

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

Adoration 9.30-12.30 Monday to Saturday and 11.15-5.45 on Sundays during the summer

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.

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NINETEENTH SUNDAY YEAR B – 12th August 2018

“Try to imitate God...and follow Christ by loving as he loved you” (Eph. 5:1)

St Benedict was the first to be proclaimed Patron of Europe by Pope Paul VI in 1964, when he consecrated the newly rebuilt Abbey Church at Monte Cassino. We celebrated his feast day at the beginning of July (11th). Since then we have celebrated St Bridget of Sweden, another Patron of Europe, on 23rd July. Last week we celebrated the feast of St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, who died at Auschwitz in 1942. She, too, is a Patron of Europe. This has led me to reflect on the state of Christian Europe, where not so long ago churches were full, people did not just go to Mass on Sundays, they would also go to Vespers and Benediction. There would be public processions....

The religious orders were thriving and applicants were not lacking. Only a hundred years ago in our own diocese of Clifton there were Franciscan and Sacramentine nuns in Taunton, Servite nuns in Stratton on the Fosse and Woodchester, Dominican nuns in Stroud, Carmelite nuns in Wells. There were Benedictine monks at Downside and Bath (St John's), Carmelite friars at Wincanton, Dominican fathers at Woodchester, Franciscan fathers at Bishopston, Clevedon, Portishead and Shirehampton, Jesuits in Bristol, Tilbury and Wardour.... (Prinknash Abbey was still on Caldey)

We are all of us called, by virtue of our baptism, to make disciples, to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. If we are not prepared to do this, are we happy for the Catholic Faith to die out in our country? How many baptisms and weddings have there been in our parish recently? Surely we cannot just sit back and do nothing.

Dom Boniface Hill
Assistant Parish Priest



August Needs

Tinned tomatoes/Meat soups
Sponge puddings/Coffee
Drinking chocolate/Brown sauce & ketchup/Powdered milk/UHT milk
Deodorants (not aerosol)/Razors/ Household cleaners (not bleach)/Toilet cleaner/Washing up liquid/Kitchen rolls



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)

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CAFOD Share the Journey: Inspired by Pope Francis' special concern for migrants and refugees, CAFOD is inviting us to join the "Share the Journey" campaign. The Church worldwide is committed to sharing the journey of people on the move. World leaders must be moved to do the same as they negotiate two global agreements on refugees and migration in Autumn 2018. As an act of solidarity to Share the Journey with our global neighbours fleeing their homes, CAFOD is asking us to help to walk 24,900 miles - the distance around the whole world. As I write, this distance has just been achieved by the Catholic parishes and schools in England and Wales. So we are now attempting to walk around the world again! We are also being asked to urge the Prime Minister to ensure the human dignity of migrants and refugees is at the heart of the UN Global Compacts (agreements) which are being negotiated in the Autumn. At St Benedict's, we are planning a 1 mile walk **today, Sunday 12th August at 2.30pm** from the Church towards the Abbey and through the Abbey grounds, towards Chilcompton and back. We will make sure we do not go on any roads and the walk will be as accessible as possible to wheelchairs, buggies and families. Every mile completed by every individual will count towards the CAFOD grand total. We will start off at the Parish Centre with some words of introduction and reflection, do the walk, stopping for reflective readings on the way and returning to the Parish Centre where we will invite all participants to sign the campaign cards. After the walk we will have a shared tea in the Parish Centre, so all contributions of sandwiches, scones and cakes would be gratefully received. If anyone is unable to walk the distance we would like to invite them to join us in spirit and in prayer and then to share tea with us in the Parish Centre. We would expect to finish the walk by 3.30pm. We do hope that you will put this date in your diaries and join us to "Share the Journey".

This Wednesday, 15th August, is the solemnity of the **Assumption of the Virgin Mary** and is a **holyday of obligation**. There will be Mass at 10am in the abbey and at 6:30pm in St Benedict's.

The next **Parish Council Meeting** will be on Wednesday, 22nd August at 7:30pm in the parish hall. All are welcome to attend.

The **annual parish BBQ** will be after the 5pm Mass on Saturday 1st September.

During the weekend of the 7-9 September 2018, **Young Catholic Adults will be running a retreat at Douai Abbey**, featuring Fr Lawrence Lew O.P. and Canon Poucin. The weekend will be full-board. YCA will be running the weekend with the Schola Gregoriana of Cambridge who will be holding Gregorian Chant workshops. There will also be a Marian Procession, Rosaries, Sung Masses, Confession, talks (on the beauty of silence in the Mass plus social media and evangelization) and socials. All Masses will be celebrated in the Extraordinary Form. Please note to guarantee your place this year Douai Abbey have requested that everyone books in 3 weeks before the start of the weekend i.e. 17th Aug 2018. To book visit bookwhen.com/youngcatholicadults-douai2018

Martyrology: St Stephen of Hungary was probably born in Esztergom in 975 AD and was the last Grand Prince of the Hungarians and the first king of Hungary, crowned in 1000 or 1001. At his birth he was given the pagan name of Vajk, and the date of his baptism is unknown, but he was the first member of his family to be a devout Christian. On his accession to the Hungarian throne, he set out to establish the Church in the country by founding a number of dioceses and inviting a number of foreign priests to come to Hungary. During his reign Hungary enjoyed a long period of peace and became a popular route for pilgrims travelling to the Holy Land or Constantinople. He collected many relics and donated them to his newly established basilica in Székesfehérvár, where he set up his cathedral chapter and a new capital city, as well as a number of Benedictine monasteries. He died on 15th August 1038 and was buried in Székesfehérvár. His feast is on 16th August.



We pray for the sick of our parish, especially Basil Durnford, Margaret Reynolds, Eve Nuttall, Dolores Niles, Sheila Noad, Rob Butt, Marie-Louise McGarvey, Jake Francis-Jones 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.

Diocesan prayer intention: All hospital and prison chaplaincies in the Diocese.

Ecumenical prayer intention: St Benedict's, Stratton on the Fosse.

The Parish Collection: Last week raised: £346.94

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the crypt chapel will be from 9.30-12.30 Monday to Saturday, and from 11.15-5.45 on Sundays during the summer.

The **IICSA Inquiry** published its findings on the case study relating to Downside and Ampleforth this week. A statement from Downside can be found on our website www.downside.co.uk/iicsa-report-publication/