

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.

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Assistant Parish Priest: Dom Boniface Hill. Tel: 01761 235115

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Registered Charity Number 1158507

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Easter Sunday Year B – 1st April 2018

“They killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen” (Acts 10:39)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Instead of normal greetings of welcome, the early Church on this Day proclaimed joyfully to all they met: ‘Christ is risen, Alleluia!’ Non-believers thought they were odd and rather irritating. How can they be so cheerful; and how can they be so friendly to their enemies? They thus realised that these Christians had something, some special power, some different outlook. They were poor and downtrodden, yet acted as if they were rich and generous. And then came a rather disturbing thought for the ungodly: ‘Could it just be possible that the God of the Christians was real?’

Here today, the question is still being asked, and you and I have the answer. Indeed, we are the answer, since in us the Lord, the Risen Lord, has chosen to make His home. In the face of our trials and troubles, we must therefore allow the love of God to shine out through us to all we meet. No greater sermon will ever be preached than this love in action.

‘The joy of the Lord is our strength.’ A very Happy Easter to you all.

Dom Michael Clothier
Parish Priest



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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This month's Mass in the Extraordinary (Tridentine) Form will be today at 11.15am in the Old Chapel. This is on the right hand side of the school quad and up the stairs.

Please note that there is **no evening Mass today**.

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.



This year's Confirmation Mass will be on 11th May 2018 at 6.30pm. If you are in Year 9 or above and would like to be confirmed, please contact Dom Michael. Any adult who would like to be baptised or confirmed or to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church should also contact Dom Michael in order to arrange a preparation course.

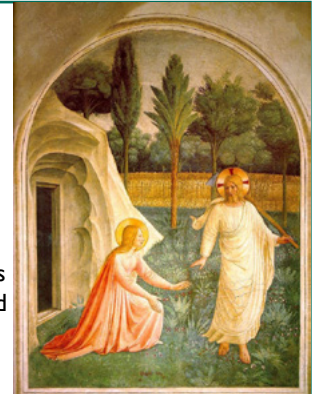
The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 24th – 31st August 2018. To enable the very sick members of our diocesan community to join us, a Jumbulance has been arranged to transport them from St Teresa's church in Filton to their accommodation in Lourdes. This costs £10,000. Through fundraising 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.

Unfortunately we could not fit the **St Patrick's Day Party** photos into last week's newsletter, Many thanks to those who sent photos.



Martyrology: Easter is the most important feast in the Church's year, and in Easter Week no other feasts are celebrated. Even the most important solemnities are transferred to another date. The Resurrection is the feast of our salvation. We sing "Alleluia!" repeatedly and even on the Friday of Easter Week, there is to be no fasting, but rather feasting. The readings will remind us of the reality of the resurrection and of the Risen Christ. The resurrection is yet another sign of God's love for us and a reminder that there is more to life than this world: there is a life in heaven with God in union with the Holy Trinity.



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.

Diocesan prayer intention: St Thomas More, Marlborough with Pewsey, St Joseph, Wroughton.

Ecumenical prayer intention: Trinity, Westfield.

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.

During Easter Week the Abbey Mass will be at 9.30am on Monday and Tuesday, and will then return to the usual time of 8.35am.

Many thanks to all those who worked so hard to ensure our services during the Triduum went smoothly.