

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

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B – 11th March 2018

'God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy' (Eph. 2:4)

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally known as *Laetare* (be joyful) *Sunday*, from the opening words of the entrance antiphon at Mass. The priest wears rose coloured vestments as a sign that the rigours of Lent are approaching their end and the joy of Easter and the resurrection are on the way. The first reading, from the second book of Chronicles, tells us of the end of the Babylonian Exile. The Babylonians invaded Israel in 598 BC and the leading citizens were exiled



to Babylon (modern Iraq; in the picture). The Jerusalem Temple was destroyed in 587 BC, meaning that there could be no more sacrifices or other forms of worship. But in 539 BC the Persian Empire conquered the Babylonians and Cyrus issued a decree that allowed the Israelites to return to Jerusalem and begin rebuilding the Temple. This meant that all the festivals were reinstated and, their Lent, their time of penance, was over; their Easter had arrived.

Today is also known as Mothering Sunday, traditionally the day when servants were allowed to return to their home church. We pray for our own mothers and can be grateful for all they do for us. Pope Francis has inaugurated a new feast day, Mary, Mother of the Church, which will be celebrated on the Monday after Pentecost.

Dom Anselm Brumwell
Sub-Prior

March Needs

Fruit juice/Sponge puddings

Brown sauce/Ketchup

Shampoo/Conditioner

Razors/Shaving foam

Multi-purpose cleaner/Laundry detergent



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

On **Monday, 12th March** (feast of St Gregory the Great), there will be no Mass at 8:35am. There will be a Mass with the school at 10am.

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Wednesday, 14th March at 7.30pm in the parish hall. All are welcome to attend.

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.



The last two Tuesdays have seen pupils from Downside School and parishioners meeting for **lectio divina in the parish**. The sessions have been wonderful and allowed young people and adults to gather to listen to the Word of God. The final session will be on **Tuesday, 20th March from 7 – 8pm**. Tea and coffee are provided. For more information you can contact Belen Iglesias (biglesias@downside.co.uk) or Dom Michael.

Lent Worship Every Friday until 23rd March from 11.30am-12pm there will be a short act of reflective worship at Midsomer Norton Methodist Church. On Good Friday 30th March at 9.45am there will also be a Walk of Witness.

The Easter Retreat at Downside takes place from Thursday 29th March until Sunday 1st April. Young and old, families and friends are welcome to take part in a range of services, workshops and activities to celebrate this special time of the Christian year. The theme for this year is "Waking Up to God". To find out more and to book visit our website www.downside.co.uk/easter2018/



Easter Services this year will be in the Abbey Church as follows:

Maundy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8pm

Good Friday Solemn Liturgy at 3pm

Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday at 9pm

Easter Sunday Masses at 9 and 11am in St Benedict's and at 10am in the abbey. There will also be a Latin Mass in the Extraordinary Form at 11:15am. No evening Mass.

During Lent the **Stations of the Cross** are said every Friday at 7pm at St Benedict's and last about twenty minutes.

On **Saturday, 24th March** there will be a **deep clean of the church**, e.g. windows inside and out, behind the benches etc. and we would welcome extra help, the more people we have, the more we can clean. We are planning on a start time of 9am and will finish by 12noon.

Martyrology: St Gregory the Great's feast day is celebrated on 3rd September in the universal Church, but since the reforms of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) Downside has had permission to keep the feast on its former date of 12th March. St Gregory was born in 540 and entered the civil service in Rome, but in 573 he sold his property and founded seven monasteries and gave his money to the poor. He became a monk of St Andrew's Abbey in Rome and was appointed to be one of the seven deacons of Rome. He had hoped to lead a group of monks to England to bring Roman Christianity to this country, having seen Anglo-Saxon slaves in the Roman market (saying that they are "not Angles but angels"), but he was elected Pope in 590AD. He did not give up on his dream, however, and sent St Augustine of Canterbury, also a monk of St Andrew's Abbey, to England in his place.



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 Regina Doorgasingh, who died last week.

Joseph Zacharias' funeral will now be on Saturday, 17th March in St Joseph's church, Fishponds, at 10.30am.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has continued so far throughout 2018 and is a good way of keeping Lent this year. If you can commit to a regular slot (even if only for Lent), please contact Rina Bird (rinabird@outlook.com).

Diocesan prayer intention: St Augustine of Canterbury, Matson/English Martyrs, Tuffley

Ecumenical prayer intention: Trinity, Radstock

Bath Deanery CAFOD meeting The Church and the NGO's: their Impacts on Addressing Ecological, Water and Agricultural Challenges in Northern Uganda. Alex Abaca, Agricultural Researcher, Current Doctoral Student, University of Bath. 7.30pm on Friday March 16th 2018 in St John's Parish Hall, South Parade, Bath.

This **Family Fast Day**, our parish collection raised £620.66 and the soup and cheese lunch raised a further £222.15 making a total of £842.81 to help end hunger and poverty around the world. This will be doubled by the UK Government, meaning a total of £1685.62 has been raised so more of our brothers and sisters can live lives free from hunger. Thank you for fasting in solidarity, and for supporting the soup and cheese lunch; please keep our brothers and sisters in your prayers throughout Lent.

Offertory Collection Parish Collection last week raised: £212.07 and CAFOD £30