



# St Benedict's Parish

## EASTER BULLETIN

# 2026



CHRISM MASS

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April

11am in Clifton Cathedral



CLIFTON  
DIOCESE

## *Palm Sunday*



### TIMES OF SERVICES IN HOLY WEEK

#### **Palm Sunday Masses (March 29<sup>th</sup>):**

Downside Abbey 10 am; St Benedict's 11 am

#### **Holy Thursday (April 2<sup>nd</sup>):**

Mass of the Lord's Supper - St Benedict's 7 pm  
followed by Adoration until 10 pm

#### **Good Friday (April 3<sup>rd</sup>):**

Stations of the Cross (1) - St Benedict's 12 noon  
(with meditations by St John Henry Newman)  
Liturgy of the Passion - Downside Abbey 3 pm

#### **Easter Vigil (April 4<sup>th</sup>):**

Stations of the Cross (2) - St Benedict's 12 noon  
(prayers from Bishop Bosco to be read by participants  
with silent meditation)

Holy Night Vigil with Mass - Downside Abbey 8 pm

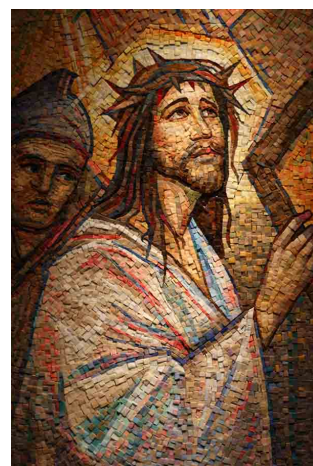
#### **Masses on Easter Day (April 5<sup>th</sup>):**

Downside Abbey 10 am; St Benedict's 11 am

As Jesus enters the Holy City with his disciples, the crowds acclaim him as the Messiah who comes to set his people free. Their faith in Jesus, together with their hope of salvation, echoes the aspirations of those who built Jerusalem with its Temple, while the Gospel narrative of the Passion, which we hear in full today, takes us deeper into the city where Jesus is to be betrayed, arrested and sentenced to death. On the hill outside Jerusalem, the Roman inscription at the head of the Cross - *Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews* - now has a message of life for a wider world, as celebrated in the second half of Mass, encompassing the Resurrection to come.

## Holy Thursday

During the Mass of the Lord's Supper we commemorate the washing of the feet of the twelve disciples who walked with Jesus to Jerusalem for the Passover. Their Last Supper, celebrated in the Upper Room where the disciples would acclaim the risen Lord in three days' time, would have recalled the Old Testament events recounted in tonight's first reading – the prelude to liberation from Egypt with Moses and Aaron – while the words of Jesus, at the breaking of the bread and the blessing of the cup (second reading), announce the institution of the New Covenant. But the events of the Passion intervene. At the end of Mass, like the disciples in Gethsemane, we accompany Jesus in prayer with a procession that takes the Blessed Sacrament to the Baptistery for a couple of hours' silent adoration.



## Good Friday

At midday, the hour of the Crucifixion, we can walk the Way of the Cross in St Benedict's, following the fourteen Stations from Pilate's judgement seat to the hill of Calvary, concluding at the tomb in the garden nearby. This year we shall use the Meditations of St John Henry Newman for this 'sorrowful journey' that leads to our salvation. The Stations of the Cross can lead us through our own times of difficulty, in solidarity with other followers of Jesus, who promises us his deliverance at the end of the day.

At the heart of the Liturgy of the Passion we venerate the Cross after listening to St John's account of the Passion, in which our Lord is accompanied on Calvary by his Mother and the beloved disciple. Between the Passion Gospel and the Procession with the Cross, we pray the Solemn Intercessions to express the intentions of the Church within the human family. In Communion, the life of Jesus given for us is received in the Bread consecrated the previous evening.

The Novena to the Divine Mercy starts on Good Friday.



**Divine Mercy Devotions:**  
3pm on Sunday 12th April followed by tea in the Hall.

## Easter Sunday

The Life of the Resurrection, revealed by angels in the Gospel of Easter night, dawns upon the witnesses who approach the empty tomb on the first Easter morning. St John's Gospel account, which is always read on Easter Day, has three witnesses – Mary Magdalene, Peter and John the Evangelist – discovering the same truth of the Resurrection in three profoundly different ways, their faith enhanced as well as challenged through the physical absence of the Lord's body. The First Readings during the Easter season are from the Acts of the Apostles, looking into the impact of the Lord's Resurrection upon the future lives of his chosen followers within what will soon be the early Church. The Easter Sequence joins forces with the Gospel in its expression of the joy of the first Easter morning, in dialogue with St Mary Magdalene, the 'first witness'.

## Holy Saturday

(Stations of the Cross – midday in St Benedict's:) 'The King sleeps':- Our Bishop has provided fourteen prayers from the Fathers of the Church – one for each Station of the Cross – which can be combined with brief periods of silent meditation to link the fourteen Stations also with our personal prayers as we prepare to celebrate the Great Passover of Jesus from death to Life.

The Easter Vigil begins with the lighting of the Easter Candle, representing the illumination given in Christian Baptism. The Candle is brought to the Sanctuary for the singing of the *Exultet*, following which the events of salvation history are celebrated in a series of readings, culminating in the Gospel. During the Baptismal Liturgy which precedes the Eucharist, two catechumens are being received this year for the Easter Sacraments: all are invited to join in their profession of faith and to witness their Baptism and Confirmation, acclaiming the Life of Jesus in the lives of those who receive Him. In the third Sacrament of Initiation, we follow the neophytes in receiving Communion (as if for the first time?) at the beginning of the Easter season.



Coming up .....

MONDAY 20th April

7pm in St Benedict's Church Hall

**Talk by Deacon Richard Mills**

on

**Glastonbury: Past, Present and Future**

including details of a Pilgrimage Walk later  
in the year.

with refreshments



Celebrations

in St Benedict's Church Hall  
after Sunday Mass on 19<sup>th</sup> April  
to welcome our newly Baptised  
and Confirmed members.

**PENTECOST LUNCH**

**AFTER SUNDAY  
MASS**

**IN**

**ST BENEDICT'S  
CHURCH HALL**

**24<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

## Diocesan Day 2026

Bishop Bosco warmly invites you to join him on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July for our Diocesan Day at Downside School and Abbey** to celebrate the **'Joy of Love' with Patti Boulaye OBE**. We will have Patti as our keynote speaker for our adult programme throughout the day, as well as a children's and young people's programme.

Arrivals and refreshments from 10am.

Programme of prayer and talks begins 10.30am.

Mass at 3.30pm.

Refreshments - in addition to coffee and tea breaks, a free hot lunch will be provided (lunch box for children) – this will be by booking only. There will be a max of 400 tickets for this including children. Booking – if you would like to join us for the day, **booking through Eventbrite is required**. Please register via this link:

<https://joyoflove.eventbrite.co.uk> for your free ticket. All are most welcome!