

# 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

# DOWNSIDE ABBEY ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

## PALM SUNDAY YEAR B – 25th March 2018

“Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death on a cross, but God raised him high”  
(Phil. 2:8-9)

On Palm Sunday we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, the event which confirmed that he had to die. By entering on a donkey, rather than a great war horse, he may not have seemed to be a threat, but this was yet another fulfilment of a messianic prophecy. The Jews were expecting the Messiah to come and free them from Roman occupation, but Jesus was a little unpredictable and made them uncomfortable. In addition, they were probably not sure that he was the Messiah. Despite the miracles, he didn't seem to have the right background or to come from the right place. We know that the



religious authorities needed a reason to take Jesus to Pilate for a trial, and this was it. He probably entered through the Eastern gate, as the Messiah was expected to do, and he was greeted by crowds shouting "Hosanna", "save us". This was very similar to the entry of Judas Maccabaeus into Jerusalem before the Greeks were run out of town in about 164 BC. Now Jesus could be accused of sedition, of plotting against the Romans. In our liturgical procession we make that entry present for ourselves. This is what is meant by a "memorial", the word we use of the Mass, because it makes present the death, resurrection and ascension of the Lord.

Dom Anselm Brumwell  
Sub-Prior

### 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)

WWW.DOWNSIDE.CO.UK  
MONKS@DOWNSIDE.CO.UK  
01761 235100

**Lent Worship** On Good Friday 30th March at 9.45am there will be a Walk of Witness.

**The Lenten Penance Service** with individual confessions will be on Monday, 26th March at 7.30pm in St Benedict's.

Tuesday 27th March at 6.45pm Dr Giles Mercer will give a talk at St Alphege's in Bath on exploring **The Passion through Paintings** from the National Gallery's Collections.

**The Easter Retreat** at Downside takes place from Thursday 29th March until Sunday 1st April. Young and old, families and friends are welcome to take part in a range of services, workshops and activities to celebrate this special time of the Christian year. The theme for this year is "Waking Up to God". To find out more and to book visit our website [www.downside.co.uk/easter2018/](http://www.downside.co.uk/easter2018/)

**Easter Services this year** will be in the Abbey Church as follows:

Maundy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8pm

Good Friday Solemn Liturgy at 3pm

Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday at 9pm

Easter Sunday Masses at 9 and 11am in St Benedict's and at 10am in the abbey.

There will also be a Latin Mass in the Extraordinary (Tridentine) Form at 11.15am. **No evening Mass on Easter Sunday.**

During Lent the **Stations of the Cross** are said every Friday at 7pm at St Benedict's and last about twenty minutes.

**Good Friday** is a day of fasting and abstinence.

**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).

**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.

**Offertory Collection** Parish Collection last week raised: £236.96

**A massive thank you** to all those people who helped with the St. Patrick's party with a special thanks to Liz Avis, for co-ordinating all the arrangements. Thank you to all those who helped with preparing and serving food, providing music, donating raffle prizes and setting up and decorating the hall. There were many lovely comments from the 70 people who braved the Arctic conditions to attend and as a result we shall once again be able to send a donation of £300 to CAFOD. Look for the photos in next week's newsletter but there is a small story on the Downside website with photos of the event: [www.downside.co.uk/st-patricks-day-parish-event/](http://www.downside.co.uk/st-patricks-day-parish-event/)

**HOLY WEEK** is the most important week of the Church's year; when we are immersed in the central acts of redemption and relive the Paschal mystery, which is at the very heart of our Christian faith. The Sacred Triduum ("three days") begins on **Maundy Thursday**, with the Mass of the Lord's Supper (8pm). At that Mass we recall the Last Supper, when Christ gave the disciples his Body and Blood under the form of bread and wine, as he does in every Mass. We also recall that he washed the feet of his disciples as a sign of service, and this is often taken as the beginning of the sacrament of Holy Orders. After the Mass we recall Jesus' agony in the garden as we pray at the altar of repose (Lady Chapel).

On **Good Friday** our focus is on the cross and the terrible crucifixion that brought our salvation. At the Liturgy (3pm) we hear the whole Passion according to John and we venerate Christ by kissing his feet on the cross in gratitude for the gift of his life for us. On **Holy Saturday** we celebrate no sacraments until the Vigil (9pm), called "the mother of all vigils, the greatest and most noble of all solemnities". Through the readings from the Old and New Testaments we recall the history of our salvation and God's works in, through and despite his people. We bless the water needed for baptism, and the sacraments of initiation are celebrated. This year one person will be baptised and confirmed at the Vigil. Then we all sing of the resurrection with triumphant faith in God's goodness. **Please come to celebrate the Triduum with us in the Abbey Church if you possibly can.**

**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 Dunstan, Keynsham.

**Ecumenical prayer intention:** St Peter, Westfield.

**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.

**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](mailto:domanselm@downside.co.uk)) or Dom Michael.