

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.

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Assistant Parish Priest: Dom Boniface Hill. Tel: 01761 235115

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Registered Charity Number 1158507

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Epiphany – 7th January 2018

'Going into the house they saw the child with his mother, Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage' (Mt 2:11)

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS! A new year is traditionally a time to make some resolutions about the way in which we wish to live. Perhaps you have already decided to take more exercise, to give up smoking, or whatever. Perhaps you haven't given up the resolution yet! But it is also a good time to consider



our parish life. The Bishop has designated 2018 as a Year of Mission. One way in which we can help this is by being involved in our parish life. There are a number of different groups you could join: rosary, lectio divina, music, maintenance of the buildings, SVP, flowers, church cleaning, coffee after Mass. Or perhaps you would like to start up a new group – contact Dom Michael or Dom Boniface to talk about it.

Historically speaking the events of the Epiphany took place up to 2 years after the birth of Christ. In Matthew 2:16, we are told that Herod (who died in 4BC) sought the death of the boys aged 2 and below, not only of the newborns. The wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh; these gifts indicated Jesus' nature as a king, as God and as one who would die. They returned to their own country, where they must surely have spread the good news about the newborn king and God that they had seen. They were the first missionaries, and are good examples as we begin our diocesan Year of Mission.

Dom Anselm Brumwell
Sub-Prior

January Needs

Instant Mash/Tinned potatoes
Long grain rice, Kitchen rolls,
Toilet rolls, Tooth brushes, Multi-
purpose 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

Many thanks to all who helped to make the Christmas Masses so great. The abbey church was full for the 4pm Mass and the Midnight Mass was supported by an amazing choir; the parish Masses were also well attended, and we are grateful to all the musicians who played at the 9, 10 and 11am Masses, as well as the servers and readers in both churches.

This month's Mass in the Extraordinary (Tridentine) Form will be at 11.15am in the abbey crypt **TODAY**. The Mass will be for the external solemnity of the Epiphany. All are welcome. The next Mass will be on Sunday, 4th February.

Christian Unity Week runs from 18th to 25th January. There will be a number of united services in the area. On **Friday, 19th January at 5.15pm** the monastic community and choir from Downside School will sing Vespers in Wells Cathedral, and on **Sunday, 21st January at 3pm** the Boy Choristers and Vicars Choral from Wells Cathedral will sing Evensong in the Abbey Church. There will be no Vespers in the abbey church on those days.

From Monday 8th January all services in the abbey church and Midsomer Norton will return to the normal times, **except** on Tuesday 9th January when the abbey Mass will be at 9am in Midsomer Norton and 10am in the abbey.

The Parish Maintenance Group will meet on Saturday 13th January at 9am. All are welcome, and there are a variety of things to be done. We have been thanked for the work we did on the cleaning cupboard – so even small jobs are noticed! Please come and join us and get to know some more people in the parish. For more details, contact Lee Rodgers (w900lee@yahoo.co.uk).

CAFOD: Hear about CAFOD's work in Zimbabwe

Come along and hear from one of the speakers at one of our events:

Wednesday January 31st – Holy Family Church Southsea Road, Patchway, Bristol BS34 5DP 7.00pm-8.30pm *Chris Bain, Director of CAFOD, will be speaking.*

Saturday February 3rd 2pm – 4pm: Gloucester - English Martyrs Church, Tuffley Lane, Tuffley, Gloucester, GL4 0NX

Saturday February 10th 2pm – 4pm: Trowbridge – St John the Baptist church, 2 Wingfield Road, Trowbridge BA14 9EA

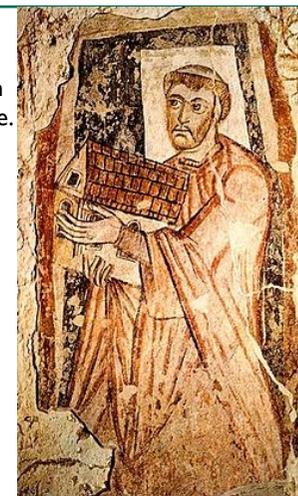
If you would like to join any parish group, please contact Dom Michael or Dom Boniface, who will put you in touch with the right person. Many contact details are also on the parish board.

Offertory Collection Parish Collection last week raised: £650.30 The Christmas collection raised £351.46

Martyrology: St Benet Biscop was born of noble parents in Northumbria about 627.

As a young man he served in the court of the Northumbrian King, Oswin. At the age of 25 he went on pilgrimage to Rome. He made a second visit some years later. On his return journey he visited the great abbey of Lérins where he stayed and became a Benedictine monk. After some years he returned to England and became abbot of a monastery in Canterbury. In 672 he came back to the north of England where he founded the monastery of St Peter at Monkwearmouth, Sunderland, and that of St Paul at Jarrow. From the north of England he made a number of pilgrimages to Rome, bringing back books for the monastic libraries instructing the monks in the singing of Plainchant which he had learned in Rome. Benet Biscop also introduced stained glass into this country.

He died on the 12th January 689, surrounded by his monks and exhorting them to the end. His feast is on 12th January and he is a patron of the English Benedictine Congregation, of which Downside is a member.



We pray for the sick of our parish, especially Peggie Woods, Eve Nuttall, Dolores Niles, Joseph Zacharias, Sheila Noad, Emmi di Maggio and David Wills. If you know someone who would like to be added to this list, please let the priest at Mass know their name.

Next year's Confirmation Mass will be on 11th May 2018 at 6.30pm. If you are in Year 9 or above and would like to be confirmed, please contact Dom Michael. Any adult who would like to be baptised or confirmed or to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church should also contact Dom Michael in order to arrange a preparation course.

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) so that we can establish whether such a course is viable and which day and time would work best.