

# 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

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## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B – 8th April 2018

“My Lord and my God” (John 20:28)

Throughout Eastertide, we hear story after story about the resurrection and the effect that had on the apostles. They see the Risen Jesus and know that he is their Lord and God, as Thomas declares in today's Gospel. This has a significant effect on their lives. They preach the Gospel throughout the known world, telling the whole world about the crucifixion and resurrection of the Lord, which brought about the forgiveness of sins. Their faith was so great that they could not help but speak of their faith and bring others to believe in the Risen Christ. They were even prepared to undergo a painful death rather than be silenced. “We cannot help but speak of what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20), they said. Bishop Declan has asked that this year be a special Year of Mission in our Diocese. As a part of this, the parish is running the Sycamore Course for parishioners and anyone else who is interested, and all are welcome to come along. If our parish is to grow and to flourish, then we must be outward looking and welcoming to all who come. But we also need to be conscious about the need for mission in and from our parish. This is a task for everyone – our parishioners have far more contact with people from a variety of backgrounds and faith perspectives than any priest, and so you can be effective preachers of the Gospel.



Dom Anselm Brumwell  
Sub-Prior

### April 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](mailto:sparsons@downside.co.uk) or call (01761 235323)

[WWW.DOWNSIDE.CO.UK](http://WWW.DOWNSIDE.CO.UK)  
[MONKS@DOWNSIDE.CO.UK](mailto:MONKS@DOWNSIDE.CO.UK)  
01761 235100

**The Feast of the Annunciation** is celebrated on Monday, 9th April this year.

**The next meeting of the parish council** will be on Wednesday, 18th April in the parish hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

**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 next **Parish Maintenance Day** will be Saturday 21st April. Please put it in your diary and if you have any jobs that need doing then please let Lee Rogers know at [w900lee@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:w900lee@yahoo.co.uk)

**This 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.

**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 Dom Boniface for further information.

**Martyrology: Today is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday.** St Faustina Kowalska was a Polish nun, who received a number of revelations about God's mercy and the devotion began to spread in the 1930s. It is a reminder that God is merciful and forgiving and that all Christians are also called to show these qualities to those around us. In the Divine Mercy devotion the message takes on a new focus, calling people to a deeper understanding that God's love is unlimited and available to all, even to the greatest of sinners. In 2000 Pope John Paul II made this a feast of the universal Church, to be kept on the Second Sunday of Easter. There will be devotions for Divine Mercy Sunday from 2pm today in St John's Church, Bath, including Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, confessions, Divine Mercy Chaplet (3pm) and veneration of the Divine Mercy image.



**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 Osmund, Salisbury; St Gregory and the English Martyrs, Most Holy Redeemer with Downton and Whaddon.

**Ecumenical prayer intention:** St Nicholas, Radstock.

We will begin the **Sycamore Course** on Tuesday, 10th April at 7pm in the Abbey Visitor Centre. It will finish by 8.30pm. The course is based on the Alpha model, but has been written by a Catholic priest in the Archdiocese of Westminster. It will run for 10 weeks, and all are welcome. The intention of the course is to help us to go back to the very basics of the faith and so it should function as a time of renewal in the parish. The first session is called "The Search for Happiness" and next week will be on the question "Does God Exist?"