

# 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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## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B – 18th FEBRUARY 2018

'The time has come and the kingdom of God is close at hand.

Repent and believe the Good News' (Mk 1:15)

Repentance is a theme we will hear throughout Lent. It speaks of a change in our life. On Ash Wednesday the priest might have said, "Repent and believe the Gospel". To repent is to turn away from something, and Lent calls us to turn away from sin, to make a real and conscious effort to turn back to God; this is also the meaning of the Hebrew word. The Greek word is a little different, however. It means "to change one's mind". It means that we think about our life, where we are and where we are going, and then we try to put it into action. In Matthew 6, Jesus speaks of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as ways of coming to be closer to God, but these are also ways of turning away from something bad and therefore they are ways of changing our mind. When we pray, we focus on God; we place ourselves in his presence and try to meet him. So this Lent, we should make a real effort to pray; before Mass, during Mass and during the week. Ash Wednesday was a day of fasting and abstinence. But during Lent we traditionally try to give up something, and this is our way of fasting throughout these forty days. We are also asked to give alms. This might be money – there are many good charities out there, and we have the food bank, too. But we can also take something up, if we cannot give money. We can pray more, we can give our time to someone in need, we can help someone out. Lent is a time of change. We can all try to do this, no matter how old or young (admittedly some are too young!) throughout all of Lent. And if it all goes wrong on one day, we can just start again...and again...and again!



Dom Anselm Brumwell  
Sub-Prior

### 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](mailto:sparsons@downside.co.uk) or call (01761 235323)

[WWW.DOWNSIDE.CO.UK](http://WWW.DOWNSIDE.CO.UK)  
[MONKS@DOWNSIDE.CO.UK](mailto:MONKS@DOWNSIDE.CO.UK)  
01761 235100

The **Parish Pastoral Council** will meet in the Parish Hall on Wednesday, 21st February at 7:30pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day:** This Lent is an opportunity to support our brothers and sisters who don't have enough to eat. On **23rd February** can you give up a meal, or eat a simple meal, in solidarity? With malnutrition still killing almost three million children a year, your fasting, prayers and donations will ensure more of God's children have enough good food to eat. This Lent, your donation will make double the difference. For every pound you donate to CAFOD, the Government will also donate a pound, meaning twice the number of lives can be transformed. Please collect your Fast Day envelope from one of the Parish CAFOD team after Mass and if you can, please complete the Gift Aid form. In light of recent news reports you may wish to know CAFOD has a statement about safeguarding vulnerable communities at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk) [and a copy is on our parish noticeboard].

There will be a **Healing Service** on Friday, 23rd February in St John's Church, Bath, at 7:30pm.

**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

**Downside School Pupils** 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 from 7-8pm for 3 weeks. Please bring some food to share. All age groups are welcome to join. For more details, contact Belen Iglesias ([biglesias@downside.co.uk](mailto: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.

There will be a **Penance service organised by Bishop Declan** at St John's in Bath on Thursday, 1st March at 7pm. Confessions will be heard by priests who are not members of our deanery. This would be an ideal opportunity to return to the sacrament of confession if you have not been for some time. You can be genuinely anonymous and make your confession to a priest that you might never see again!

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> March**, 10am for 10.30am until 3.30 pm at the Apex Hotel in Bath. Refreshments and a light lunch are provided. Tickets £10 (£5 for students) available through Eventbrite. [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/we-are-all-called-how-are-we-to-respond-tickets-42598783107](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/we-are-all-called-how-are-we-to-respond-tickets-42598783107)

**Offertory Collection** Parish Collection last week raised: £180.67

### **Martyrology: On Thursday, 22nd February**

we celebrate the Feast of the **Chair of St Peter**. It may seem odd to celebrate a piece of furniture, but the Chair is symbolic of the Petrine ministry that began with St Peter, when Christ said to him, "You are Peter [=rock] and on this rock I will build my Church" (Mt 16:18). In Latin the Bishop's chair is called a *cathedra* (hence "cathedral") and so this feast reminds us of the link our parish has with our Bishop and through him to the Pope, who has the difficult task of shepherding, teaching and guiding the Church and trying to hold it in unity. The actual chair that this feast refers to is kept in St Peter's, in the chapel at the very back, behind the High Altar. The monument by Bernini houses an ancient chair, believed by many to be the chair of St Peter when he was bishop of Antioch, before he moved to Rome. More modern archaeology has been more reserved about the date of the chair.



**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.

The **funeral of Joseph Zacharias** will be on Friday, 2nd March at 10:30am in St Joseph's Church, Fishponds.

The **funeral of Mary Driscoll** will be on Friday, 9th March at 11am in St Benedict's.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** has continued so far throughout 2018 and is 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](mailto:rinabird@outlook.com)), or just call into St Peter's Chapel (the crypt) in the Abbey Church at any time.

**Diocesan Prayer Intention:** St Catharine, Frome with Mells

**Ecumenical Prayer Intention:** St Nicholas, Radstock

**Dr Giles Mercer** is talking on Mission in the History of the Church at St Alphege's, Bath on Tuesday 20th February at 6.30pm after Mass.

**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 and Fr Michael is talking on the subject of Judas on 23rd February. On Good Friday 30th March at 9.45am there will be a Walk of Witness.

The **Women's World Day of Prayer** has this year been prepared by the women of Suriname. Our local celebration will be at the Salvation Army Church in Midsomer Norton on Friday March 2nd at 2pm. All are welcome, not only women.

**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.