

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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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 2nd December 2018

“We urge you to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live”
(1 Thess. 4:1)

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for the warm welcome you have given me on the occasions that I have visited the parish to celebrate Mass with you, or to attend a meeting or social function. I hope to get to know more of you in due course.

I would like to advise you that I have asked Dom Boniface to step down from his role in the parish to assume new duties in the monastery. Dom Leo has kindly agreed to step in and assist Dom Michael, who

continues as your parish priest. May I take this opportunity to thank Fr Boniface for his commitment and work in the parish and chapels over the years. However, I am sure you will continue to see him from time to time. This change will take effect from Sunday 30th December, the feast of the Holy Family.

As we begin a new Liturgical Year today may I wish you all a very holy and blessed Season of Advent.

Dom Nicholas Wetz
Prior Administrator



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 or call 01761 235323)

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

Registered Charity Number 1158507

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

The **Diocesan Year of Prayer** begins this Sunday.

Robert Barron's Catholicism course will continue this Wednesday, 5th December 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, "The Indispensable Men: Peter, Paul and the Missionary Adventure". We will finish by 8.45pm. Each session is self contained, so it is not too late to join! All are welcome.

A group of Sixth Form students from Downside will be leading a **taster session of Lectio Divina** in the parish hall at 7pm on Tuesday, 4th December. They will provide an opportunity to learn about *lectio* and share their experience. Feel free to join the students for this session of praying with Scripture. No previous experience needed. All ages welcome.

Mass for the Immaculate Conception on 8th December will be at 9:45am in Holy Ghost, Midsomer Norton and 10am in the Abbey. This is not a holyday of obligation.

The next **Parish Maintenance Day** will be on the 8th December. Many thanks to the maintenance team for all their hard work this year.

The **Parish Carol Service** will be in St Benedict's on 16th December at 3pm followed by tea.

The **Parish Reconciliation Service** will be on Monday, 17th December at 7.30pm in St Benedict's.

Christmas Mass times: Christmas Eve: Parish Vigil Mass at 4pm, preceded by carols from 3:30pm. **Midnight Mass** 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.

The new Abbey website, with a dedicated section for the parish, was subject to some technical difficulties last week. An external provider was unable to complete the necessary work in time. Apologies to those who tried to look at the site and found it unavailable, and we hope that it will be up soon. We need to ensure that the parish 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

Martyrology: St Osmund's feast is on 4th December. He was born in Normandy and came to England with his uncle, William the Conqueror. He was William's Chancellor and later became Bishop of Old Sarum, where he completed and consecrated the cathedral. He founded a Chapter with its own Constitution, which was to become a model for other English cathedrals. A capable administrator, he loved books and the liturgy and was instrumental in developing the Sarum Rite, which was the form of Mass in this area until the Council of Trent in the 16th century. He cared for the poor and was a diligent pastor. He died in 1099 and was buried in the cathedral at Old Sarum. In 1226 his body was translated to the new Cathedral in Salisbury. He was canonised in 1456.



We pray for the sick of our parish, especially Annie Carter, 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.

The **funeral of Roger Allen** will be on 5th December at 11.30am at Mendip Crematorium.

Diocesan prayer intention: St Gerard Majella, Knowle; Christ the King, Knowle West; St Bernadette, Whitchurch

Ecumenical prayer intention: Trinity, 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: £373.59

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.

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.