

# 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 Monday-Friday after Mass until 5pm; Saturdays after Mass until 7pm; Sundays

after Mass until 5.45pm in the Crypt Chapel

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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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B – 22nd April 2018

“We are already the children of God...we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is” (1 John 3:2)

Today is often called ‘Good Shepherd Sunday’ as the gospel speaks to us of Jesus in this role. It is perhaps not so popular today when the spirit of the world, arrogant and self absorbed, utterly refuses to consider itself as the flock of Christ. ‘I am my own man’ is the slogan, the strapline—and the seductive lie. Jesus respects our freedom and invites us to allow ourselves to be guided and protected by His constant loving care. Equally important, He invites us to recognise that we are not supposed to journey through life alone. Indeed it simply cannot be done. And the love and mercy of Jesus is so great that He lays down His life for us. Let us recall that this sacrificial work on the cross was for each one of us, for He foresaw our existence, and our need, from before all time. Let us rejoice and be glad that we are so greatly loved, even if those around us notably fail to like or appreciate us, or even forgive us.

Now, if we have such a wondrous pastor, shepherd, priest and king, then we in our turn are called to be pastoral. We must show this love and concern to those about us, even if they despise and reject us. We must in fact be Christ to those to whom He sends us, in our family, or our neighbourhood or place of work. We do not have to say very much, or even do much in many cases. Simply a smile, a helping hand, a listening ear, a kindly remark, a gesture of forgiveness can work a miracle in a troubled soul. Allow yourself to be used today by your good shepherd. Amen.



Dom Michael Clothier  
Parish Priest

### April 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](mailto:sparsons@downside.co.uk) or call (01761 235323)

[WWW.DOWNSIDE.CO.UK](http://WWW.DOWNSIDE.CO.UK)

[MONKS@DOWNSIDE.CO.UK](mailto:MONKS@DOWNSIDE.CO.UK)

01761 235100

This week's **Sycamore Course** provoked some interesting discussion on the existence of God. Next week, Tuesday 24th April, we will meet at 7pm in the Abbey Visitor Centre to consider "Who is Jesus Christ?"

**Soup and Cheese Lunch** on Wednesday 25th April from 12 noon until 2pm in St Benedict's Parish Hall, Stratton on the Fosse. Entrance £4 with a bring and buy stall and raffle. All in aid of Julian House. This is a charity for the homeless based in Bath offering the most marginalised members of society, housing, support and guidance. Please come and taste our delicious soups and help us raise a good amount of money for this worthwhile cause.

**Please pray for the vocation retreat**, which takes place from 27th – 29th April at Downside. There are eight men currently due to attend.

Help us mark the anniversary of the 1967 Abortion Act by joining the **SPUC Pro-Life Chain** at the junction of London Road and Bathwick Street, Bath on Saturday 28th April between 11am and 1pm. Call Gail Mills on 07851311910 for more information.

On Saturday 5th May there will be a **Marian Half-Day of Recollection** at St Thomas More's Church, starting with Adoration at 10am (preceded by Mass at 9:30am), Confessions, a Rosary, the Crowning of Mary and a talk by Dominic Meigh on "The Renewal of Marian Devotion." Please bring a packed lunch. It will end at approx. 1pm. This is organised by Cheltenham YCA - all ages are welcome to this event.

**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](mailto:lourdes@cliftondiocese.com).

**CAFOD school volunteers needed!** Could you spare some time to volunteer with CAFOD and help children and young people learn about global poverty, and motivate them to take action? We are looking for volunteers in the Glastonbury and Salisbury areas to visit Catholic schools and parish groups. For further information please contact Liz Baldwin at CAFOD Clifton on 01179 428 328 or email [clifton@cafod.org.uk](mailto:clifton@cafod.org.uk)

**The Ascension** will be celebrated on Thursday 10th May. This is a holyday of obligation and Mass will be at 10am in the abbey church and at 6.30pm in St Benedict's.

**Martyrology: St Adalbert's** feast is on 24th April. He was born in 956 to one of the most powerful families in Bohemia, and was baptised as Vojtěch. He took the name 'Adalbert' at his confirmation in honour of his tutor in Magdeburg, Germany. In 982 he was ordained bishop of Prague, despite being under the canonical age. Although he came from a wealthy family, he was renowned for his charity and austerity. Yet despite his personal example and his preaching, he was not very successful in his attempts to evangelise the Bohemians. He tried to stop polygamy, slavery and idolatry, but was opposed by the secular powers and his fellow clergy. In the end he was forced into exile in Rome, where he lived as a hermit at the monastery of St Alexis on the Aventine Hill. The Pope sent him back to Prague, where he founded a Benedictine Abbey. He then travelled to Hungary as a missionary, where he baptised Géza of Hungary and his son, Stephen, in Esztergom. He went off to Prussia, where his attempts to ban paganism angered the pagan priests so much that they encouraged his murder on 23rd April 997.



**We pray for the sick of our parish**, especially Peggie Woods, Eve Nuttall, Dolores Niles, Sheila Noad, Rob Butt, 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 our parishioners who have died:**

Barbara Fox: funeral on Tuesday, 1st May at 10.45am in Midsomer Norton;  
Caterina Marotta: funeral on Wednesday, 2nd May at 10.45am in Midsomer Norton;  
Barbara Shearer: funeral on Thursday, 3rd May at 12.30pm at Mendip crematorium.  
May they rest in peace.

**Diocesan prayer intention:** St Joseph, Stonehouse; Annunciation, Woodchester

**Ecumenical prayer intention:** St Benedict's, Stratton on the Fosse

**Adoration/Vacancies for Regular Adorers.** Adoration in the Crypt Chapel of the Abbey Church has restarted and anyone is welcome to join the Regular Adorers in the Chapel between the following hours: -after Mass until 5pm Monday to Friday; from after Mass until 7pm on Saturday; and after Mass until after Vespers and Benediction (about 5.45pm) on Sunday.

The Chapel can only remain open for prayer with the help of Regular Adorers, who volunteer to cover one hour slots. There are currently vacancies for Regular Adorers on Tuesday at 2pm, Wednesday 3pm, Friday 11am and Saturday 10am. If you can help with this very valuable ministry by taking one of these slots, please contact Rina by emailing [rinabird@outlook.com](mailto:rinabird@outlook.com)