



St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Buckfast

Monday 17th March 2025

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Dear Parents, Carers, and St. Mary's Community,

We had a fantastic time celebrating *World Book Day* at St. Mary's! Each class embraced a shared theme linked to their class text, leading to an incredible display of creativity. Our school was filled with *explorers, astronauts, pirates, and aliens*, inspiring wonderful imaginative play and storytelling. Even our *Year 6* children got involved as explorers, inventing and playing some wonderfully creative games. It was a joy to see their enthusiasm bring books to life!

Our children have also been making the most of our beautiful *school field*, enjoying time together as a whole school. With our growing numbers—now at *170 children*—this shared time is even more special. This week, we were delighted to welcome *two new families* into our St. Mary's community, and we look forward to the journey ahead with them.

We also gathered for a *special Mass* to mark the start of *Lent* on *Ash Wednesday*. Our *Chair of Governors, Lesley Clark, and Governor, Alan Mollet*, both commented on the children's incredible focus and respect. The service was made even more special by the *fantastic reading and beautiful singing* led by our talented *choristers*, supported by *Doctor Robert Pecksmith*. A heartfelt *thank you* to all our families, friends, and governors who joined us—your presence made this celebration truly memorable.

Excitement is also building as we prepare for our *second residential trip this week!* This time, our eldest children in *Year 5 and 6* will be heading to *Exmoor* for three days of adventure. We hope we are once again blessed with *beautiful weather* for this special experience.

We were also pleased to receive our *RE report* from our *Diocesan Schools Lead, Dawn Potterton*. She spoke highly of our children and their commitment to their *faith journey and learning of the scriptures*—something we are incredibly proud of. Wishing you all a *wonderful week* from everyone at St. Mary's!

Thank you for your continued support

Warm wishes,

Mrs Sophie Kerswell



Headteacher – St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Buckfast

Buckfast Parish Mass Times:

First Mass of Sunday:

Saturday 5:00pm [St. Benedict`s Church, Buckfastleigh](#)


Sunday: 9:00am [St Dunstan Church, South Brent, Devon](#)

9:00am [Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Buckfast](#)

10:30am [Our Lady of Lourdes & St. Petroc, Ashburton](#)

11:00am [St. Mary`s Abbey Church, Buckfast](#)



THE Wednesday WORD  **SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL** **A Gift to You & Your Family from Your Catholic School**

Wednesday 12th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,


There are times when we all need encouraging: that is, to be inspired with courage and to have our hope renewed, especially when we are going through difficult times.

The snapshot of Jesus' glory in this Sunday's Gospel was an encouragement to the three disciples. For the first time they received a glimpse of the awesome divinity of Jesus. But soon they would go through difficult times and see Jesus crucified.

So beforehand, God tells them to listen to Jesus and allows them to see Jesus for who he really is.


Following Jesus isn't easy: it never was. But if, like the disciples, we too listen to Jesus, we will experience the encouragement that God offers freely to each one of us - today.

Enjoy exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **ENCOURAGEMENT**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough 

A Word from Pope Francis *"The invitation at the Transfiguration is to listen to Jesus and to follow him, laying down our lives as a gift of love for one another."*

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 16th March 2025

 Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the appearance of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing over (his death, his resurrection and his ascension) which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw Jesus' glory and the two men standing with him. As Moses and Elijah were leaving, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." As he spoke, a cloud overshadowed them; and the disciples were afraid. Then a voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him".

*Adapted from Luke 9:28-36
The 2nd Sunday of Lent, Year C*

Getting to know Jesus makes life joyful.
Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

Prayer Focus

For parents/carers new to St Mary's this term, each week we invite families to explore a publication called 'The Wednesday Word' - accessed from the above link.

Each week, it considers the Gospel reading for Sunday and picks out a word for the week based on the message from the Gospel.

This week, the word that has been chosen is **'ENCOURAGE'**.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/wednesday-word/encouragement?pid=MTA101634&v=169.5>

Catholic Life and Mission: Stepping into Lent Reflections

Dear Parents, Carers, and Friends,

As we journey through *Lent*, our children have been making personal *Lenten promises* and hanging them on our *Lenten Tree* as a visible sign of their commitment to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It has been wonderful to see their thoughtful reflections on how they can make a difference to others through their words and actions.

Our *Pupil Chaplains* have been actively supporting the school community by helping to set up and maintain *prayer tables* in each class, ensuring they are a special place for reflection. They have also been leading *prayer reflections*, guiding their peers in deepening their faith and understanding of this important season.

Lent is a time of renewal and service, and we are so proud of how our children are embracing this through their kindness, prayer, and commitment to living out the *Gospel* message.

