforcement of existing protections and accessible support for anyone facing abuse or coercion," he finished by saying. Full article: https://cruxnow.com/

News from the Parish School from Mrs. Sophie Kerswell, Headteacher

It has been loveley to welcome everyone back to St. Mary's after half-term. The children have settled beautifully, and there is such a calm, hapypy and purposeful atmosphere around our little school. A recent visitor from our Multi-Academy Trust even commented that St. Mary's felt like a home, which was a wonderful compliment!

We are very grateful to Buckfast Abbey for their continued kindness and support, particularly the Abbey gardeners, who have recently filled our new wooden planters with beautiful plants. The planters were very kindly made for us by Maolcolm Kerswell, who, at 80 years young, is still putting his wonderful skills to good use! A huge thank you to everyone involved.

Our GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) Team of pupils have also been busy preparing Advent tealights and cards for our parishioners, which we hope will bring a little joy as we approach Christmas.

We are looking forward to sharing some special occasions with our parish communities and would warmly welcome all to join us:

Tuesday 1st December 2 p.m.	Crib Blessing, St. Benedict's Church, Buckfastleigh
Wednesday 2nd December 2 p.m.	Crib Blessing, Our Lady of Lourdes & St. Petroc, Ashburton
Thursday 3rd December 2 p.m.	Crib Blessing, St. Dunstan's Church, South Brent
Wednesday 16th December 2 p.m.	Christmas Concert by our older children, Buckfast Abbey
Wednesday 6th January 9.30 a.m.	Epiphany Mass, Blessed Sacrament Chapel, followed by refreshments at school.

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

Reverend Henry Ward Beecher entered his church one Sunday and found several letters awaiting him. He opened one and found it contained the single word "Fool." Quietly and with becoming seriousness, he announced to the congregation that fact in these words: "I have known many an instance of a man writing a letter and forgetting to sign his name, but this is the only instance I have ever known of a man signing his name and forgetting to write the letter."

Henry Ward Beecher (June 24, 1813 – March 8, 1887) was an American Congregationalist clergyman, social reformer, and speaker, known for his support of the abolition of slavery.

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