

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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BAPTISM OF THE LORD YEAR C – 13th January 2019

... he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire (Luke 3, 16b)

'Christ is bathed in light; let us also be bathed in light. Christ is baptized; let us also go down with him, and rise with him.' These words are taken from a sermon by St Gregory Nazianzen, one of the Cappadocian Fathers, who was born in Turkey in AD 329. St Gregory is teaching us that when we contemplate a mystery in the life of Christ as



depicted in the Gospels we are learning about our own mystery too, which is caught up into the mystery of Christ. So today we are being asked to reflect afresh on our own Baptism and what it means to us today. Our picture shows how the artist, Pietro Perugino, and his assistants, who painted this fresco in the Sistine Chapel in the 1480s, understood the glory that comes to us in Baptism; it looks a long way from our present appearance, but it shows us as God the Father loves to see us, bathed in light and risen with Christ.

Dom Leo Maidlow Davis
Assistant Parish Priest

January Needs

Many thanks for your help over Christmas. We are currently very well stocked with the exception of: Instant mashed potato, Instant coffee, Tinned vegetables. (not beans and pulses). Please see the updated list in the church porch for what is needed.



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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St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP): The focus of SVP work is visiting and befriending. Mass for SVP intention will be celebrated on the Anniversary of our formation on Wednesday 16th January at 7.30 p.m. All welcome. If you would like to join us visiting those in need (Full member) or as support (Auxiliary) or find out more about the SVP, please ask/contact Rosemary Tatar 07790 441483 or PresidentB040517@svp.org.uk If you know of anyone who is in need of and would like visits or practical help, please can you give their name(s) and contact details to Fr Michael, Fr Leo or Rosemary Tatar. Thank you.

The **next session of the Robert Barron Catholicism course** will be on Wednesday, 16th January 2019 at 7:15pm. The next session is called "A Vast Company of Witnesses. The Communion of Saints". All are welcome – think about coming even if you have not been before!

As part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, **the monastic community will sing Latin Vespers in Wells Cathedral on Friday, 18th January** at 5.15pm. All are welcome to attend. The choir from Well Cathedral will sing Evensong in the Abbey at 3.30pm on Sunday, 20th January.

The next **Parish Council meeting** will be on 23rd January at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

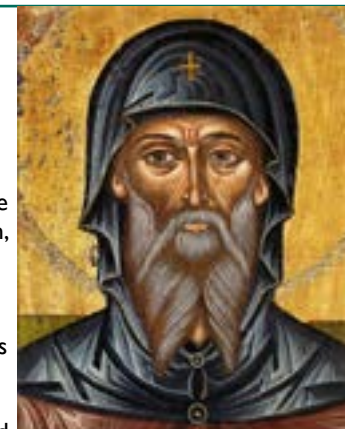
Fashion for Freedom. Join us for a charity dinner and Fashion show on Saturday 2nd February 7pm – 10pm at Downside School Refectory and Theatre. This event is in support of the charity YOU CAN FREE US. Buy your tickets from www.downside.co.uk/shop/events/school-events/charity-fashion-show-supper/

The **Abbey website** is now live. The address is www.downsideabbey.co.uk.

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!

The **Downside Heritage Department** is running its latest exhibition *Voices from the Cloister* every second and fourth Thursday of the month from 17th January until 11th April. 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/

Martyrology: **St Antony** was born in a wealthy family in Upper Egypt in 251AD. His parents died when he was 18 and left him to care for his younger sister. Shortly afterwards he heard the words of Jesus in the Gospel, "If you would be perfect, sell all you have and give the money to the poor and come follow me". He gave some of his family's lands to his neighbours, sold the rest and gave his sister to the care of some local women, who lived in a sort of early convent, whilst he went to live an ascetic life, first in that area and later in the desert. Antony is often considered to be the 'father of monasticism' and his life, as written by St Athanasius, was an influence on St Benedict. Antony lived the life of a hermit, going on occasion to Alexandria (usually to quell a riot!), and focused on prayer and manual work. He died in 356AD, and his feast is celebrated on 17th January.



We pray for the sick of our parish, especially 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.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Jake Francis-Jones** who died last week. There will be a Requiem Mass on Thursday, 17th January at 2pm in the abbey church.

Diocesan Prayer Intention: Our Lady, Queen of Apostles, Cheddar; St Joseph and St Teresa, Wells

Ecumenical Prayer Intention: St Peter's, Westfield

The Parish Collection: Last week raised: £651.96

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.