

# 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

### FOURTH SUNDAY YEAR C – 3rd February 2019

“I have appointed you a prophet to the nations” (Jer. 1:5)

Saturday, 2nd February was the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple in Jerusalem. For some years this has been a day dedicated to the consecrated life. As Benedictines, the monks at Downside are designated as ‘consecrated’. By our vows of stability, obedience and



*conversatio morum* we are consecrated to the service of God in the Church in a particular way. Whilst we work in parishes, we are not principally parish priests. Whilst we work in education, we are not primarily teachers. Whilst we work in carpentry workshops or gardens, we are not primarily carpenters or gardeners. This sometimes means that it is difficult to put our finger on exactly what Benedictines are for. The answer is relatively simple, however. Benedictines exist for the praise and worship of God in the Divine Office (also called the Liturgy of the Hours) in community, which St Benedict calls ‘the Work of God’ and of which he says, “Let nothing be preferred to the Work of God” (RB 43). The Divine Office is the centre of our life, and from this centre we are able to engage in apostolic works in the local area. Please make a point of praying for vocations to the consecrated life, and especially for our community at Downside Abbey. God still calls men to follow him in this way of life, but today it can take a lot of courage to answer that call positively. It is up to each one of us to encourage men and women to become priests, monks and nuns, and to support them in their journey.

Dom Anselm Brumwell  
Sub-Prior and Vocation Director

#### February Needs

Long life fruit juice  
Brown sauce, Ketchup  
Tinned vegetables, Tinned spaghetti  
Coffee  
Tinned rice pudding.



#### 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 **monthly Mass in the Extraordinary (Tridentine, 1962 Missal) form** will be **TODAY** at 11.15am in the Abbey Crypt. The next Mass will be on Sunday, 3rd March.

**Many thanks** to those who took part in Bishop Robert Barron's *Catholicism* course each week. This has now finished, and we hope to run another course in the future. Such courses are important opportunities to think more deeply about our faith and to discuss it with others.

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 14th February. 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/)

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](http://www.downsideabbey.co.uk/shop/events) or by contacting [rinabird@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:sparsons@downside.co.uk) or call 01761 235323

The Monastic Community at Downside Abbey invite everyone to join them for the annual **Easter Retreat** from Thursday 18th April to Sunday 21st April 2019. More information available at [www.downsideabbey.co.uk/shop/events/monastery-events/easter2019](http://www.downsideabbey.co.uk/shop/events/monastery-events/easter2019)

**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.

To help you join in the **prayer of the Church**, why not try this free offer of one month's access to this amazing resource? Universalis is encouraging people to prayer with month free trials. Try it now <https://universalis.wordpress.com/2019/01/23/encouraging-people-with-free-trials/>

**Martyrology: St Josephine Bakhita** Born in Olgossa in the Darfur region of southern Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped at the age of 7, sold into slavery and given the name Bakhita, which means *fortunate*. She was taken to Italy and given to Augusto Michieli. Bakhita became babysitter to Mimmina Michieli, whom she accompanied to Venice's Institute of the Catechumens, run by the Canossian Sisters. While Mimmina was being instructed, Josephine felt drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine. When the Michielis returned from Africa and wanted to take Josephine back with them, the future saint refused to go. During the ensuing court case, the Canossian Sisters and the patriarch of Venice intervened on Josephine's behalf. The judge concluded that since slavery was illegal in Italy, she had actually been free since 1885. Josephine entered the Institute of St Magdalene of Canossa in 1893 and in 1902, she was transferred to the city of Schio (northeast of Verona), where she assisted her religious community through cooking, sewing, embroidery, and welcoming visitors at the door. She soon became well loved by the children attending the sisters' school and the local citizens. She once said, "Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!" The first steps toward her beatification began in 1959 and she was beatified in 1992 and canonized eight years later. Her feast is 8th February.



**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:** St Catherine, Chipping Campden; Our Lady and St Kenelm, Stow-on-the-Wold

**Ecumenical Prayer Intention:** Radstock Baptist Church

**The Parish Collection:** Last week raised: £322.82

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 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!