

# 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

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B – 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018

“If anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father” (1 John 2:1)

During this time, from Easter to Pentecost, we reflect on the various appearances of the Risen Lord. At first he was often unrecognised. It was only at Pentecost, with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, that the disciples finally understood the message of Jesus. How well do we know Jesus' teaching? More importantly how is it reflected in our daily lives?

‘God is at the deep centre of all things, and when we find him there we find eternal life. Every creature gifted with reason has received light to see in all created things both their own individual beauty and that of the Supreme Being, from whom they have received their being and who sustains them in it. With the light given us we should see God in all things. Our gaze should pass beyond the shadows of created things, in order that it may rest in the true Light hidden in beings without reason, but discovered by those who have reason. And with this Being we should make ourselves in harmony.’ (From *Where Silence is Praise* by a Carthusian monk.)



Dom Boniface Hill  
Assistant Parish Priest

### April 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

**The next meeting of the parish council** will be on Wednesday, 18th April in the parish hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

**We are called...How are we to respond?** is a day event taking place in Bath on Saturday, 21 April from 10am-3.30pm at the Apex City of Bath Hotel. The speaker will be Michelle Moran, a lay missionary who has been personally appointed by Pope Francis to work on establishing new structures for mission in the Church. This promises to be an interesting and stimulating day, and it would be good if some parishioners could go. It costs £10 (£5 for students) and includes refreshments and a light lunch. People will be selling tickets at the back of church after Mass in St Benedict's, or see the priest saying Mass.



The next **Parish Maintenance Day** will be Saturday 21st April. Please put it in your diary and if you have any jobs that need doing then please let Lee Rodgers know at w900lee@yahoo.co.uk

There will be a **Healing Service** in St John's, Bath, on 22nd April. Fr Philip Scott will be offering a powerful introduction to the life of the Holy Spirit using personal experiences given through a unique call to live in the darkest jungle of Peru. He will give his testimony during Sunday afternoon 11.30-4pm and there will be opportunities to receive his powerful healing ministry.

**Soup and Cheese Lunch** on Wednesday 25th April from 12 noon until 2pm in St Benedicts Parish Hall, Stratton on the Fosse. Entrance £4 with a bring and buy stall and raffle. All in aid of Julian House. This is a charity for the homeless based in Bath offering the most marginalised members of society, housing, support and guidance. Please come and taste our delicious soups and help us raise a good amount of money for this worthwhile cause.

Help us mark the anniversary of the 1967 Abortion Act by joining the **SPUC Pro-Life Chain** at the junction of London Road and Bathwick Street, Bath on Saturday 28th April between 11am and 1pm. Call Gail Mills on 07851311910 for more information.

**The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes** will take place from 24th – 31st August 2018. To enable the very sick members of our diocesan community to join us, a Jumbulance has been arranged to transport them from St Teresa's church in Filton to their accommodation in Lourdes. This costs £10,000. Through fundraising and donations the diocese can subsidise this cost for the sick. If you are able to donate please contact Deacon David Wakefield on lourdes@cliftondiocese.com.

We made a great start to the **Sycamore course** last Tuesday. Next week we will look at the fundamental question, "Does God exist?" **All are welcome** to any or all of the sessions, and please tell your friends about it, especially if they are asking questions about faith. We meet at 7pm on Tuesdays in the abbey Visitor Centre, and each meeting ends by 8.30pm.

**Martyrology: St Alphege** (953-1012) was born in Bath and became a monk at Deerhurst in Gloucestershire, before later embracing the life of a hermit on Lansdown Hill. He was then chosen to be the Abbot of Bath, before being elected Bishop of Winchester in 984. In Winchester he was responsible for the building of a huge organ that took 24 men to operate and could be heard a mile away! In 1006 he became Archbishop of Canterbury. The Danes captured Canterbury in 1011 and imprisoned him, expecting to receive a large ransom for him. Alphege forbade his followers to pay the ransom and he was murdered on 19th April 1011 (now his feast) at Greenwich during a drinking bout. The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* tells us that "they were very drunk, because there was wine brought from the south. Then they seized the bishop, led him to their 'hustings' on the Saturday in the octave of Easter, and then pelted him there with bones and the heads of cattle; and one of them struck him on the head with the butt of an axe, so that with the blow he sank down and his holy blood fell on the earth, and sent forth his holy soul to God's kingdom".



**We pray for the sick of our parish**, especially Peggie Woods, Eve Nuttall, Dolores Niles, Sheila Noad, Rob Butt 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.

**Prayers are asked** for Rob Butt, Head of History at Downside School and a former parishioner, who is seriously ill in Malta, following a bus crash. Please pray for Barbara Fox and Caterina Marotta, who have died recently. Funeral arrangements will be announced in due course.

**Prayers are asked** for Ann Strong and Joseph Dyer, who are to be married in St Benedict's at 11:30am on Friday, 20th April.

**Diocesan prayer intention:** St Dunstan, Somerton; St Joseph, Langport; Holy Ghost. Yeovil with South Petherton

**Ecumenical prayer intention:** Radstock Baptist Church

**Adoration** will resume on Sunday 15th April immediately after Abbey Mass. Anyone is welcome to join the Regular Adorers in the Chapel between the following hours: after Mass until 5pm Monday to Friday; after Mass until 7pm on Saturday; after Mass until after Vespers (about 5.45pm) on Sunday. The Chapel can be accessed from inside the Abbey Church, but if you require the code to the lower door that is suitable for those with mobility issues, please ask one of the Priests. Additional, Regular or Occasional Adorers are always welcome. For more information please contact Rina at: rinabird@outlook.com