

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

monks@downside.co.uk

01761 235100

Registered Charity Number 1158507

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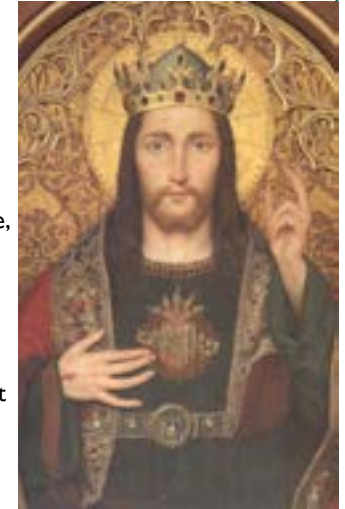
CHRIST THE KING YEAR B – 25th November 2018

"Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the First-born from the dead, the Ruler of the kings of the earth" (Rev. 1:5)

Are you actually ready for the coming of Christ the King? Am I ready? The answer in my case is 'No, definitely not, but I am working on it.' Today the Church reminds us of God as king and calls us to prepare our hearts, both for His final coming and for His special silent coming into our hearts at this time. We also have to remind ourselves, and others too, that Christ is indeed king of the whole universe; and our lives should bear witness to this. Our life, our kindness, our patience, cheerfulness and generosity must be our powerful sermon. Words by themselves are nought.

Now Christ truly loves the whole of His creation. Every tiny particle is of His making, and is there for a purpose, hidden from us. In fact, there is a mysterious creative event which lies ahead which scripture tells us is a quite revolutionary Divine action: 'Behold, I make a new heaven and a new earth,' says the Lord. And you and I are invited to play a part, uniquely ours, in this plan and project. May God reign in our lives and souls.

Father, may Your kingdom come. Amen.



Dom Michael Clothier
Parish Priest

November 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)

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The **Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)** is holding its **Annual General Meeting** in the Parish Hall **after the 6pm Mass today**. This will give parishioners the chance to hear what the PPC has done during the year and what is being planned for the year ahead. All parishioners are invited to come along.

If you are looking for a way to support homeless, hungry and vulnerable people in Bath this winter you can make an even bigger impact by donating to Genesis Trust during their **Big Give Christmas Appeal 27th Nov – 4th Dec**. All the funds raised will provide a hot breakfast 5 days a week for visitors to their Lifeline drop-in centre. Go to www.bit.ly/GenesisBigGive18 for more information or join their Big Give morning on 27th Nov 10am – 1pm at the Forum Coffee House, St James's Parade, Bath.

Robert Barron's Catholicism course will continue this Wednesday, 28th November at 7pm in the Abbey Visitor Centre. We will begin the DVD at 7.15pm and it will be followed by discussion. The fourth session is called, "Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast: Mary, the Mother of God". We will finish by 8.45pm. Each session is self contained, so it is not too late to join! All are welcome.

There will be an **Advent Supper** in the Parish Hall on Saturday 1st December after the 5pm Mass. We hope to have representatives from many of the groups doing work in the Parish so there will be a chance to chat and find out about what they are doing. Following a soup and cheese supper there will be music and a social. Everyone welcome.

The monthly Extraordinary Form (Tridentine) Mass will be next Sunday at 11.15am in the Abbey Crypt.

The next **Parish Maintenance Day** will be on the 8th December.

Volunteers at St Benedict's Church Thank you to all those volunteers who have been keeping 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 to join the rotas 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 or maureenbennett11@btinternet.com. For more details about the flowers contact Marybell Mellotte on 01761 232 183.

Downside Abbey has a new website, with a dedicated section for the parish. We need to ensure that this section is kept up-to-date, so please send news and photos for the website after events to Dom Anselm or Steve Parsons. The URL address is www.downsideabbey.co.uk

The Parish Pastoral Council have put the results of the **Parish Survey** onto the noticeboard in the Parish Hall. You can also see on the noticeboard the PPC's report to the AGM outlining their activity during 2018 and plans for 2019, as well as a directory of Parish activities. The PPC want to invite Parishioners to get more involved in our weekly services. We need people to volunteer to be readers, servers, sacristans, Eucharistic Ministers and to help with children's liturgy. If you are interested please sign up on the sheets as you come in to the church or see Fr Michael or Fr Boniface.

Martyrology: St Alexander Briant was born on 17th August 1556 in Somerset and educated at Oxford, where he came to know Robert Parsons (later to become a Jesuit), who so influenced him that he was received into the Church. He then entered the English College in Douai in 1577. After ordination in 1578 he returned to Somerset and reconciled many to the Church, including the father of Fr Robert Parsons, SJ. He was taken prisoner in 1579 and tortured but refused to give away the whereabouts of Fr Parsons. He was executed at the age of 25 with St Edmund Campion and St Ralph Sherwin on 1 December 1581, which is his feast day. St Alexander was the last to die and his pains were increased by the incompetence of the hangman. Even in his last moments efforts were made to make his recant, but he held fast to his Catholic faith to the very end.



If you, or someone you know, would like to become a Catholic, then please get in touch with Dom Michael. The Wednesday evening *Catholicism* course would be a good introduction!

We pray for the sick of our parish, especially Brian Auty, Basil Durnford, 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.

Please pray for Roger Allen, who died last week. Funeral arrangements will be announced.

Diocesan prayer intention: St Antony, Henbury; Sacred Heart, Westbury-on-Trym

Ecumenical prayer intention: St Peter's, Westfield.

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

The Parish Collection: Last week raised: £359.12

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.

Christmas raffle tickets are now available to purchase.