

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 9.30-5pm Monday to Saturday and 11.30-6pm on Sundays

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

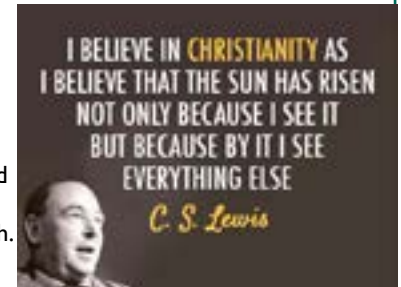
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THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY YEAR B – 18th November 2018

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away” (Mk 13:31)

The first session of the Catholicism DVD course by Bishop Robert Barron (founder of Word on Fire Network and an Auxiliary Bishop in Los Angeles) gave much food for thought. The topic was the person of Jesus. It is easy to domesticate Jesus, to think of him as a nice, 'tame' preacher, who happened to be the Son of God. Some people even think that he was no more than a good rabbi and this is enough. Yet it is clear in the Gospels that Jesus taught more than this. He expected people to make a choice. He



didn't require that people believe only in his words, but in him, since he called himself 'the way, the truth and the life'. He does not allow the middle way of being nothing more than a teacher. CS Lewis put it brilliantly: "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to." If you think this might be of interest, then come to the Abbey Visitor Centre on Wednesdays at 7pm.

Dom Anselm Brumwell
Sub-Prior

November Needs

The food bank is getting ready for Christmas and is still desperately short of many items.

Please see the list in the church porch for what is needed. Many thanks for your help and support.



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
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Robert Barron's Catholicism course will continue this Wednesday, 21st November at 7pm in the Abbey Visitor Centre. We will begin the DVD at 7.15pm and it will be followed by discussion. The third session is called, "The Ineffable Mystery of God: That than which nothing greater can be thought." We will finish by 8.45pm. All are welcome.

The next meeting of the **Parish Pastoral Council** will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 21st November in the parish hall. All are welcome to attend.

On **Thursday, 22nd November**, Dom Boniface and Dom Anselm will be singing Vespers for St Cecilia at 5.30pm in Bath Abbey with the choir from St John's. All are welcome.

The **Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)** is holding its **Annual General Meeting** in the Parish Hall after the 6pm Mass on Sunday 25th November. This will give parishioners the chance to hear what the PPC has done during the year and what is being planned for the year ahead. All parishioners are invited to come along.

There will be **Parish Maintenance Days** on 24th November and 8th December.

There will be an **Advent Supper** in the Parish Hall on Saturday 1st December after the 5pm Mass. We hope to have representatives from many of the groups doing work in the Parish so there will be a chance to chat and find out about what they are doing. Following a soup and cheese supper there will be music and a social. Everyone welcome.

Volunteers at St Benedict's Church Thank you to all those volunteers who have been keeping St Benedict's Church clean and tidy and to those who decorate the church with flowers through the year. Your dependable dedication of time and effort is really appreciated and I hope you will feel able to continue the good work. Additional volunteers are always needed and would be warmly welcomed to join the rotas for 2019. In each case your turn would last for two weeks, the cleaning about twice a year, the flower responsibility dependent on the number of volunteers. There is a list at the back of the church for you to sign. If you want more details about cleaning contact Mo Bennett on 01749 840 508 or maureenbennett11@btinternet.com. For more details about the flowers contact Marybell Mellotte on 01761 232 183.

We held a very successful **Soup and Cheese lunch** at St Benedict's last Wednesday and raised a fantastic £304.60 which will be split equally between CAFOD and the RBL Poppy Appeal. Many, many thanks to all who helped and those who came to support.

St Vincent de Paul (SVP) at St Benedict's. If you know anyone who you feel would benefit from visits or practical help please give their name and contact details to either Fr Michael or Fr Boniface. If you would like to join us in visiting those in need, full member/support role or find out more about the SVP, please ask or email Rosemary Tatar PresidentB040517@svp.org.uk

Martyrology: St Andrew Dũng-Lạc (1795-1823) and his companions are the 117 martyrs of Vietnam, and include both Europeans and Asians. Among them are 8 bishops, 50 priests and 59 laymen, who were martyred for the faith between 1745 and 1862, but it is believed that in the first 200 years of Christianity in Vietnam about 300,000 Christians lost their life for the faith. In 1832 Emperor Minh-Mang banned all foreign missionaries and tried to force Christians to step on a crucifix. Many priests and religious were sheltered by lay Christians. Persecution has continued throughout to the current day and despite this, many men and women enter their seminaries, monasteries and convents. The feast of the Vietnamese Martyrs is 24th November.



If you, or someone you know, would like to become a Catholic, then please get in touch with Dom Michael. The Wednesday evening *Catholicism* course would be a good introduction!

We pray for the sick of our parish, especially Brian Auty, Basil Durnford, Margaret Reynolds, Dolores Niles, Sheila Noad, 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: St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Filton; St Vincent de Paul, Southmead

Ecumenical prayer intention: Bath City Church Local Group

If you would like to receive the **newsletter by email**, please contact Steve Parsons sparsons@downside.co.uk

The Parish Collection: Last week raised: £359.12

The **Red APF boxes** are now ready for collection.

Christmas raffle tickets are now available to purchase.

Advent crib festival. During Advent we are inviting everyone (children or adult) to bring a crib-scene of the Nativity to St Benedict's. This can take the form of anything from Lego to porcelain, family heirloom to modern depiction, an image on card, tin, glass or other vessel. These should be brought to any of the weekend Masses from the beginning of Advent on 1st/2nd December. They will be displayed on the altar steps throughout Advent and will be blessed by the priests saying Mass on 22nd/23rd December, after which they can be taken home. Please label your contribution clearly.