

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

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01761 235100

Registered Charity Number 1158507

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EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – 6th JANUARY 2019

“Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come” (Isaiah 60:1)

“Epiphany” means “Manifestation” and we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the known world, represented by the magi. These figures were probably astronomers, perhaps from Persia, who had noticed an unusual star in the sky, which led them to Bethlehem. Matthew tells us that the Holy Family had settled in Bethlehem at this time – they were living in a house, rather than a stable – and we know that Jesus must have been up to 2 years old (Herod the Great ordered the massacre of the children aged 2 or less). We usually assume that there were three magi, because we are told that they brought three gifts to the infant Christ: gold, to indicate his kingship, frankincense as a sign of his divinity and myrrh to speak of his future death. They represent the coming mission to the gentiles, for the birth of Christ was to be significant not only for his own people, the Jews, but for the whole world. The feast of Epiphany is not only about the nature of Christ, but is also about the missionary nature of the Church. In 2013, Pope Benedict XVI said, “The wise men were men of courage, the courage and humility born of faith. Courage was needed to grasp the meaning of the star as a sign to set out, to go forth – towards the unknown, the uncertain, on paths filled with hidden dangers. We can imagine that their decision was met with derision: the scorn of those realists who could only mock the reveries of such men. Anyone who took off on the basis of such uncertain promises, risking everything, could only appear ridiculous. But for these men, inwardly seized by God, the way which he pointed out was more important than what other people thought. For them, seeking the truth meant more than the taunts of the world, so apparently clever.”



Dom Anselm Brumwell
Sub-Prior

January 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

Many thanks to all the servers, musicians, readers and everyone who made the Christmas Masses so joyful, prayerful and festive! If you would like to help the parish in any way, please contact Dom Michael or Dom Leo, or sign the list in the porch. It is a great way of getting to know more people and contributing to our parish life, so that we can become ever more welcoming.

The **monthly Mass in the Extraordinary Form** (1962 Missal) will be TODAY at 11.15am in the abbey crypt. All are welcome.

The **Morning Office and Mass times** return to normal from Monday, 7th January (so Mass will be at 8.35am), EXCEPT on Tuesday, 8th January, when the first Mass of the new school term will be at 10am.

The **next session of the Robert Barron Catholicism course** will be on Wednesday, 9th January 2019 at 7:15pm. The next session is called "Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven. The Mystery of the Liturgy and the Eucharist". All are welcome – think about coming even if you have not been before!

Children's Liturgy at the 11am Mass will begin again on Sunday, 13th January.

As part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, **the monastic community will sing Latin Vespers in Wells Cathedral on Friday, 18th January** at 5.15pm. All are welcome to attend. The choir from Wells Cathedral will sing Evensong in the Abbey at 3.30pm on Sunday, 20th January.

Fashion for Freedom. Join us for a charity dinner and Fashion show on Saturday 2nd February 7pm – 10pm at Downside School Refectory and Theatre. This event is in support of the charity YOU CAN FREE US. Buy your tickets from www.downside.co.uk/shop/events/school-events/charity-fashion-show-supper/

The **Abbey website** is now live. The address is www.downsideabbey.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!

Martyrology: St Aelred of Rievaulx was born in 1110 in Hexham, Northumbria. He spent some time in the service of King David I of Scotland at his court in Roxburgh, where he became steward, before, in 1134, he entered the recently founded abbey of Rievaulx in Yorkshire at the age of 24. He had delicate health, but nonetheless followed the austere regime and was so highly thought of that he was sent to Rome with Walter of London, the Archdeacon of York, to present the opposition of the northern prelates to the appointment of Henry de Sully, nephew of King Stephen, as Archbishop of York. On his return he became novice master at Rievaulx, before being appointed as Abbot of Revesby in Lincolnshire and then Abbot of Rievaulx itself. During his abbacy the community grew and eventually had 150 monks and 500 lay brothers. He showed sensitivity in all his dealings with people and a gentle holiness, with a strong emphasis on charity and spiritual friendship. His most famous writing is called "On Spiritual Friendship" and he also wrote other works, including some on history. In the last ten years of his life he suffered from kidney stones and arthritis, and died in 1167. His feast is on 11th January.



We pray for the sick of our parish, especially Sarah Molony, Elizabeth Green, 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.

Diocesan Prayer Intention: English Martyrs, Chard.

Ecumenical Prayer Intention: Bath City Church, Local Group.

If you would like to receive the **newsletter by email**, please contact Steve Parsons sparsons@downside.co.uk

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.