

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 Boniface Hill. Tel: 01761 235115

www.downsideabbey.co.uk

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Registered Charity Number 1158507

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 16th December 2018

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, ‘Rejoice!’ (Phil. 4:4)

Today's rose vestments indicate that the end is nigh! Advent is more than half-way through and Christmas is well and truly coming. It is also a reminder that Advent is not only about penance and preparation, but also about joy. This is also a feature of the sacrament of confession. We use this sacrament as a way of preparing for the major festivals of the Church, and traditionally people would ensure they went to confession before Christmas and Easter. When we go to confession, we examine our life carefully. We consider our relationship with God, with our family and friends, with the people we do not particularly like, and with ourselves. We consider the time and effort we give to prayer or spiritual reading, our attitude about going to Mass, the ways in which we are not as kind or generous to others as we should be. We bring this to the sacrament of confession and tell God openly, honestly and aloud exactly what has gone wrong in our life. The priest is there as an intermediary, to help us to make a good confession. He tries to give some assistance, sets a penance and then reconciles us by giving absolution. It has often been noted that people go to communion more often than in the past, but go to confession far less. These two sacraments should be seen as part of the package of Christian life. The parish reconciliation service will be on Monday, 17th December at 7:30pm, and there are confessions in all the local Catholic churches at different times. So think seriously about making the most of this opportunity and receive the gift of God's love before Christmas.



Dom Anselm Brumwell
Sub-Prior

December Needs

The food bank is getting ready for Christmas and is still desperately short of many items.

Please see the list in the church porch for what is needed. Many thanks for your help and support.



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.downsideabbey.co.uk
monks@downside.co.uk 01761 235100

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Looking for Advent calendars, Christmas cards, presents and stocking fillers? Come to the **Abbey Visitor Centre** for interesting, traditional, local and beautiful gifts, cards and devotional items! And why not stay for a warm welcome, a cup of coffee and a slice of homemade cake!



The **new data projector** has been installed in the parish hall, thanks to a generous donation. This is available for use by groups using the hall, children's liturgy etc.

The **Parish Carol Service** will be in St Benedict's on 16th December at 3pm followed by tea.

The **Parish Reconciliation Service** will be on Monday, 17th December at 7.30pm in St Benedict's.

Christmas Mass times: Christmas Eve: Parish Vigil Mass in the Abbey Church at 4pm, preceded by carols from 3:30pm. **Midnight Mass** in the Abbey Church begins at 11pm, preceded by carols from 10.30pm. **Christmas Day:** 9am and 11am in St Benedict's. 10am in the Abbey Church. No evening Mass.

Advent crib festival. During Advent we are inviting everyone (children or adult) to bring a crib-scene of the Nativity to St Benedict's. This can take the form of anything from Lego to porcelain, family heirloom to modern depiction, an image on card, tin, glass or other vessel. These should be brought to any of the weekend Masses from the beginning of Advent on 1st/2nd December. They will be displayed on the altar steps throughout Advent and will be blessed by the priests saying Mass on 22nd/23rd December, after which they can be taken home. Please label your contribution clearly.

The **next session of the Robert Barron Catholicism course** will be on Wednesday, 9th January 2019 at 7:15pm.

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

The Great 'O' Antiphons: These are brief prayers, used at the Magnificat in Vespers and as the verse of the Alleluia from 17th – 23rd December and are the basis of the hymn 'O Come Emmanuel'. Each antiphon addresses Christ by one of the messianic titles found in the Old Testament and asks him to come again. The antiphons begin with the title 'O Wisdom', locating Christ as the Word before Creation and go through the prophecies of Israel until the Incarnation and birth of Christ. The Latin initials of each title (Sapientia [Wisdom], Adonai [Lord], Radix Jesse [Root of Jesse], Clavis David [Key of David], Oriens [Rising Sun], Rex Gentium [King of the nations], Emmanuel [God with us]) in reverse read "Ero cras", "Tomorrow, I shall be [with you]."



We pray for the sick of our parish, especially Elizabeth Green, Annie Carter, Brian Auty, Basil Durford, Margaret Reynolds, Dolores Niles, Sheila Noad, 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: St Patrick, Brockworth; Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Churchdown

Ecumenical prayer intention: Radstock Baptist Church

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

The Parish Collection: Last week raised: £221.36

Christmas raffle tickets are now available to purchase.

Volunteers at St Benedict's Church Thanks to all those volunteers who keep St Benedict's Church clean and tidy and to those who decorate the church with flowers through the year. Additional volunteers are always needed and would be warmly welcomed for 2019. There is a list at the back of the church for you to sign. If you want more details about cleaning contact Mo Bennett on 01749 840 508. For more details about the flowers contact Marybell Mellotte on 01761 232 183.