

# 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

# Downside Abbey St Benedict's Parish Newsletter

## Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B – 29th April 2018

“Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty” (John 15:5)

Last year, the Bishop published a 3-year programme for the Diocese. Year 1 focuses on Mission, year 2 on Prayer and year 3 on Communion. As a part of this the Bath deanery organised a day with Michelle Moran, a founding member of the Sion Community, who has spent many years involved in mission work. She



was impressed that the programme begins with Mission, since this is often the final stage (and the one that we secretly hope won't actually happen, since this is the scary phase). We sometimes think that we are not ready for Mission; but we will never be ready. The Church is Mission; the vocation of every Christian is Mission. Mission means going out to tell people the Good News about Jesus Christ, and about the Church he founded, but is also means the transformation of ourselves as individuals and of our world. This is closely connected to prayer, and if we sincerely pray “Come Holy Spirit”, then our whole life will change. An important question is “What do I (my parish) need to leave behind in order to become missionary disciples, as called by the Gospel?” Our society is more open to everything, so our message also needs to be available for our society. This does not need to be done by “professionals”. We should remember that the Church was started by so-called uneducated lay people, and it is lay people who are central to the Mission of the Church. The day ended with an interesting comment: We often have more faith in our ability to fail than in God's ability to succeed.

Dom Anselm Brumwell  
Sub-Prior

### May Needs

Tins of vegetables (carrots, peas etc.)

Fruit juice

Kitchen rolls/Toilet rolls

Powdered milk/Instant mashed potato

Sponge pudding/Jam (not marmalade)

Tinned potatoes /Tinned meat pies



### 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

Next week's **Sycamore Course** will look at "The Holy Spirit in our lives". We will begin the formal part of the evening at 7:20pm, in order to allow enough time for discussion before we end at 8:30pm. Why not consider coming along? We have had some great discussion so far, and there is room for more people! We meet in the Abbey Visitor Centre from 7-ish and all are welcome.

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 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.

This year's **Confirmation Mass** will be in the Abbey at 6:30pm on Friday, 11th May. We pray for Laura Garcia and Danielle Murphy, from St Benedict's, who will be confirmed.

The **First Communion Mass** for St Benedict's School and the Parish will be on Saturday, 12th May at 10:30am in the Abbey.

The next **Parish Maintenance Day** will be on Saturday 12th May.

**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)

**Please remember** that hospitals and nursing homes are not permitted to tell the priests of Catholics in their care. If you are admitted to hospital or a nursing home and would like a visit, then please ask the staff to let Dom Michael, Dom Boniface or the chaplain know.

### **Martyrology: St Athanasius**

(feast on 2nd May) was born in 296 AD to a wealthy Christian family in Alexandria, that gave him a good secular education. In about 319 AD, when Athanasius was a deacon, the presbyter Arius gave a talk to the clergy, in which he denied that the Father and the Son were both fully God. This led to a great split in the Church, and Athanasius accompanied his bishop to the Council of Nicaea (325 AD), which discussed this and formulated the Christian doctrine that said that the Father and the Son are consubstantial, the phrase that we still have in the Creed on Sundays. Athanasius himself became Bishop of Alexandria and wrote about the Incarnation, always defending the orthodox Christian belief in the face of opposition from Arius and his followers. He died on 2nd May 373.



**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:** Immaculate Conception, Stroud.

**Ecumenical prayer intention:** Trinity Radstock.

We raised £180 for Julian House at our **soup lunch** on Wednesday. Thank you to those who supported us, to our soup makers and for all donations to the raffle.

**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)