

# 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

## FOURTH SUNDAY YEAR B – 28th January 2018

'I know who you are: the Holy One of God' (Mk 1:24)

On Friday February 2nd we celebrate the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. It is sometimes called Candlemas, as the faithful gather for the liturgy with lamps alight. This feast is held in high honour in Eastern Christendom and should be far better known and observed in the West. It is rightly recognised as a day of self offering of us all with the Saviour, to the eternal Father.



It is also a celebration of the people of God who form the laity. Whilst the clergy were quite unaware of who was entering His Temple, Simeon and Anna, two elderly lay persons, were warned by the Holy Spirit of the momentous and long awaited event taking place before their eyes. As Simeon then proclaims; 'My eyes have seen Thy salvation.'

How was it that the priests of the sanctuary failed to realise this? We might say, bearing in mind the gospel narratives, that greed, lukewarmness, worldliness and the neglect of prayer were part of the problem. Let us now take heed of our present times, when darkness seems to have fallen upon our country. Let us ask God to take from our hearts all that prevents us recognising Him. And let us invoke with confidence and perseverance the Holy Spirit so that He may be our comforter and lead us unto all truth.

Amen.

A request from Fr Boniface and myself.

Before Mass, the noise level has now risen so high that it is almost impossible to make any attempt at prayer and preparation for the Sacrifice we are about to offer. I ask that all of us, myself included, make a special effort to maintain a holy and prayerful silence in the church. For many parishioners need those rare and precious moments of peace and meditation. It may be their only opportunity. Essential conversation should therefore be left till after Mass, or outside the main body of the church.

Dom Michael Clothier  
Parish Priest

### 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

**Raymond Friel, former Head of St Gregory's**, will be giving a talk on "The *Revolution of Tenderness: Being a Catholic in Today's World*" at 7.30pm on Monday, 29th January in the hall at St John's church in Bath. Following the publication of his book with the same title, Raymond will consider the development of the Church since the years before the Second Vatican Council and will offer an opportunity for reflection and discussion on questions such as "What do you think of the current state of the Church? What does the future hold? What does it mean to be a missionary disciple?", as well as offering his own recollections of life as a cradle-Catholic at that time when everyone sought to come to terms with the changes brought about by Vatican II. He is an engaging speaker and the evening is bound to be interesting, whether you agree with him or not!

**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** who died last week.

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

**The funeral of Peggy Grant** will be on Tuesday, 6th February at 1.30pm at Holy Ghost church, Midsomer Norton.

**The monthly Latin Mass in the Extraordinary (1962) Form** will be next Sunday, 4th February at 11.15am in the abbey crypt. All are very welcome.

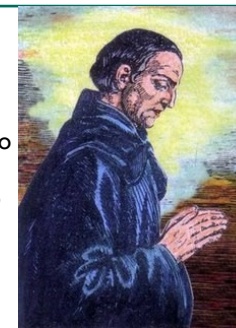
**Parish Maintenance Team** Again thanks for all your hard work last week. Please book into your diaries Saturday 17th February for the next Maintenance Team day.

**The Downside school pupils would like to bring the Downside communities together** as missionaries of Christ. We would like to offer Parishioners three **Lectio Divina** evenings so we would be able to encounter and listen to Christ together. Lectio is a way of listening and discovering how God is loving and acting in our lives today. The pupils of Downside would like to share the joy of faith and our own encounters with God. This will commence at St Benedict's Parish hall in the week of 19th February at 7-8pm (the exact days will be decided soon). Please bring some food to share. All age groups are welcome to join, you've got nothing to lose! For more details, contact Belen Iglesias ([biglesias@downside.co.uk](mailto:biglesias@downside.co.uk)) or Dom Michael.

**St Vincent de Paul (SVP)** Our parish SVP are pleased to say that, following our training, we can now begin visiting. If you know of anyone who is in need of and would like visits or practical help such as shopping, please can you give their name(s) and contact number to Fr Michael or Fr Boniface. If you would like any information on the SVP please contact Rosemary Tatar via email on [bluerabbit70@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bluerabbit70@hotmail.co.uk)

**Offertory Collection** Parish Collection last week raised: £336.99

**Martyrology: St Alban Roe** (feast on 31st January) was born on 20th July 1583 to a Protestant family in Suffolk. We know little about his early life, but are told that he tried to convert an imprisoned Catholic to Protestantism, but instead found that his arguments were defeated and he became a Catholic before going to Douai, in northern France, to train for the priesthood. He had an unusual temperament for such a vocation, being quite happy to rub people up the wrong way and to make sure they noticed. He left the English College but joined the community at Dieulouard (that became Ampleforth) in 1613, where he seems to have had no problems in living a community life and from there he became a founder member of the community of St Edmund in Paris (now at Douai Abbey). He came to work on the English Mission, was arrested and deported, but returned in 1619, when he was again arrested and imprisoned for 17 years. During this time he was permitted to leave the prison, returning at night, and he used this time to convert people during card games! In 1642 he was tried and found guilty of treason for being a Catholic priest. Before his execution he preached to the crowd about the meaning of his death and asked the Sheriff whether he could save his life by becoming a Protestant. On being told "Yes", he said, "See then what the crime is for which I am to die and whether religion be not my only treason?" He was hanged, drawn and quartered on 21st January 1642.



**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 wish to book the parish hall for an event**, please check the diary in the sacristy to make sure the date is free. If so, write in the details (including any preparation time needed), and please include a contact name and telephone number. Alternatively ring Bridget de Salis on 01761 232323.

**Diocesan Prayer Intention:** St Stanislaus, Dulverton and Sacred Heart with Watchet, Minehead

**Ecumenical Prayer Intention:** Bath City Church local group

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](mailto:domanselm@downside.co.uk)) so that we can establish whether such a course is viable and which day and time would work best.