

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

monks@downside.co.uk

01761 235100

Registered Charity Number 1158507

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR C –

20th January 2019

'The nations will see your vindication,
and all kings your glory.'
(Isaiah 62, 2)

At a time of great political unrest, the English Christian has a crucial task to perform. The media and those in positions of government are quite lacking in responsible behaviour or speech. Alarmist and hysterical slogans conceal from the public the real issues, and a feeling of confused helplessness prevails amongst ordinary folk.

We now have to stand up and proclaim that the national wellbeing is not in the hands of mere men and women. Their power is very limited indeed, though they would suggest otherwise. We are in the hands of Jesus Christ, who is the lord of history. In his hands are all the hearts of men, and all our needs as well. We must daily entrust ourselves and all those around us into God's care. We must refuse the temptation to anger and despondency. We must say 'no' to the sickly satisfaction of doomwatch. The Lord is working for us and can bring good out of this evil. Our calling now is to proclaim God our Father as our hope in the darkness and trial.

We must pray confidently, for our prayers are powerful. And we should cast our net wider, to include other countries. The plight of Europe is in fact worse than our own, and we must not forget our ability, and obligation, to help. Pray always and never lose heart.

Dom Michael Clothier
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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The **next session of the Robert Barron Catholicism course** will be on Wednesday, 23rd January 2019 at 7:15pm. All are welcome – think about coming even if you have not been before!

As part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, **the choir from Wells Cathedral will sing Evensong in the Abbey at 3.30pm today.**

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

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 31st January. 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/

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 next **Parish maintenance day** will be Saturday 9th February,

Young Catholic Adults Retreat at Downside Abbey "Is the Christian life possible today? A Retreat on Life in Christ and the Meaning of Modernity" 15th to 17th February 2019. Keynote speaker, Sebastian Morello of the Centre for Catholic Study in London, following an introductory talk to be given by Fr. Anselm, will consider this question. The Retreat is an opportunity for young Catholics from 18 to 35 to think deeply about their Faith, and how they might live out a life in Christ in today's world. Further details can be found at www.downsideabbey.co.uk/shop/events or by contacting rinabird@outlook.com

The **life of Dom Joseph Coombe-Tennant** is the subject of a talk by historian Bernard Lewis on Wednesday 27th February at 11am. Join us for tea & pastries in the Abbey Visitor Centre and hear the incredible stories of a man who escaped a German POW camp, joined Special Operations, worked for MI5 and eventually became a monk and parish priest of St Hugh's, Radstock. Donations will be welcomed and for more information email sparsons@downside.co.uk or call 01761 235323

First Communion Prayer Sponsors. We are looking for people who would be willing to be prayer sponsors for the children doing their First Holy Communion. Please speak to Emily at the end of the 9am mass or call her on 01761 751774. Thank you

Martyrology: St Francis de Sales was born of noble and pious parents, near Annecy, 1566, and studied with brilliant success at Paris and Padua. On his return from Italy he gave up the grand career which his father had marked out for him in the service of the state, and became a priest. When the Duke of Savoy had resolved to restore the Church in the Chablais, Francis offered himself for the work, and set out on foot with his Bible and breviary and one companion, his cousin Louis of Sales. It was a work of toil, privation, and danger. Every door and every heart was closed against him. He was rejected with insult and threatened with death. But nothing could daunt or resist him, and before long the Church burst forth into a second spring. It is stated that he converted 72,000 Calvinists. He was then compelled by the Pope to become Coadjutor Bishop of Geneva, and succeeded to the see in 1602. At times the exceeding gentleness with which he received heretics and sinners almost scandalized his friends. In union with St. Jane Frances of Chantal he founded at Annecy the Order of the Visitation, which soon spread over Europe. Though poor, he refused provisions and dignities, and even the great see of Paris. He died at Avignon in 1622.



We pray for the sick of our parish, especially Laurence Bloom-Davis, 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.

The Parish Collection: Last week raised: £334.56

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.

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!