

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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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT C – 17TH MARCH 2019

And a voice came for the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him' (Luke 9, 35).

The call to repentance and forgiveness.

It is one of the Commandments of the Church that the faithful should confess their sins in the holy sacrament of penance at least once a year. This used to be called our 'Easter duties'. Now obviously, this call by the Church is not any mere exercise of clerical power. Much more importantly, it is a loving approach by your Saviour, asking you to allow Him to heal the wounds of sin in your heart. If you have not heard Him knocking, then now today, as you read this, open wide the doors of your whole being, of your longings, sorrows and failures. He wishes to begin the work of renewal, repair and indeed transformation. You will become a new person in Christ.

There is so much at stake in this matter that the evil one goes to great lengths to prevent it taking place at all. Once again, Lent can pass by, like some ship in the night. The Transfiguration shows us today how special is our life and our calling. We too are destined for an eternal home, prepared from before all time by Our Loving Heavenly Father. Like Jesus, we are to be transfigured by divine grace, as Saint Paul tells us in the second reading. This Lenten Season is indeed a time of hope and joy, when all nature awakens from its winter sleep. May we share our joy and peace with those around us. Amen.



Dom Michael Clothier,
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 or call 01761 235323)

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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).

Triduum times: 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.

The **Stations of the Cross** on **Friday 12 April** will be led by some of the young members of our parish. The service will start at **6pm** on this Friday only. If you would like your child to take part please contact Coralie O'Gorman on 07871410557 or Rosie Harrington on 07970016334.

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.

St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) Thank you to everyone who bought National Raffle tickets. We raised £46.00 for the SVP's National work in England & Wales. The draw will take place on 28th March.

Many thanks to all who supported and contributed to a very successful **soup and cheese lunch** last Wednesday. There was a lovely happy buzz in the room, as people chatted and tucked into delicious homemade soups and a variety of home baked breads. We also raised a magnificent £301.20 for CAFOD.



The **Parish Maintenance Team** was hard at work on Saturday 9th March, many thanks to all those who helped out. The next maintenance day is Saturday 20th April—don't worry, as it is Easter Saturday we won't be doing a whole shift!

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.

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 **28th 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/

Martyrology: St Joseph's feast is kept on Tuesday March 19th. Not a word of St Joseph's is recorded in scripture, only his actions as he protects Mary and Jesus, all of which are in obedience to what he is told by God. The tradition is that he died before Jesus' public ministry began, and since Jesus and Mary almost certainly attended his death bed, he is the patron of the dying and of a good death. Blessed Pius IX named him patron of the universal church and St John XXIII added his name to the Roman Canon.



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: St Benedict's, Stratton on the Fosse.

Ecumenical Prayer Link: St Nicholas, Radstock.

The Parish Collection: Last week raised: £270.58

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.

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

More information is available at: 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.