

# DOWNSIDE ABBEY

## ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

### Mass & Office Times

*Everyone is welcome*

#### Masses in St Benedict's church

Saturday Vigil Mass 5 p.m.

Sunday Masses 9 a.m. 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

#### Weekday Masses in Holy Ghost church, Midsomer Norton

Tuesday, Friday & Saturday at 9.45 a.m.

#### Confessions

Saturdays at Holy Ghost from 10.15-11 a.m.

Sundays in St Benedict's from 10.15-10.45 a.m.

Sundays in the Abbey church from 9.35-9.55 a.m.

#### Regular events

Adoration 9.30-5pm Monday to Saturday and 11.30-6 p.m. on Sundays

Prayer group on Mondays at 7.30 p.m. in Holy Ghost church

Rosary on Thursdays at 7 p.m. in St Benedict's

#### The Abbey Church

##### Weekdays

Vigils 6 a.m.

Lauds 7.10 a.m.

Mass 8.35 a.m.

Midday Office 12.30 p.m.

Vespers 6 p.m.

##### Sundays

Lauds 7.30 a.m.

Mass 10 a.m.

Midday Office 12.30 p.m.

Vespers/Benediction 5 p.m.

#### 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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01761 235100

Registered Charity Number 1158507

# DOWNSIDE ABBEY

## ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

### SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) or OF DIVINE MERCY, 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019

*'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you' (John 20, 21).*

*Christus Vivit, Christ is alive*, has just been published following on from the Synod for all Christian young people. Pope Francis begins by saying: 'Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!' The Pope reminds us what was said at the Second Vatican Council in *Lumen Gentium*: 'All the faithful, whatever their condition or state, are



called by the Lord, each in his or her own way, to that perfect holiness by which the Father himself is perfect.' Under the section 'Discerning your vocation', he writes: 'So often in life, we waste time asking ourselves: "Who am I?" You can keep asking, "Who am I?" for the rest of your lives. But the real question is: "For whom am I?" Of course, you are for God. But he had decided that you should also be for others, and he has given you many qualities, inclinations, gifts and charisms that are not for you, but to share with those around you.' 'To discern our personal vocation, we have to realise that it is a calling from a friend, who is Jesus. When we give something to our friends, we give them the best we have.' Many of us in the Parish may not be young people, but we are never so old as no longer to be able to hear Jesus' words in this Sunday's Gospel: 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you' (John 20, 21). There are always new encounters to be made in which we can bring Jesus to others so that they can share the fullness of life he gives us.

Dom Leo Maidlow Davis  
Assistant Parish Priest

#### April Needs

Instant Mash/Cuppa soup

Tinned vegetables

Fruit juice/Squash

Jam/Sponge puddings

Washing up liquid/Laundry liquid / powder



#### 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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**Thanks are due** to everyone who worked so hard in many different ways to make the Easter Triduum and the associated services and activities such a blessed and happy time.

**Collections:** Fr Michael and Fr Leo would like to thank parishioners for their generous giving to the Easter Collection, which goes to our monastic community. The Good Friday collection for the Holy Places in the Holy Land, which are so crucial for all Christians, will be a vital element in the support we can give.

**First Communions** will take place in the Abbey Church at 11 a.m. on Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>.

**The Parish Pastoral Council** will meet on Wednesday May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**Divine Mercy Sunday (April 28<sup>th</sup>)** devotions will be in the Holy Ghost Church Midsomer Norton at 2.30 p.m. There will be Confessions, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Sermon and Adoration, followed by tea. From the diary of a young Polish nun, Sr Faustina Kowalska, concerning revelations that she received about God's mercy, a special devotion began spreading throughout the world in the 1930s. This Feast was granted to the Universal Church by Pope St John Paul II at the canonisation of Sr Faustina on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2000.

**Schools Vocations roadshow:** During May the Diocesan Schools and Colleges Department will travel to six places in the Diocese to witness to the vocations of marriage, priesthood and religious life. The target audience is Year 5 and above, including secondary schools and colleges. Please support this initiative with your prayers.

**Diocesan Day:** On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July there will be a day for formation, prayer, reflection and conversation at St Brendan's Sixth Form College, Bristol. The Bishop is encouraging all who can to participate.

**The Parish Maintenance Team** put in a productive day's work on Holy Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> April. We are most grateful for the progress they are making. The next maintenance day is Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Homemade Soup and Cheese Lunch** with Homemade Breads, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May in the parish hall of St Benedict's Church, Stratton on the Fosse. 12noon - 2pm, entrance £4 with a raffle and bring and buy table. Please come and help us raise lots of money for WaterAid, a charity which transforms millions of lives by improving access to clean water, toilets and hygiene.

**SVP Young Vincentians** On 5<sup>th</sup> May, the 9 am & 11 am 'tea & coffee after mass' will kindly be in aid of the SVP's work with young people and in celebration of the founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam. Please come along to share cakes and biscuits and find out about Young Vincentians.

**Easter Egg Hunt** Well done to all of those children who took part in the Easter egg hunt. 30 children joined in and great fun was had by all. Thanks to John McGarvey of MM Consulting(UK) Ltd who sponsored the event.

**Martyrology:** This year the Solemnity of St George, Martyr and Patron of England is being kept on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April. Amid all the legends, we can be fairly sure that St George was born in Cappadocia in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century; his parents were Christians; when his father died, George's mother returned to her native Palestine, taking George with her. Here he became a soldier in the Roman army and rose to the rank of Tribune. The Emperor Diocletian (AD 245-313) began a campaign against Christians at the very beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. In about 303, George is said to have objected to this persecution and resigned his military post in protest, tearing up the Emperor's order against Christians. This infuriated Diocletian, and George was imprisoned and tortured – but he refused to deny his faith. He was dragged through the streets of Diospolis (now Lydda) in Palestine and beheaded. He has been celebrated from antiquity by all the Churches from the East to the West.



**We pray for the sick of our parish** especially Ron Pullen.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** St Peter, Gloucester

**Ecumenical Prayer Link:** Trinity Westfield

**The Parish Collection:** Last week raised: £835.28

**Parish Quiz Night** to be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 7.30 p.m. in the parish room. Teams of 4-6, £5 a head to include a ploughman's supper. There will be tea and coffee and squash available but no bar so please feel free to bring any alcoholic drinks required. Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 'wooden spoon' teams. There will be a raffle, so raffle prizes will be gratefully received. To enter your team please add your name to the list at the back of the church or phone Liz on 01761 232040

**Young Catholic Adults Pilgrimage to the Holy Land:** Clifton Diocese and Downside Abbey are organizing a Young Catholic Adults Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, 23 July to 1 August 2019. Bookings are still open if you would like to join the existing group of 37 young Catholic adults on pilgrimage to the Holy Land this summer. The group is accompanied by two priests, Fr. Matt Anscombe of Clifton Diocese, and Fr. Anselm Brumwell of Downside. For more information and to book, please contact Rina rinabird@outlook.com

**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 10 a.m. Mass in the Abbey, please make yourself known to the priest saying the Mass.

**Class teacher required** for September 2019. St Mary's, Bath requires a temporary full-time teacher for one year. Full details can be downloaded from the 'our community' section of our website [www.st-marys.bathnes.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys.bathnes.sch.uk)

**Midsomer Choral Society Spring Concert** Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 7.30 p.m. at St John's Church, Midsomer Norton. Tickets are £12.50, students £5 and under 12's are free. [www.ticketsource.co.uk/msc](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/msc)