

# 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

[www.downsideabbey.co.uk](http://www.downsideabbey.co.uk)

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Registered Charity Number 1158507

# Downside Abbey St Benedict's Parish Newsletter

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT C - 10TH MARCH 2019

*But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' (Luke 4, 8)*



During Lent we are called to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. On Ash Wednesday Jesus in the Gospel warned us that each of these practices can be perverted into acts of self-glorification that may bring some immediate reward but which will be closed to the gifts that God our Father longs to give us. A powerful antidote to this hazard is for us to ask, 'How will my Lenten praying, fasting and almsgiving help other people?' One way to ensure that our fasting does not degenerate into dieting is to give what we save to the hungry, perhaps to the foodbank. To help focus on this we also have the CAFOD Family Fast Day on 15 March, with the collection for CAFOD on the Second Sunday of Lent, 17<sup>th</sup> March. And don't miss the Soup and Cheese Lunch on 13 March; details can be found in this newsletter. Plan what you will save through your family fast and make sure the money goes to those who have not enough to eat.

This year the Bishop is asking us to focus on prayer. To help us respond to his request we will have a pause at the beginning of each Sunday Mass during Lent after the Priest has greeted the people and before the Penitential Act. The Priest will then invite us to turn to our neighbour and promise to pray for them during the Mass. If there is something particular you would like your neighbour to pray for, then tell them briefly what it is. Later in the Mass, during the Bidding Prayers, there will be a special moment of silence during which we will pray for our neighbour's intentions. We hope in this way to grow stronger as a community, less subject to individualism and more like the first Christian community St Luke describes in Acts: 'The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul' (Acts 4, 32).

Dom Leo Maidlow-Davis  
Assistant Parish Priest

### March Needs

Jam, Rice pudding, Sponge puddings  
Coffee, Tuna Fish, Ketchup,  
Brown sauce, Macaroni cheese, Fruit juice, Squash,  
Cuppa soup, Tinned spaghetti, Meat pies, Corned beef.



### 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.downsideabbey.co.uk](http://www.downsideabbey.co.uk)  
[monks@downside.co.uk](mailto:monks@downside.co.uk) 01761 235100

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**Your parish needs you!** The Parish Pastoral Council are seeking volunteers to help with the weekly Masses. We are looking for more Readers, Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, helpers with the Children's Liturgy and Sacristans. In a new development we are also trying to create a team to be responsible for writing the Prayers of the Faithful. Our aim is to get more parishioners involved. If you are willing to help please sign the forms on the lectern in the porch.

**Soup and Cheese Lunch** on Wednesday 13th March 12pm-2pm in aid of CAFOD, in the parish room of St Benedict's Church. Entrance £4 with a raffle and bring-and-buy table. Please come and taste some of our delicious soups and support this worthwhile charity.

Every Friday during Lent, we will be praying **The Stations Of The Cross** at 7pm at St Benedict's. It takes about fifteen minutes and all are invited to come.

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.

**Children's Easter Egg Hunt** will take place after 11am Mass on Easter 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!

**CAFOD's Family Fast Day on Friday 15th March.** CAFOD is the Catholic charity that helps the poorest, most hard to reach people around the world. We believe in a world where every woman, man and child can flourish. But the reality is we are forced to turn away one in three requests for help, simply because we don't have enough money to go round. This is an opportunity to support our brothers and sisters around the world. On Friday 15th March could you eat a simple meal in solidarity and give what you save to help people? Please collect your Fast Day envelope this week and give whatever you can.

**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 March. 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/](http://www.downsideabbey.co.uk/product-category/events/library-events/)

### **Martyrology: St Gregory the Great.**

At Downside we keep the Feast of St Gregory the Great on Tuesday March 12. St Gregory led a monastic life in Rome until he was elected Pope in 590. He was dedicated to encouraging the highest standards of music and liturgy in the Church and it was his decision to send St Augustine and a considerable number of the monks of his community to England to convert the Saxons to Christianity. He was a great admirer of St Benedict and his Rule, writing a full account of his life in his *Dialogues*. At Downside we keep a piece of his pastoral staff, the greater part of which is preserved in Rome. Pictured here is the head of St Gregory's pastoral staff.



**We pray for the sick of our parish.** Lent is a good time to refresh our parish list of those to pray for who are sick. If you would like to be prayed for or if there is someone else you would like to see on our list, and if you are sure they would be happy to be on the list, then please tell Fr Michael or Fr Leo.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** Immaculate Conception Devizes, with Lavington.

**Ecumenical Prayer Link:** Trinity, Westfield

**The Parish Collection:** Last week raised: £279.34

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

**Are you an EU citizen?** The Bishops have asked parishes to advise parishioners who are EU citizens that they need to be aware of the Government's Settlement Scheme, which requires them to apply to protect their existing rights and place in our society. Official information on the Settlement Scheme can be found at: [gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families](http://gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families)

More information is available at: [gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-leaders-toolkit](http://gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-leaders-toolkit)

The Bishops urge the whole Catholic community to take up Pope Francis's call to welcome, protect, promote and help to integrate everyone who has made their home here – with particular concern at present for our European brothers and sisters.