

# Downside Abbey St Benedict's Parish Newsletter

## Mass & Office Times

*Everyone is welcome*

### Masses in St Benedict's church

Saturday Vigil Mass 5 p.m.

Sunday Masses 9 a.m. 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

### Weekday Masses in Holy Ghost church, Midsomer Norton

Tuesday, Friday & Saturday at 9.45 a.m.

### Confessions

Saturdays at Holy Ghost from 10.15-11 a.m.

Sundays in St Benedict's from 10.15-10.45 a.m.

Sundays in the Abbey church from 9.35-9.55 a.m.

### Regular events

Adoration 9.30-5pm Monday to Saturday and 11.30-6 p.m. on Sundays

Prayer group on Mondays at 7.30 p.m. in Holy Ghost church

Rosary on Thursdays at 7 p.m. in St Benedict's

### The Abbey Church

#### Weekdays

Vigils 6 a.m.

Lauds 7.10 a.m.

Mass 8.35 a.m.

Midday Office 12.30 p.m.

Vespers 6 p.m.

#### Sundays

Lauds 7.30 a.m.

Mass 10 a.m.

Midday Office 12.30 p.m.

Vespers/Benediction 5 p.m.

### 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)

[monks@downside.co.uk](mailto:monks@downside.co.uk)

01761 235100

Registered Charity Number 1158507

# Downside Abbey St Benedict's Parish Newsletter

## PALM SUNDAY and EASTER DAY (C) 14<sup>TH</sup> & 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2019

*'I am the light of the world' (John 8, 12).*

This week's newsletter is a double issue to include Easter Sunday.

Therefore my message to you embraces the terrible events of our Saviour's Passion and the glory of His Resurrection. In the coming days both must be kept before the eyes of our

heart. We accompany the Lord Jesus in our special work of consolers, in silence and apparent inactivity, simply standing by Him as a friend does for the one he loves. In the mystery of our very being the Eternal Father has designated us to have compassion on His Son. What a sublime calling is this: the wonder of the angels and the delight of the saints! As you go about your daily routine and seemingly trivial tasks, you are also treading the path to Calvary. You have a hidden life of which the world knows nothing. In quiet moments turn your heart to Jerusalem in 33AD. In the order of grace you can truly be there, and Jesus during His Passion was even then comforted by each of you.

But we are not to linger there, but rather to rejoice that the Sacrifice of Christ is complete on Good Friday afternoon: the necessary and absolute Act of obedience. The Father's only Begotten is raised on Easter Day and our true destiny is now possible.

If on Holy Saturday the King sleeps after his mighty labour, we too tread softly. He is not to be woken until 'very early on Easter morning.' It is (and rightly) the holy women who are the first to know and announce the startling news. He is indeed risen. In the sadness and sorrows of our present trials, God wishes to give us hope and joy. Love has conquered. Alleluia. Amen.

Dom Michael Clothier,  
Parish Priest



### April Needs

Instant Mash/Cuppa soup

Tinned vegetables

Fruit juice/Squash

Jam/Sponge puddings

Washing up liquid/Laundry liquid / powder



### 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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**Triduum times:** Masses on Easter Day will be at the normal times, except that **there will be no 6 p.m. Mass on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April.** The Triduum will be celebrated in St. Benedict's at the following times:

**Maundy Thursday: 8 p.m.**

**Good Friday: 3 p.m.**

**The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night: 9 p.m.**

**Easter Services – Music:** Help is needed with music and singing at all the Easter services. There will be practices on Wednesday 10th April and Tuesday 16th April in the church hall at 7 p.m. If you cannot make a practice but would like to be involved, please contact Julie Justin on 07930 062552, Fr Michael or Fr Leo. Reading music is not essential.

**Easter Services – Altar Servers:** We would like young servers to be involved in the liturgy over the Easter period. Please contact Fr Michael, Fr Leo, Paul Justin 07723 000142 or Phil Colbourne 01749 840603. Full training will be provided.

