

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

DOWNSIDE ABBEY

ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

THIRD SUNDAY YEAR C – 27th January 2019

“The joy of the Lord is your stronghold” (Neh. 8:10)

A national failure of nerve.

Now that recent surveys show that well over half the population believes in atheism, (as opposed to any other creed), the present unease is fairly obvious. Man must believe in something, and disbelief in God leaves a space which must be filled. So the frantic search goes forward to find some creed.

Many have settled for belief in themselves: 'I am my own man' etc. It is now becoming quite clear that this does not deliver, and thus devout and well meaning atheists are in an aching ecstasy of self doubt. Somebody must be blamed: politicians, bankers, clergy, brexiteers, immigrants, the media, and of course God. (Who doesn't exist but has to be reinvented in order to be held responsible!) No wonder well-informed ignorance reigns in hearts which no longer feel sure about anything or anyone. And where do we stand in all this muddle? We simply cannot run with the hapless and faithless hare but hunt with the Hound of Heaven. Our security, our very real power and purpose, is not based on financiers, still less on politicians, nor on feelings (carefully managed!) 'Our help is in the Name of the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.' Faith is not a feeling, but an act of the will. The word *creed* (and the verb *Credere*) come from two Latin words 'cor' and 'dare': to give one's heart. I am sure you all know this, and I urge you to do this today or at least sometime in the coming week.

I am only too conscious of my own weakness and failure in the current crisis, but you and I cannot fall into inertia and despair. 'For evil to triumph, all that is needed is for the good to remain silent.' Dark forces are assembled to attack are they? Bring them on!

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)

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

Registered Charity Number 1158507

The final session of the Robert Barron Catholicism course will be next Wednesday, 30th January at 7.15pm. The final session is called "World Without End. The Last Things". All are welcome – and even the last session is not too late to start!

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.

@ONE programme Encounter **Trip to South India** 17th to 27th October. Ten days of mission, life and culture. Apply by 30th January. For those aged between 18-26. Cost approximately £1500. For more information email g.dixon@cliffcollege.ac.uk

Martyrology: St Thomas Aquinas was born in Aquino, Italy, in about 1225. He was educated by the Benedictine monks at Monte Casino (St Benedict's own monastery), where his uncle was abbot, and his family intended him to enter the community and in his turn become the abbot. In 1239 he went to university in Naples, where he was introduced to the philosophy of Aristotle, Averroes and Maimonides and he came under the influence of a Dominican friar. At the age of 19, Thomas decided to join the Dominicans, but his family opposed his decision and had him kidnapped on his way to the Dominican friary in Rome and imprisoned for a year in the family castles. It eventually became clear to his mother that he would not change his mind, and so she arranged for him to escape from the castle so that he could enter the Dominican novitiate. Thomas then studied in Paris, before teaching theology in Cologne, Naples, Orvieto and Rome. In 1265 Pope Clement IV appointed him papal theologian. He wrote a great deal, but is best known for his *Summa Theologiae*, a multi-volume work that examines the whole of Christian theology. He also had a number of mystical experiences (including an assurance from Our Lady that he would never be a bishop), levitations, and is said to have been so fat that a space had to be carved into the dining table so that he could reach his food! At the end of his life, following a vision, he said that all he had written was like straw. He died on 7th March 1274 and his feast is on Monday, 28th January.



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.

Diocesan Prayer Intention: Sacred Heart, Chew Magna; St Pius X, Withywood

Ecumenical Prayer Intention: St Nicholas, Radstock

The Parish Collection: Last week raised: £322.13

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.

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!