

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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29th SUNDAY YEAR B – 21st October 2018

“The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mk 10:45)

Last week was the feast of St Teresa of Avila (d.1582) the first woman to be declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970 by Pope St Paul VI. She was the Reformer of the Discalced Carmelite nuns. Until 1972 there was a Carmelite convent in Wells and all the nuns who died there are buried in St Benedict's cemetery. The last surviving nun of Wells, Sr Mary Jude is now at the Carmel in Darlington. Next week she celebrates the Golden Jubilee of her profession; she was previously in a teaching order.

St Teresa wrote probably as many as 15,000 letters of which 460-70 have survived, an autobiography and spiritual works such as 'The Way of Perfection.' She emphasises God's mercy towards us. Her motto was the verse from the Psalm, 'The mercies of the Lord I will sing forever.' (Ps 89) Her teaching on prayer is valuable: 'It doesn't consist of much thinking, but rather of loving much.' We need to have a personal relationship with Jesus: 'My whole life I have been devoted to Christ.' In the words of a modern Carmelite writer, 'Whatever our stature, great or small; whatever our talents, many or few; everything must be given to God, unified, directed by the desire to make God our all. Teresa was not afraid of humanness. No gift that God, through circumstances, asked her to develop was left to wither. Develop it she did, unafraid, looking only to Him, His approval; not wondering whether she was conforming to an image of holiness or not.' (Sr Ruth Burrows, *Essence of Prayer.*)

Why not read something written by this great Saint?



Dom Boniface Hill
Assistant Parish Priest

October 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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01761 235100

The 9am music group will be learning the new Stratton Mass after the 9am Mass today. The new Mass setting will be introduced gradually over the coming weeks and anyone is welcome to join the music group to learn the music.

The **Parish Council** will meet at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 24th October in the parish hall. All are welcome.

Bishop Robert Barron's Catholicism course will begin at 7pm on 7th November in the Visitor Centre. This is a highly acclaimed and popular video series, filmed in various locations across the world, which will help us to deepen our faith and to discuss it together.

'Living a Liturgical Life' Vocation Retreat will take place from 16th – 18th November. Based around the liturgy, it will allow men aged 18-35 to spend time considering whether they may have a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. There will be time to think, and also talks about praying the Mass and the Divine Office. If you know anyone who might be interested, tell them to contact Dom Anselm by e-mail (downsidevocation@downside.co.uk).

We have been given a generous donation to help with the renovation of the parish hall and (funds permitting) the kitchen. It would be helpful if the parish could also raise some money toward the cost. If you have ideas for fundraising, please contact a member of the parish council.

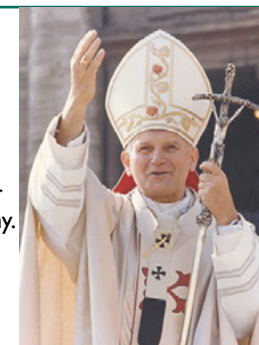
If you have a child in Year 3 or above who has not made their First Holy Communion, then contact Dom Michael so that a preparation course can be arranged.

St Benedict's St Vincent de Paul. If you would like to donate to our Parish SVP funds, please can you put your donation in the black collection box on the wall at the back of the church by the door. Thank you in advance. 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. Thank you.

The second **'Family Get-Together'** in the Abbey Visitor Centre was held on Saturday 13th October and once again it was a lovely (and lively!) afternoon for all. There were plenty of different crafts activities for the children all based on the theme 'God made me and I am wonderfully made!' Thank you to Fr Michael and Fr Boniface who both popped in to say hello over the course of the afternoon, as well as to Cathy Wolf for the excellent activities and the yummy scones! We hope to meet again before Christmas (details to follow) and would love any new families to join us for some very simple catechesis and a chance to get together with other Catholic families. For more information please contact Tamsyn on 01761 235174 or 07377 381896.

If you or someone you know wishes to be confirmed, then contact Dom Michael.

Martyrology: St John Paul II was born as Karol Józef Wojtyła in Wadowice, Poland on 18th May 1920. He was an athletic youth and he knew many Jews, as well as Catholics, in Poland, often playing on the 'Jewish team' in football matches. In 1938 he and his father moved to Kraków, where he enrolled at the Jagiellonian University. In 1939, after Nazi forces invaded Poland and closed the university, Wojtyła worked as a messenger for a restaurant and in a quarry to avoid deportation to Germany. After his father's death in 1941, he applied to join the seminary and began courses in the clandestine seminary run by Cardinal Sapieha. He was ordained on 1st November 1946 and was sent to study in Rome. He became the youngest Bishop in Poland in 1958 and took part in the Second Vatican Council, being appointed Archbishop of Kraków in 1964 and Cardinal in 1967. He assisted St Paul VI with the writing of *Humanae vitae*. In 1978, he was elected the first non-Italian Pope for 455 years, and took the name John Paul II. His papacy lasted until his death, during which he travelled more than 680,000 miles and visited 129 countries. He is credited with a key role in the fall of communism in Eastern and Central Europe. He was the victim of an assassination attempt in 1981 and credited his survival to Our Lady of Fatima. He famously visited his assassin in prison and forgave him. He died on 2nd April 2005, was beatified in 2011 and canonised in 2014. His feast day is 22nd October.



Downside School has an immediate opportunity for a part-time Minibus Driver. For more information and to apply visit www.downside.co.uk/working-with-us

If you, or someone you know, would like to become a Catholic, then please get in touch with Dom Michael. The forthcoming *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.

Please pray for Stuart Wiltshire and Nicole Bradbury, who are to be married in St Benedict's on 26th October.

Diocesan prayer intention: St Bonaventure, Bishopston.

Ecumenical prayer intention: St Nicholas, Radstock

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

The Parish Collection: Last week raised: £385.33