

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

DOWNSIDE ABBEY

ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 9th December 2018

“Prepare a way for the Lord” (Lk 3:4)

When Bishop Declan designated 2019 as a Year of Prayer for the Diocese of Clifton, he said that he was not asking us to pray *more* but to pray *better*. This means that you and I must turn to the Lord with more love, more fervour, more trust and more joy in the Holy Spirit. If we are renewed, and given strength and grace, then the whole parish and indeed the country, will likewise be transformed.

And so the invitation to pray in the coming year is not simply for ourselves and our needs, but rather for us and for others too. Our work

as intercessors is perhaps our most important task just now. It must not be forgotten. The Holy Spirit comes to our aid in all this, and we should not fail to invoke Him whenever we feel too tired or weak to pray. Besides Him, we ask the angels and saints and holy souls in purgatory to pray with us. They are glad to be asked to help, for we are their family, their family in need so deeply.

There will be various special events during this year, including lectio and pilgrimage. I do hope some of you may be able to help. May God bless our projects and our hearts.

Dom Michael Clothier
Parish Priest



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

Looking for Advent calendars, Christmas cards, presents and stocking fillers? Come to the **Abbey Visitor Centre** for interesting, traditional, local and beautiful gifts, cards and devotional items! And why not stay for a warm welcome, a cup of coffee and a slice of homemade cake!



The **minutes of the October parish council** meeting are on the notice boards.

The **new data projector** has been installed in the parish hall, thanks to a generous donation. This is available for use by groups using the hall, children's liturgy etc.

Robert Barron's Catholicism course will continue this Wednesday, 12th December at 7pm in the Abbey Visitor Centre. We will begin the DVD at 7.15pm and it will be followed by discussion. The fifth session is called, "A Body Both Suffering and Glorious. The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church". We will finish by 8.45pm. Each session is self contained, so it is not too late to join! All are welcome. This is the last session before Christmas. The course will resume in January.

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 in the Abbey Church at 4pm, preceded by carols from 3:30pm. **Midnight Mass** in the Abbey Church 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.

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.

The **Abbey website** is now live and has a section for the parish. The address is www.downsideabbey.co.uk.

Martyrology: St Damasus was born in Rome in 304. He became a deacon under Pope Liberius and succeeded him as Pope in 366. He acted energetically against the heretics of his time and is perhaps best known for his promulgation of the canon of Scripture following the Council of Rome in 382, which he called. He commissioned his secretary, St Jerome, to translate the Bible into Latin in order that it could be more easily read in a contemporary, single translation (this replaced the earlier Latin translations), which is known as the Vulgate. This translation was used in all Catholic liturgies until the Second Vatican Council. Pope Damasus also oversaw the housing of the papal archives and took a keen interest in the Roman martyrs and the catacombs around Rome. He died in 384.



We pray for the sick of our parish, especially Annie Carter, Brian Auty, Basil Dumford, 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: Our Lady of the Rosary, Lawrence Weston; St Bernard, Shirehampton

Ecumenical prayer intention: St Nicholas, Radstock

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

The Parish Collection: Last week raised: £322.64

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.