With blessings,
Sophie Kerswell- Headteacher

We warmly invite all parents, carers, families and friends to join us for our Reconciliation Service this term, celebrated by Father Francis.

- **Monday, 31st March, 9:30-10:30** Blessed Sacrament Chapel at Buckfast Abbey- ALL WELCOME. Followed by confessions for Catholic participants.

Wrap around Childcare- Use it, or lose it!

Breakfast and After School Club Open! This year is a trial run -to ascertain affordability and demand. It is literally use or lose.

We are delighted to announce that our Breakfast and After School Club—**Early Birds and Superstars**—is officially open!

Our offerings:

- **Breakfast Club:** 7:30 am – 8:30 am
 - Pre-booked price: £4 (book by 3:30 pm the previous day)
 - Ad hoc bookings (on the day): £5
- **After School Club:** 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm
 - Pre-booked prices: £6 (3:30 pm – 5:00 pm) and £4 (5:00 pm – 6:00 pm)
 - Ad hoc bookings (on the day): £7 (3:30 pm–5:00 pm) and £5 (5:00 pm-6:00 pm)

How to book:

All bookings must be made through **ParentPay**. If your child is new to the club, please ensure you complete the preliminary registration forms before their first session.

We look forward to welcoming your children to Early Birds and Superstars!

Tel: 01752 753967

Reminders and information:

Attendance

Thank you for your continued effort to ensure that your child/children attend school each day and on time. Did you know, if your child is late, after registration is closed, then they are marked as absent for the entire morning!

Registration is 8:45am.

Let's get our children in to class and ready to learn
BEFORE 8:45am.



Benedict Bear looks forward to welcoming your child to school
and champions great attendance! 😊

A Reminder About Our Lower Gate and Safe Parking

We kindly remind families that our *lower gate* is only to be used in **exceptional circumstances** and by **prior arrangement**. If you *walk from Buckfastleigh* and require access via this gate, please contact *Ania*, who will keep a list of those families needing to use it.

For the safety of all, we have been advised that families **must not** park on the pull in by the roundabout. This area has **double yellow lines**, and unfortunately, there have been times when so many cars have gathered there that they are extending onto the roundabout itself, creating a hazardous situation. Additionally, some families have been seen crossing the roundabout at its widest point, which is extremely dangerous.

If you **have permission** to collect from the lower gate and are travelling in a vehicle please ensure you park in Buckfast Abbey carpark and use the designated **crossing points** for safety, rather than crossing the main roundabout.

We also ask for your support in understanding that Ania has multiple responsibilities, including managing the school phone and main door, as well as supporting our children. She is unable to oversee the lower gate at all times.

We truly appreciate your cooperation in keeping **all of our children, families, and staff safe**. Thank you for your understanding and support.



"Home Time Reminder:

Please ensure that children do not play on or with any play equipment at the end of the school day. Unfortunately, we have had a couple of incidents where younger siblings (including babies) and parents have been accidentally hit by balls. For everyone's safety, we kindly ask for your support in keeping play areas clear at this time.

Thank you for your cooperation."



Safeguarding

Operation Encompass. We are an Operation Encompass School.
For more information click on the link: <https://www.operationencompass.org/>

If a staff member has concerns about a child, they must report this to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). At St Mary's, the DSL is Mrs Kerswell and the Deputy Designated Leads who are responsible in Mrs Kerswell's absence are Mrs Jessica Hutchinson and Mrs Kayleigh Teeder. We have a specific email address for any safeguarding concerns:

safeguarding.stmarys.buckfast@plymouthcast.com

Useful links and information for our families

If you are concerned that a child has experience, or is at risk of, harm, you can make a referral yourself to MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) through the link below, by calling 0345 155 1071 or by emailing mashsecure@devon.gov.uk

Congratulations!

Each Friday, our school comes together to celebrate the achievements of our children over the past week. "Building Learning Power" (BLP) Certificates are awarded to children who have demonstrated excellent learning behaviours and "Witness of the Week" (WOW) certificates for demonstrating Gospel values in daily life. We also celebrate achievements outside school that our children want to share in assembly.

Well done to the following children who were awarded certificates in today's and last week's Achievement Assembly.

	BLP	WOW
Meldon	Harry B	Rowan
Venford	Elliott, Katie	Alfie, Harry V
Avon	Deri, Freya	Hugo, Virginia
Roadford	Gracie, Bonnie	Evie, Gracie
Fernworthy	Rosie, Ava W	Olivia, Stanley
Burrator	Ngaio Twice!	Ned, Bridie



Times Tables Stars this week and last week!
Ebba, Cally, Toby J, Ayrton, Lily L.

Achievements Outside of School:

Harry I - Netball Trophy,
Libby - Dance Trophies,
Ava W - Dance Medals