

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

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Registered Charity Number 1158507

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Eighth Sunday Year C – 3rd March 2019

The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. (Luke 6, 40)

Preparing for Lent. In the Extraordinary Form the three Sundays before Lent are known as the Season of Septuagesima. We might think of them as a count-down to Lent, a special time of preparation. We can use this time to prepare ourselves prayerfully and spiritually for the precious days of Lent that can be gone in a flash if we are neglectful. A particular challenge of our age is individualism; we have a strong sense of self and, often, a correspondingly weak sense of the reality of other people. Prayer can then be reduced to self-absorbed mindfulness, fasting to dieting, and almsgiving to another feel-good factor that boosts my reputation. None of this is really new; Jesus warns us against these tendencies. St Leo the Great asks us to look carefully within ourselves and, if we see God's mercy working in our lives through any acts of loving kindness we show to others, then we must let it grow in us. If we do, we will become holy, more like God himself, because his own generosity will begin to express itself through us. Then we will long to give what we have saved through fasting to those brothers and sisters of ours who do not have enough. This Lent, let's resolve to be still more open to God's gracious holiness working within us and more deeply aware of the reality of others.



Dom Leo Maidlow-Davis
Assistant Parish Priest

March 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 or call 01761 235323)

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Your parish needs you! The Parish Pastoral Council are seeking volunteers to help with the weekly Masses. We are looking for more Readers, Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, helpers with the Children's Liturgy and Sacristans. In a new development we are also trying to create a team to be responsible for writing the Prayers of the Faithful. Our aim is to get more parishioners involved. If you are willing to help please sign the forms on the lectern in the porch.

Soup and Cheese Lunch on Wednesday 13th March 12pm-2pm in aid of CAFOD, in the parish room of St Benedict's Church. Entrance £4 with a raffle and bring-and-buy table. Please come and taste some of our delicious soups and support this worthwhile charity.

Ash Wednesday, 6th March. We begin our celebration of Lent with Mass and the distribution of ashes in St Benedict's at 7pm. There will also be a Mass at 10am in the Abbey Church.

Starting Friday March 8th and every Friday during Lent, we will be praying **The Stations Of The Cross** at 7pm at St Benedict's. It takes about fifteen minutes and all are invited to come.

The annual **St Patrick's party** will take place in the parish room on Saturday 16th March from 6.30pm. Tickets cost £5 a head to include a supper of Irish stew and a drink. There will be music to sing along to and a raffle so come and join us for a fun evening. Add your name to the list at the back of the church for catering purposes and if you can help in any way there is a separate list for volunteers.

Children's Easter Egg Hunt will take place after 11am 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.

Maytime Quiz and supper. Date to be arranged. Watch this space!

Are you an EU citizen? The Bishops have asked parishes to advise parishioners who are EU citizens that they need to be aware of the Government's Settlement Scheme, which requires them to apply to protect their existing rights and place in our society. Official information on the Settlement Scheme can be found at: gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families

More information is available at: gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-leaders-toolkit

The Bishops urge the whole Catholic community to take up Pope Francis's call to welcome, protect, promote and help to integrate everyone who has made their home here – with particular concern at present for our European brothers and sisters.

Martyrology: Ss Perpetua and Felicity.

St Perpetua, a young mother of noble birth, and St Felicity, a heavily pregnant slave girl, were imprisoned at Carthage in 203 because of their Christian faith. Before being put to death by being thrown to wild beasts in the arena, Felicity gave birth to a girl; Perpetua was still nursing her little boy. We have a vivid contemporary account of their martyrdom. Their names are included in the Roman Canon of the Mass.



We pray for the sick of our parish, especially Ron Pullen, Laurence Bloom-Davis, Sarah Molony, Annie Carter, Brian Auty, Basil Durnford, Margaret Reynolds, Dolores Niles, Sheila Noad, Marie-Louise McCarvey 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 Link: St Patrick's, Corsham

Ecumenical Prayer Link: St Peter's, Westfield

The Parish Collection: Last week raised: £315.95

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.

Internships for Young Catholics: The Catholic Parliamentary and Public Affairs Internship Scheme is recruiting at least six recently graduated Catholics to learn from an intensive experience of political and social action in a spiritual context. The scheme will run from September 2019 until July 2020. The closing date for applications is 28th February 2019. For more information go to: www.faithinpolitics.org.uk

St. Vincent de Paul National Raffle tickets are available to buy in the church porch in aid of raising funds to support the SVP's 'work with people facing isolation, loneliness and a daily struggle with poverty' in England and Wales. Tickets cost £1 each and there are various cash prizes.

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 March. 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/