

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 9.30-12.30 Monday to Saturday and 11.15-5.45 on Sundays during the summer

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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TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY YEAR B – 30th September 2018

“The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart” (Psalm 18:8)

The Old Testament Law given to Moses, as recounted in the books of Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy in particular, consisted of 613 laws. These regulated every aspect of life, from the food you ate, to the material your clothes could be made from and the penalties for various different crimes or sins. The Law was viewed as a great gift by the people of Israel, since it was a sign of God's love for them. “What great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? And what great nation is there, that has statutes and ordinances so righteous as all this law which I set before you this day?” (Deut. 4:7-8). Different prophets summarised the Law, but when asked, Jesus said that the two great commandments were “to love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength” (Deut. 6:5) and “love your neighbour as yourself” (Lev. 19:18).



Whilst Christians do not keep all the laws of the Old Testament, we are not without laws. We observe the Ten Commandments, the interpretations of the Old Testament that we find in the teaching of Jesus (some of which, like the Sermon on the Mount, make the teaching harder than that of Moses!), and the teachings/commandments of the Church. We fast and abstain on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, for example, we abstain from meat on Fridays, attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation. As with the Old Testament Law, the Church's laws aim to help us up to live a good Christian life, to bring us closer to Christ, and if we fail we have the sacrament of confession, where we can confess our sins, receive absolution and move on, having received the grace to live a better life. Confession times in our parish are on the back page of this Mass leaflet!

Dom Anselm Brumwell
Sub-Prior

September Needs

Custard, Instant mash, Powdered milk, Sponge Puddings, Meat soup, Washing up liquid, Toilet rolls, Deodorants, Sweet and savoury snacks, Macaroni cheese



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)

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01761 235100

A United Service will take place at Radstock Baptist Church tonight at 6pm. All are welcome.

3rd October is the anniversary of the Dedication of St Benedict's Church by Bishop Joseph Rudderham in 1957. Happy feast to all parishioners!

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day is on Friday, 5th October. This year's campaign tells the story of Longora, who lives in a village in Uganda, which is 14 hours from the capital. Her village has no electricity, gas or hospital and clean water is scarce. When she was pregnant she became seriously ill from drinking the dirty river water, and her baby died along with 10 other people in her village. Our donations will help to supply clean water to people like Longora through the developing world. Please give generously, and if you are a tax payer please use the CAFOD envelope in order to gift aid your donation. This means that CAFOD can reclaim the tax. It is also possible to donate on-line by visiting the CAFOD website.

The **Parish Maintenance Day** is on 6th October at 9am at St Benedict's.

The monthly Extraordinary Form (1962) Mass will be next Sunday, 7th October in the abbey crypt at 11.15am. The readings and prayers will come from the 20th Sunday after Pentecost, with a commemoration of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Christian International Peace Service (CHIPS) will post a series of prayers on its website: www.chipspeace.org/blog/PeaceDay. It can also be contacted on 0207 078 7439, or info@chipspeace.org

Bishop Robert Barron's Catholicism course will begin soon in the parish. 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. Dates and times will be announced soon.

The **minutes of the August meeting** of the Parish Pastoral Council are on the notice boards.

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. The Parish Council has already agreed to install a data projector and blinds in the hall, which can be used for parish courses, children's liturgy and other groups that use the hall. A dishwasher has also been donated, which you may have seen. If you have ideas for fundraising, please contact a member of the parish council.

Martyrology: St Thérèse of the Child Jesus

(1873-97) was a French Carmelite nun. The youngest surviving child of her parents (who were canonised in 2015), all her older sisters became nuns. She felt a vocation to the life of a Carmelite from an early age and yearned to enter as soon as possible. The local Bishop would not allow her to enter early and so she went to Rome with her father, where she asked the permission of Pope Leo XIII to enter at the age of 15. He left the decision to the local Bishop, who eventually gave in and allowed her to enter in 1888. She led the prayerful and enclosed life of a Carmelite nun, aiming to live every element of the life extraordinarily well. She found one of the nuns particularly difficult and came to realise that she was called to love her, no matter how annoying that nun might be for her. This has come to be known as her "Little Way". In 1895 she suffered a haemorrhage, the first sign of the tuberculosis that would cause her death 2 years later. Under obedience to her superiors, she wrote her autobiography, *The Story of a Soul*, which is still widely read today. Pope St John Paul II declared her a doctor of the Church in 1997. Her feast is on 1st October.



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 Maureen Coombs, Brian Auty, Basil Durnford, Margaret Reynolds, 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.

Diocesan prayer intention: St Joseph, Bridgwater; Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Burnham-on-Sea

Ecumenical prayer intention: Bath City Church Local Group

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

The Parish Collection: Last week raised: £489.08