

# 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

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

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01761 235100

Registered Charity Number 1158507

# DOWNSIDE ABBEY

## ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT C 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2019

'For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here' (2 Corinthians 5, 17)

The present political crisis about our relationship with our European neighbours is dangerous to all of us, not least because it threatens stability and good government, but also for another, subtler reason. It has succeeded in masking a deeper and more serious crisis which might be termed a national apostasy and failure of nerve. As a country we have, in effect, tried to dispense with God and manage our lives and our destiny on our own. It has resulted in a terrible wave of self-doubt and despondency. Can we somehow bring ourselves to face the uncomfortable truth that we simply cannot continue to uphold the illusion that all is well, and religion is dead? As Christian Catholics we not only can, but must, proclaim that without God we are nothing: but with God all things are possible.

You might say, "Well then, is Brexit a mere distraction from reality?" Whilst some of us may indeed become distracted, the present situation is actually a heaven-granted opportunity. We must view our position positively, not with helpless despondency. Our independence, in due measure, is vital to our role in Europe. As in the Dark Ages these islands of ours saved the neighbouring nations, so must we do once more now. We face not a mere political crisis, or an economic crisis, but a profoundly human crisis, touching our very being. Our hour is striking, and we must rise to that great call. Our cause is with the Lord, and we place our trust in Him.

Dom Michael Clothier,  
Parish Priest



#### April Needs

Jam, Rice pudding, Sponge puddings  
Coffee, Tuna Fish, Ketchup,  
Brown sauce, Macaroni cheese, Fruit juice, Squash,  
Cuppa soup, Tinned spaghetti, Meat pies, Corned beef.



#### 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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**Easter duties.** The Church calls upon us to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year, if possible in the Easter season (Ash Wednesday to Pentecost).

**Triduum times:** The Triduum will be celebrated in St Benedict's at the following times:  
Maundy Thursday: 8 p.m.  
Good Friday: 3 p.m.  
The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night: 9 p.m.

The **Stations of the Cross** on **Friday 12 April** will be led by some of the young members of our parish. The service will start at **6 p.m.** on this Friday only. If you would like your child to take part please contact Coralie O'Gorman on 07871410557 or Rosie Harrington on 07970016334.

Every Friday during Lent, we will be praying **The Stations Of The Cross** at 7 p.m. at St Benedict's. It takes about fifteen minutes and all are invited to come.

**Children's Easter Egg Hunt** will take place after 11 a.m. Mass on Easter Sunday 21st April. Please add your children's names to the list at the back of the church so that we know how many prizes we need to buy.

### **Syrian Refugee tells his story at the Ammerdown**

**Centre.** You are invited to Ammerdown to hear Abdulazez Dukhan, a young Syrian refugee, tell of leaving his home as a boy of 14 and of the thousands of miles he has subsequently travelled. He is calling his talk *Through Refugee Eyes*. He will be speaking at 7 p.m. on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April. Admission will be free, but you are invited to make a donation on the night towards refugee work. Please do not miss this very special opportunity.



The **Parish Maintenance Team's** next maintenance day is Saturday 20th April.

**Easter Services – Music:** Help is needed with music and singing at all the Easter services. There will be practices on Wednesday 10th April and Tuesday 16th April in the church hall at 7 p.m. If you cannot make a practice but would like to be involved, please contact Julie Justin on 07930 062552, Fr Michael or Fr Leo. Reading music is not essential.

**Easter Services – Altar Servers:** We would like young servers to be involved in the liturgy over the Easter period. Please contact Fr Michael, Fr Leo, Paul Justin 07723 000142 or Phil Colbourne 01749 840603. Full training will be provided.

**Cyclone Idai help:** There will be a second collection at Masses on March 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> for the CAFOD appeal for the victims of Cyclone Idai, whose effects are causing so much suffering in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. There are envelopes at the back of the Church if you wish to Gift Aid your donation.

**Margaret Alford** has retired after many years of cleaning the Parish Hall of St Benedict's. Fr Michael thanks her very much on behalf of the parish for all the work she had done for us.

**Martyrology:** Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April is the feast of **Saint Isidore of Seville**, who died on this day in 636 after serving more than 32 years as Archbishop of Seville. At a period when learning was fast disappearing, he tried to make widely available as much knowledge as possible. St John Paul II suggested him as the Patron Saint of the Internet. He was a great defender of monasteries as havens of Christian culture. A fine altar is dedicated to him in the Abbey Church since it was in the Spanish monasteries that the English Benedictines were first able to put down roots after the Reformation.



**We pray for the sick of our parish.** Lent is a good time to refresh our parish list of those to pray for who are sick. If you would like to be prayed for or if there is someone else you would like to see on our list, and if you are sure they would be happy to be on the list, then please tell Fr Michael or Fr Leo.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** St Dominic, Dursley and St Joseph, Nympsfield

**Ecumenical Prayer Link:** St Benedict's, Stratton on the Fosse

**The Parish Collection:** Last week raised: £393.10 and £355.20 for CAFOD

If you would like to receive the **newsletter by email**, please contact Steve Parsons [sparsons@downside.co.uk](mailto: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 10 a.m. Mass in the Abbey, please make yourself known to the priest saying the Mass.

**The Downside Heritage Department's** last exhibition of *Voices From the Cloister* is **Thursday 11th April**. 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/](http://www.downsideabbey.co.uk/product-category/events/library-events/)

**Mary's Meals:** You have raised £1,400 for Mary's Meals. Most of the funds are produced by the tea and coffee sales after the Sunday Masses. £13 provides a child with a hot meal every day of the year in their place of education, and so over 100 children can be fed from the money you have raised. To learn more visit: [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk) We thank Tim and Mia Clarke for their constant work and organization.

All the monies have now been counted from the **St. Patrick's party** and I would like to say a big thank you to all those who supported in any way. A donation is being sent to CAFOD for the SE Africa disaster fund for £355. Well done to all.