

DOWNSIDE ABBEY ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

Mass & Office Times

Everyone is welcome

Masses in St Benedict's church

Saturday Vigil Mass 5pm

Sunday Masses 9am, 11am & 6pm

Weekday Masses in Holy Ghost church, Midsomer Norton

Tuesday, Friday & Saturday at 9.45am

Confessions

Saturdays at Holy Ghost from 10.15-11am

Sundays in St Benedict's from 10.15-10:45am

Sundays in the Abbey church from 9.35-9.55am

Regular events

Lectio divina group on Mondays at 10am in the abbey visitor centre

Prayer group on Mondays at 7.30pm in Holy Ghost church

Rosary on Thursdays at 7pm in St Benedict's

The Abbey Church

Weekdays

Vigils 6am
Lauds 7.10am
Mass 8.35am
Midday Office 12.30pm
Vespers 6pm

Sundays

Lauds 7.30am
Mass 10am
Midday Office 12.30pm
Vespers/Benediction 5pm

Do you find the Newsletter hard to read?

A large-print edition is available on request by filling in a form in the church porch.

Parish Priest: Dom Michael Clothier. Tel: 01761 235111

Assistant Parish Priest: Dom Boniface Hill. Tel: 01761 235115

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Registered Charity Number 1158507

DOWNSIDE ABBEY ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

SIXTH SUNDAY YEAR B – 11th February 2018

'Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all,
do it for the glory of God'
(1 Cor. 10:31)

Once again the Church calls upon us all to undertake a time of repentance, renewal and penance. The Holy season of Lent is filled with joy and hope, as all nature starts to awaken after the long dark sleep of winter. You and I must ensure that this moment of grace is not stolen from us by the evil one, or by the world or by mere laziness and inertia. Saint Benedict tells us to reduce sleep, food, drink, talking and idle diversion. Put positively, we should make time for prayer, for holy reading and for a true change of heart. We should go to confession: it is part of our Easter duties.

Of course, all this is a preparation for Easter; the great feast of our Redemption and Lent is a time of holy joy and anticipation of the special blessings offered to us: blessings which are different each year. For your Lenten penance, take on something, or give up something, which you can do willingly and cheerfully. All penance is not an end in itself, but rather the way to closer union with Our Lord. Finally remember that each of you is called to be an intercessor; a trustee of grace for all those who know not God, and never pray. Rejoice in your vocation and pray for me.

Dom Michael Clothier
Parish Priest

Lent Worship Midsomer Norton Churches Together

Every Friday from 16th February until 23rd March from 11.30am-12pm there will be a short act of reflective worship at Midsomer Norton Methodist Church. The theme is characters around the cross and Fr Michael is talking on the subject of Judas on 23rd February. For full details see the poster in the church porch.

On Good Friday 30th March at 9.45am there will be a Walk of Witness.

February Needs

Instant mash/Tinned potatoes
Sponge puddings
Shampoo/Conditioner/Toothbrushes
Ketchup/Brown sauce
Cleaning materials/Washing Up Liquid/Detergent (clothes)



Items for the Newsletter

If you would like to contribute items for consideration for inclusion in the Parish Newsletter, please send to: sparsons@downside.co.uk or call (01761 235323)

WWW.DOWNSIDE.CO.UK
MONKS@DOWNSIDE.CO.UK
01761 235100

Parish Maintenance Team Please book into your diaries Saturday 17th February at 9am for the next Maintenance Team day.

Ash Wednesday is this week, on **14th February**. **Masses** will be at 8.35am in the Abbey Church, 6pm in Holy Ghost and 7.30pm in St Benedict's. This is a day of fasting and abstinence. The Diocesan Liturgical Diary helpfully reminds us that 'Fasting is observed by all 18 years of age and over who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed. Abstinence is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.'

Multiple Sclerosis Quiz On Saturday 24th Feb at 7.30 in Holcombe Village Hall. Teams of up to 6 at £5 a head to include a light supper. To book a table ring Liz or Noel on 01761 232040

The Downside school pupils would like to bring the Downside communities together as missionaries of Christ. We would like to offer Parishioners three **Lectio Divina** evenings so we would be able to encounter and listen to Christ together. This will commence at St Benedict's Parish hall on 27th February at 7-8pm for 3 weeks. Please bring some food to share. All age groups are welcome to join, you've got nothing to lose! For more details, contact Belen Iglesias (biglesias@downside.co.uk) or Dom Michael.

Lenten Lunch, soup and cheese on Wednesday 28th February in the Parish Hall at St Benedict's Church in aid of CAFOD from 12 -2pm. There will be a bring and buy stall and a raffle. Please do come and support and taste our delicious soups.

We are All Called.....How are we to Respond. The Parishes of the Bath Catholic Deanery are collaborating to promote and sponsor a special day for our faith formation on **Saturday 3rd March**, 10am for 10.30am until 3.30 pm at the Apex Hotel in Bath. Refreshments and a light lunch are provided. The day is based on **exploring themes of Pope Francis' teaching for the Church today** and will be led by Michelle Moran a leading lay Missionary who has been personally appointed by Pope Francis to work on establishing new structures for the service of renewal and mission in the Church. Tickets £10 (£5 for students) available through Eventbrite. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/we-are-all-called-how-are-we-to-respond-tickets-42598783107

St Patrick's Party On Saturday March 17th in the Parish Hall at 7pm. Tickets are £5 a head to include an Irish supper. Come and sing along to all your Irish favourites. Please add your name to the list at the back of the church.

Martyrology: The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order (feast on 17th February)

were from Florence in the 13th century and came from among the most prosperous families of the city. They were deeply affected by the Cathar heresy, which rejected the sacraments, the doctrines of hell, purgatory and the resurrection of the body, since they believed that all material things were evil. The Founders joined a confraternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and later founded the Order of the Servants of Mary (Servites). They initially led a life of prayer and austerity in solitude, but later they became friars rather than monks. The servites came to England in the 19th century and are present in our area in the person of Fr Bill McLoughlin, the parish priest of SS. Peter and Paul at Combe Down. We wish him a happy feast!



We pray for the sick of our parish, especially Peggie Woods, Eve Nuttall, Dolores Niles, Sheila Noad, and Emmi di Maggio. If you know someone who would like to be added to this list, please let the priest at Mass know their name.

Please pray for Joseph Zacharias, who died last week after a long illness.

Diocesan Prayer Intention: St Thomas of Canterbury, Fairford with Cricklade

Ecumenical Prayer Intention: Trinity Westfield

We hope to begin the **Sycamore Course** after Easter. Some parishioners have been in touch to register their interest, and the Parish Pastoral Council were keen to use this as an opportunity for outreach in our area. So we intend to advertise the course in the local press and in other parishes in order to widen the possible audience. The course, as was explained, is based on the Alpha model, but has been written by a Catholic priest in the Archdiocese of Westminster. We will start after Easter, probably on Tuesday, 10th April at 7pm and the course will run for 10 weeks.

St Vincent de Paul (SVP) Our parish SVP are pleased to say that, following our training, we can now begin visiting. If you know of anyone who is in need of and would like visits or practical help such as shopping, please can you give their name(s) and contact number to Fr Michael or Fr Boniface. If you would like any information on the SVP please contact Rosemary Tatar via email on bluerabbit70@hotmail.co.uk

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has continued so far throughout 2018. This would be a good way of keeping Lent this year. If you are able to commit to a regular slot (even if only for Lent), then please contact Rina Bird (rinabird@outlook.com), or just call into St Peter's Chapel (the crypt) in the Abbey Church at any time.

Offertory Collection Parish Collection last week raised: £378.16