

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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Fifth Sunday of Lent Year B – 18th March 2018

“Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation” (Heb. 5:9)

Today's first reading comes from the prophet Jeremiah, who lived during the period of the Babylonian Exile (598 – 539 BC). In this key passage, he speaks of a new covenant that will replace the old covenant that God made through Moses, with its 613 laws. This covenant will speak to people's hearts, the place of thought in biblical anthropology. Through the work of the Holy Spirit all people will know God and his law will be written on their hearts. The initial phrase “the days are coming” indicates that this will come in its fullness at the end of time. In the New Testament, the Letter to the Hebrews is clear that the sacrifice of Christ on the cross replaced the sacrificial system of the Jerusalem Temple (destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD). No longer do people need to sacrifice animals in order that their sins may be forgiven, for Christ, our great High Priest, who was both God and man, sacrificed himself to achieve this. He shed his blood “for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins” and this is made present for us every time we attend Mass, the re-presentation of the sacrifice of the cross.



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)

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Wednesday, 21st March is the feast of St Benedict and Mass will be at 10am. There will be no Mass at 8.35am.

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.

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.

The Lenten Penance Service with individual confessions will be on Monday, 26th March at 7.30pm in St Benedict's.

On Tuesday 27th March at 6.45pm Dr Giles Mercer will give a talk at St Alphege's in Bath on exploring **The Passion through Paintings** from the National Gallery's collections with meditations and discussions of how different artists have brought to light different aspects.

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.

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.

Calling all parishioners - Would you like to ring out your joy at being at St Benedict's? Did you know that you could be a bell ringer? Ranging from simple to more complex chimes. Please contact Father Boniface for further information.

Offertory Collection Parish Collection last week raised: £455.26

Martyrology: St Benedict, patron of our parish, has his principal feast day on 21st March (the date of his death). He was born in about 480 in Norcia, and educated in Rome. He was so shocked by the immorality he saw there, that he left Rome and went to live as a hermit in the mountains near Subiaco, where his food was provided by a priest called Romanus. He then founded the abbey of Monte Cassino (and later other communities), when men came to join him to live a life of prayer and work in community. He wrote a Rule for his community which is followed in Benedictine communities throughout the world, including at Downside. His Rule is known for its moderation and appreciation of the balance of the needs of the individual and the community: "Let none follow what seems good for himself, but rather what is good for another...Let them prefer nothing to Christ and may he bring us all alike to life everlasting" (RB 72).



We pray for the sick of our parish, especially Peggiewoods, 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.

Diocesan prayer intention: St Benet, Kemerton; St Joseph, Tewkesbury; St Nicholas, Winchcombe with Bishop's Cleeve

Ecumenical prayer intention: Bath City Church local group

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 Sycamore Course will begin on Tuesday, 10th April at 7pm in the Abbey Visitor Centre and will run for 10 weeks. The course is based on the Alpha model, but has been written by a Catholic priest in the Archdiocese of Westminster. Sycamore is a programme of evangelisation that consists of ten films, exploring some of the core questions often put to Christian believers: How can I find true happiness? What is the meaning of life? Does God exist? Who is Jesus Christ? It deals with topics such as the Holy Spirit, the Church, the Bible, the Christian Tradition, faith, prayer, love, vocation, and the purpose of life. People are invited to learn about the Christian faith, and to share their own ideas and questions without fear of being judged. It is suitable for people wanting to look at the very basics of Christian belief, whether from a perspective of faith or uncertainty and will certainly involve some interesting discussion. For more details contact Dom Anselm (domanselm@downside.co.uk) or Dom Michael.