

# 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](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

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

23rd & 30th December 2018

"He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord" (Micah 5:4)

In this last Sunday of Advent, the Church directs us to turn to the Blessed Virgin. We think of her humility and her obedience. She is the woman of faith and trust. Besides, she is the loving servant who sets out quickly to care for her elderly cousin, now suddenly with child. We ourselves should ask our Mother in grace to help us in all our many trials and troubles. She is only too ready to hasten to our aid, as she did to Elizabeth and Zachary.

And this year, there is no time to delay, for the next day is Christmas Eve with all its own excitements. When we were young, it was special for its bustle and anticipation and also the air of secrecy. Surprises involved whispers and knowing glances. It was all quite entrancing for the young and young at heart. I hope we never lose that sense of joy and expectancy for the great winter feast.

This year the Lord wishes to give each of you some special grace, known only to Him, and then perhaps partly to yourself. It is for you and your work and your life. But also and especially for your joy and peace of mind. In return for the present of the King, all He asks of us is our heart. Come Lord, and do not delay.

Dom Michael Clothier,  
Parish Priest



#### 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](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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**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.

**Many thanks** to all those who made the **Parish Carol Service** such a success. It was great to see the church so full.

There will be a **Mass at Midsomer Norton** on 26th December at 10.30am.

**Next Sunday, 30th December**, is the Feast of the Holy Family.

The **morning Offices** (Matins and Lauds) and Mass will be an hour later from 24th December until 5th January, i.e. Matins at 7am; Lauds at 8.10am; Mass at 9.30am.

There will be a **Mass on New Year's Eve** in the abbey crypt at 11.30pm. Mass in the Abbey on **1st January** will be at 10am.

**New Year's Eve at Downside.** As an alternative to fireworks and champagne, you are invited to join Fr Michael for Mass in the Crypt Chapel at 11.30 pm on Monday 31st December. Mass will be followed by Adoration throughout the night, and if you would like to join the rota please contact Rina rinabird@outlook.com. Family groups would be especially welcome. There will also be drinks and nibbles in the Visitor Centre from 10pm. Please bring something to eat and drink to share.

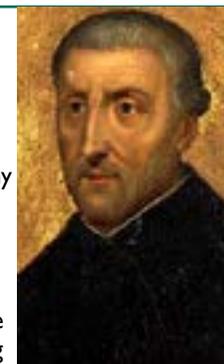
The **new data projector** has been installed in the parish hall, thanks to a generous donation. This is available for use by groups using the hall, children's liturgy etc.

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

**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/](http://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](http://www.downsideabbey.co.uk).

**Martyrology: St Peter Canisius** (Pieter Kanis) was born on 8th May 1521 in Nijmegen. He studied at Cologne, where he earned a Master's degree at the age of 19. Whilst there, he met Peter Faber, one of the founders of the Jesuits and Peter Canisius became the first Dutch Jesuit. He founded a number of German-speaking colleges and through his preaching and Catechism he won back many lapsed and wavering Catholics to the Church during the period of the Counter-Reformation. He attended several sessions of the Council of Trent in 1547 and founded what was to become the University of Innsbruck. In 1591 he suffered a stroke, which left him partially paralysed, but he continued to preach and to write with the help of a secretary. He is particularly known for his Mariology, saying that Mary is the surest way to Christ. He died in Fribourg in 1597 and is considered the second apostle of Germany.



**We pray for the sick of our parish**, especially Sarah Molony, Elizabeth Green, Annie Carter, Brian Auty, Basil Dumford, 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 for 23rd December:** St Edmund, Calne; St Anthony of Padua, Melksham

**Ecumenical Prayer Intention for 23rd December:** St Benedict's, Stratton-on-the-Fosse

**Diocesan Prayer Intention for 30th December:** Assumption of the BVM, Chippenham

**Ecumenical Prayer Intention for 30th December:** Trinity, Radstock

If you would like to receive the **newsletter by email**, please contact Steve Parsons [sparsons@downside.co.uk](mailto:sparsons@downside.co.uk)

**The Parish Collection:** Last week raised: £465.43

**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.