

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 9.30-5pm Monday to Saturday and 11.30-6pm on Sundays

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 Leo Maidlow Davis. Tel: 01761 235107

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Registered Charity Number 1158507

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Fifth Sunday Year C – 10th February 2019

'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' (Luke 5, 10b)

Here are words from Pope Francis, spoken to young people at World Youth Day in Panama on January 26th: 'I remember once talking with some young people; one of them asked me: "Father, why are so many young people today not interested in whether God exists or find it difficult to believe in him, and they seem so bored and aimless in life? I asked them in return what they thought. One particular answer touched me: "It's because many of them feel that, little by little, they stopped existing for others; often they feel invisible'.



We know well that to feel acknowledged or loved it is not enough to be connected all day long. To feel respected and asked to get involved is greater than simply being "on-line". It means finding spaces where, with your hands, your heart and your head, you can feel part of a larger community that needs you and that you yourselves need.

The saints understood this very well. I think, for example, of Saint John Bosco. He did not go off to seek young people in far-off places, but learned to see with God's eyes everything that was going on in his city. Many other people were living in the same city, and many criticized those young people, but they were unable to see them with God's eyes. Don Bosco did, and found the energy to take the first step: to embrace life as it presented itself. From there, he was not afraid to take the second step: to create a community, a family with them, where through work and study they could feel loved. He gave them roots from which they could reach up to heaven.

One young Catholic who attended World Youth Day said on his return: 'Seeing people your own age from around the world living out their faith with passion and sincerity is encouraging, inspiring, and convincing. The next World Youth Day will be in Lisbon, Portugal, in 2022. Should we as a parish be planning our participation?'

Dom Leo Maidlow-Davis

February Needs

Long life fruit juice
Brown sauce, Ketchup
Tinned vegetables, Tinned spaghetti
Coffee
Tinned rice pudding.



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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The **Downside Heritage Department** is running its latest exhibition *Voices from the Cloister* every second and fourth Thursday of the month from January until 11th April. The next exhibition is 14th February. Material exhibited will include medieval manuscripts, vestments and reliquaries. Tickets cost £10 per person and include a tour of the abbey church and must be bought through our website. www.downsideabbey.co.uk/product-category/events/library-events/

Young Catholic Adults Retreat at Downside Abbey "Is the Christian life possible today? A Retreat on Life in Christ and the Meaning of Modernity" 15th to 17th February 2019. Keynote speaker, Sebastian Morello of the Centre for Catholic Study in London, following an introductory talk to be given by Fr Anselm, will consider this question. The Retreat is an opportunity for young Catholics from 18 to 35 to think deeply about their Faith, and how they might live out a life in Christ in today's world. Further details can be found at www.downsideabbey.co.uk/shop/events or by contacting rinabird@outlook.com

The **life of Dom Joseph Coombe-Tennant** is the subject of a talk by historian Bernard Lewis on Wednesday 27th February at 11am. Join us for tea & pastries in the Abbey Visitor Centre and hear the incredible stories of a man who escaped a German POW camp, joined Special Operations, worked for MI5 and eventually became a monk and parish priest of St Hugh's, Radstock. Donations will be welcomed and for more information email sparsons@downside.co.uk or call 01761 235323

CAFOD Planning Meeting will take place on Saturday 2nd March at St John the Evangelist Church Parish Hall in Bath from 11am-1pm. A free meal is provided as are ideas for your parish for Lent. RSVP to Liz.Clifton@cafod.org.uk

The annual **St Patrick's party** will take place in the parish room on Saturday 16th March from 6.30pm. Tickets cost £5 a head to include a supper of Irish stew and a drink. There will be music to sing along to and a raffle so come and join us for a fun evening. Add your name to the list at the back of the church for catering purposes and if you can help in any way there is a separate list for volunteers.

The Monastic Community at Downside Abbey invite everyone to join them for the annual **Easter Retreat** from Thursday 18th April to Sunday 21st April 2019. More information available at www.downsideabbey.co.uk/shop/events/monastery-events/easter2019

Children's Easter Egg Hunt will take place after 11am Mass on Sunday 21st April. Please add your children's names to the list at the back of the church so that we know how many prizes we need to buy.

Maytime Quiz and supper. Date to be arranged. Watch this space!

First Communion Prayer Sponsors. We are looking for people who would be willing to be prayer sponsors for the children doing their First Holy Communion. Please speak to Emily at the end of the 9am Mass or call her on 01761 751774. Thank you.

Martyrology: St Onesimus. It is good to remember that many of the people we read about in the Bible are saints whom we can come to know well and who pray for us. Onesimus was a runaway slave whom St Paul welcomed and made a Christian by proclaiming to him the Good News of Jesus Christ. Refresh your memory of Onesimus by reading Philemon, one of the shortest writings in the New Testament. Incidentally, his name means 'useful'. His feast day is the 16th February.



We pray for the sick of our parish, especially Laurence Bloom-Davis, Sarah Molony, Elizabeth Green, Annie Carter, Brian Auty, Basil Durnford, Margaret Reynolds, Dolores Niles, Sheila Noad, Marie-Louise McGarvey 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. This week we invoke Our Lady of Lourdes for our sick. Her feast day is February 11th, the day on which she first appeared to St Bernadette in 1858.

RIP Keith Lawrence Porter. Raised, cared for and loved by the nuns of the Convent in Stratton on the Fosse, most especially Sister Louise. A pupil of the school at St. Benedict's. Passed away, peacefully in his sleep, at home in Torquay weekend 9th January. Funeral at 3pm on 14th February at Church in Torbryan, very close to Buckfast Abbey."

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Peter, Cirencester; St Aldhelm, Malmesbury; St Michael, Tetbury

The Parish Collection: Last week raised: £142.04

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

If you are new to our parish or are visiting, please make yourself known to Dom Michael or Dom Leo. If you are at the 10am Mass in the Abbey, please make yourself known to the priest saying the Mass.

If you are in Year 9 or above and would like **to be confirmed** this year, please contact Dom Michael or Dom Leo in order that a suitable preparation course can be organised. The Bishop will come to administer the sacrament of confirmation on Friday, 17th May at 6.30pm. Please also get in touch **if you are an adult** who has not been confirmed – it is never too late!

To help you join in the **prayer of the Church**, why not try this free offer of one month's access to this amazing resource? Universalis is encouraging people to prayer with month free trials. Try it now <https://universalis.wordpress.com/2019/01/23/encouraging-people-with-free-trials/>