

DOWNSIDE ABBEY

ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B – 6th May 2018

‘Anyone who fails to love can never have known God because God is love.’ (1 John. 4, 8)

In this Sunday's gospel we are returning to the last supper and Jesus' farewell discourse to his disciples. 'This is my commandment, love one another as I have loved you.' It was said of the early church: 'See how these Christians love one another.' Can the same be said of us? What kind of a welcome do newcomers receive when they walk into our church? Last Friday (4th May) we celebrated the feast of the English and Welsh martyrs, who were put to death in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries—over 300 priests, members of religious orders, laymen and women. We should never forget their sacrifice. 'A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.' Because of them the Catholic faith never died out in England and Wales. They chose to die rather than deny their faith. Would we be willing to do the same? Six members of the community of St Gregory at Douai (now at Downside) died as martyrs. They are our brothers.



As Blessed Pope Paul VI said in his homily for the canonisation of the Forty Martyrs in 1970: 'What most truly makes a man a man, are the fine points of his being and the root of his personality; his capacity for loving, for loving to the uttermost; for giving himself in a love which is stronger than death and which reaches out into eternity.'

Dom Boniface Hill
Assistant Parish Priest

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

The monthly **Mass in the Extraordinary Form** is **TODAY** at 11.15am in the Abbey Crypt. The prayers and readings are for the Fifth Sunday after Easter.

The traditional **Novena for Pentecost** begins on Ascension Thursday. Each day we say a prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit as a way of preparing for the feast of Pentecost.

The next session of the **Sycamore course** will be on Tuesday, 8th May in the Abbey Visitor Centre. We gather from about 7pm, and begin the formal part of the evening at 7.20pm, finishing at about 8.30pm. This week's topic is "Why do we need the Church?" Last week's session on the Holy Spirit saw a great deal of lively discussion. All are welcome, whether you have been before or not. Why not come and give it a go?

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 annual **Mass at Farleigh Hungerford Castle** Chapel in honour of Blessed Margaret Pole will be celebrated by Dom Boniface on Saturday 26th May at 6pm.

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.

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

The Parish Collection was £292.96 and £162.62 for the clergy training fund.

Martyrology: The Holy Abbots of Cluny have their feast on Friday, 11th May. The Abbey of Cluny was a Benedictine abbey that was a centre of reformed western monasticism in the 10th and 11th centuries. They gave a great emphasis to the celebration of the Divine Office and instituted a shift system to ensure that the praise of God would take place 24 hours each day. They also ensured that the monastic life at Cluny was humane, and St Odilo said that he would rather be known as too merciful than too strict. The commemoration of All Souls was first introduced in the west at Cluny. The feast celebrates SS. Odo, Maieul, Odilo, Hugh and Blessed Peter the Venerable, who were among the first abbots.



We pray for the sick of our parish, especially 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: Holy Family, Swindon.

Ecumenical prayer intention: Bath City Church local group.

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

Rosary on the Coast in the Crypt In union with nearly 400 Rosary Sites lining the coastline of England, Scotland and Wales, Dom Leo and Dom Michael joined with many Parishioners, and others, to pray for life, faith and peace in the British Isles. This lay movement has attracted unprecedented numbers of Catholics, with countless thousands praying the Rosary and other prayers at 3pm on Sunday 29th April. The afternoon concluded with those attending at the Crypt forming a human chain around the outside of the Chapel, and loudly reciting the Our Father!



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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

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| Vigils | 6am |
| Lauds | 7.10am |
| Mass | 8.35am |
| Midday Office | 12.30pm |
| Vespers | 6pm |

Sundays

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| 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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