**Easter duties.** The Church calls upon us to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year, if possible in the Easter season (Ash Wednesday to Pentecost).

**Parish Service of Reconciliation:** There will be a Service of Reconciliation in St Benedict's Church on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 p.m. This service will be a special event in Holy Week and a wonderful preparation for our celebration of the Lord's Passion and Resurrection. There will be three priests available for Confessions.

**Good Friday:** on Good Friday our collection, as is traditional, will be for the Holy Places. The Novena to the Divine Mercy also begins on Good Friday. There will be Stations of the Cross in St Benedict's at 12 noon on Good Friday.

**Divine Mercy Sunday (April 28<sup>th</sup>)** devotions will be in the Holy Ghost Church Midsomer Norton at 2.30 p.m. There will be Confessions, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Sermon and Adoration, followed by tea. From the diary of a young Polish nun, Sr Faustina Kowalska, concerning revelations that she received about God's mercy, a special devotion began spreading throughout the world in the 1930s. This Feast was granted to the Universal Church by Pope St John Paul II at the canonisation of Sr Faustina on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2000.

All Parishioners are most welcome to the **Easter Retreat Conferences** and workshops at Downside Abbey and to any or all of the events in the Abbey Church as advertised on our website: [www.downsideabbey.co.uk](http://www.downsideabbey.co.uk) On the website go to MONASTERY and then to EVENTS. The theme this year will be 'Lord, teach us to pray.'

The **Parish Maintenance Team's** next maintenance day is Saturday 20th April.

**Children's Easter Egg Hunt** will take place after 11 a.m. 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.

**We pray for the sick of our parish** especially Ron Pullen.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** St Catharine, Frome with St Dominic Mells (14<sup>th</sup> April) and Our Lady St Mary of Glastonbury with St Michael, Shepton Mallet (21<sup>st</sup> April).

**Ecumenical Prayer Link:** Bath City Church – local group (14th April) and St Peter's (21st April)

**The Parish Collection:** Last week raised: £343.41

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 10 a.m. Mass in the Abbey, please make yourself known to the priest saying the Mass.

**Young Catholic Adults Pilgrimage to the Holy Land:** Clifton Diocese and Downside Abbey are organizing a Young Catholic Adults Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, 23 July to 1 August 2019. Bookings are still open if you would like to join the existing group of 37 young Catholic adults on pilgrimage to the Holy Land this summer. The group is accompanied by two priests, Fr. Matt Anscombe of Clifton Diocese, and Fr. Anselm Brumwell of Downside. This is an incredible opportunity for you to visit the places where Jesus was born, lived, performed miracles, died and was raised from the dead. The group will also visit historic and cultural sites, and there are opportunities for swimming, camel riding, camping out in the desert with the Bedouin, and even rafting on the Jordan river! This really is an amazing and life changing experience! For more information and to book, please contact Rina [rinabird@outlook.com](mailto:rinabird@outlook.com)

**St. Vincent de Paul (SVP)** Thank you for the donations in our parish SVP collection box.

**Global Healing - how our faith helps us care for our common home.** A new film produced by CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration Film Company) and sponsored by the Bishops will be shown in the Church Hall on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7p.m. Please join us for an inspiring evening of viewing and conversation, so that we can together respond to Pope Francis's call to care for creation and to pass on a healthy planet to our children's children. This will be an important event in the life of our Parish and mission, so you are encouraged to put it in your diary now.

**We remember in our prayers** Mrs Annunziata (Tina) O'Neill, mother of Rita Beaven, who passed away at Rita's home on the 31st March. There will be a Requiem Mass at The Holy Ghost on Tuesday 23rd April at 12 noon.

**School of Joy products:** Religions items in olive wood or embroidery work made by children in Bethlehem with learning difficulties are newly available in the porch of the Abbey Church. Money given in exchange for these items is sent to the School of Joy, which is a lifeline for poor Christian and Muslim children with learning difficulties who live in the place where Jesus was born. Please be generous.