

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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THIRD SUNDAY YEAR B – 21st January 2018

“Repent and believe the Good News... Follow me” (Mk 1:15.17)

Today's readings remind us of the need for constant conversion. John the Baptist told his followers to repent, a word which means “turn around”. It is a call to change our ways and to turn back to God. Jesus also took up this call to repentance and called people to follow him. This is the fundamental Christian vocation: to follow Jesus, to turn away from sin and to God. The people of Nineveh left their sinful ways behind when they heard Jonah's preaching, and God forgave them. Jesus called the disciples to leave their previous lifestyle behind and to follow him. There was something so attractive about Jesus that they did so immediately, apparently without even thinking of the consequences. This is a call that some people feel very directly when they consider a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. We often pray for vocations, and this is necessary. If men do not become priests we have no Mass, no confession, no anointing, and no bishops for ordination and confirmation. If men and women do not enter our monasteries and convents they will have to close, and their prayer for their neighbourhood and for the world as well as the apostolic works they carry out, will have to cease. But we need also to pray for vocations to be faithful Catholics. There is a shortage of priests and religious in our country, but there is also a shortage of lay Catholics. There are more priests per 1000 parishioners today than there were in the 1950s, not fewer, but this is because fewer people go to our parishes. We need to think about our own practice and how we can encourage people to be faithful to their baptismal vocation. If we do this seriously, it will then lead to more vocations to the priesthood and religious life.



Dom Anselm Brumwell
Sub-Prior

January Needs

Instant Mash/Tinned potatoes,
Long grain rice, Kitchen rolls,
Toilet rolls, Toothbrushes,
Multipurpose cleaner/Washing up liquid,
Fruit juice/squash,
Tinned vegetables/Sponge puddings



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

Christian Unity Week runs from 18th to 25th January. There will be a number of united services in the area. **Sunday, 21st January at 3pm** the Boy Choristers and Vicars Choral from Wells Cathedral will sing Evensong in the Abbey Church. There will be no Vespers in the abbey church on those days.

There will be a **united service in Somervale School** (Redfield Road, Midsomer Norton), organised by the Baptist Church, at 4pm on Sunday, 21st January. On Sunday 21st at 6pm there will be a United Service, for the week of prayer for Christian Unity at **St Nicholas Church** Radstock. All are welcome.

CAFOD: Hear about CAFOD's work in Zimbabwe

Wednesday January 31st – Holy Family Church Southsea Road, Patchway, Bristol BS34 5DP 7.00pm-8.30pm *Chris Bain, Director of CAFOD, will be speaking.*

Saturday February 3rd 2pm – 4pm: Gloucester - English Martyrs Church, Tuffley Lane, Tuffley, Gloucester, GL4 0NX

Saturday February 10th 2pm – 4pm: Trowbridge – St John the Baptist Church, 2 Wingfield Road, Trowbridge BA14 9EA

The next meeting of the **Parish Pastoral Council** will be on Wednesday, 24th January in the parish hall. All are welcome.

Parish Maintenance Team Again thanks for all your hard work last week. Please book into your diaries Saturday 17th February for the next Maintenance Team day.

St Vincent de Paul (SVP) We held our first meeting this week at which we sorted the following roles: President - Rosemary Tatar; Secretary - Julie Justin; and Treasurer - Tony Walsh. The next stage is for us to have our Faith-based training.

If you are admitted to a hospital or a care/nursing home and would like to be visited by a priest or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, please contact Dom Michael or ask the staff to do so. Clergy are no longer told of Catholics in hospital when they visit, so you need to let us know you are there!

If you would like to join any parish group, please contact Dom Michael or Dom Boniface, who will put you in touch with the right person. Many contact details are also on the parish board.

Offertory Collection Parish Collection last week raised: £381.70

Next 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.

Martyrology: The feast of Saints Timothy and Titus

is on 26th January. They were first century bishops, who were disciples and co-workers of St Paul. St Timothy accompanied Paul on his travels and was in charge of the church in Ephesus. He had a Greek father and a Jewish mother, named Eunice. His grandmother, Lois, was a Christian and Timothy followed in her footsteps in about 47 AD. He was with Paul when he founded the Church in Corinth and worked with him for about 15 years, becoming one of his most trusted companions. He seems to have been considered young for the work he was given, but Paul trusted him implicitly, warning him also to take care of his health.

We know less about St Titus. Titus was Paul's messenger to a number of Christian communities, and was also his secretary. When Paul was having certain difficulties with the Church in Corinth, Titus was given the unenviable task of delivering the letter with Paul's instructions and seems to have assisted in smoothing things out. He was in charge of the church in Crete, where he was given the task of organisation, correction of abuses and the appointment of clergy.

They are the patron saints of those with stomach disorders, because of Paul's instruction that Timothy should drink a little wine for his stomach!

We pray for the sick of our parish, especially Peggie Woods, Eve Nuttall, Dolores Niles, Joseph Zacharias, 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.

Please pray for Mary Driscoll and Peggy Grant, who died this week

The funeral of Maria Whelan will be in Holy Ghost, Midsomer Norton, at 12noon on 30th January.

Diocesan Prayer Intention: Downside Abbey with St Benedict's Parish.

There is a possibility of running the **Sycamore Course** in the parish. This course's main aim is to introduce people to the Catholic Faith, but it is also known to be helpful for Catholics who wish to understand their faith better. It consists of ten films that explore 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. If you are interested, please contact Dom Michael or Dom Anselm (domanselm@downside.co.uk) so that we can establish whether such a course is viable and which day and time would work best.

