

# 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time – Year A

St Benedict's Parish Newsletter Stratton-on-the-Fosse

22<sup>th</sup> October 2023

[parish@downsideabbey.co.uk](mailto:parish@downsideabbey.co.uk) - Tel: 01761 880167



## Sunday Masses

Saturday	5.00pm *	St Benedict's
Sunday	10.00am	Abbey Church
Sunday	11.00am *	St Benedict's

## Weekday Masses

Monday	Midday	St Benedict's
Tuesday	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Thursday	6.30pm	St Benedict's
Friday	9.30am	Abbey Crypt Chapel
Saturday	9.30am	Holy Ghost

\* Confessions are available before 5.00pm and 11.00am Masses

**Rosary Thursday at 7pm** – the Rosary is prayed in St Benedict's every Thursday evening at 7pm (after Mass). All welcome.

**Tea and Coffee will be served after 11.00am Mass this Sunday in St Benedict's Parish Hall. All welcome!**

**Sunday Gospel** - Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God In facing down a provoking question, Jesus is able to stand up for justice against our potential towards tyranny – for the generosity of God over against the dishonesty and laziness that dogs too many of our human affairs. (Our Lord had the Pharisees and the Herodians to contend with!) Earthly power too often inspires irrational and paralysing fear, even in connection with what is right and just, whereas divine wisdom liberates the human spirit to expose what has been wrong and to opt positively for what is good. Perhaps we need further examples to help us in the struggle for justice? See today's first reading for a human power that can reveal a divine will - or read Pope Francis's new apostolic exhortation *Laudate Deum* for instances of where man might live in harmony with nature instead of striving overweeningly against her

**Children's Liturgy** – Over the past few weeks children's liturgy has been taking place during 11am Mass on a Sunday at St Benedict's. We will be running termtime only, so we are taking a break for half term. We will resume on Sunday 5th November and we look forward to seeing you then.

**World Mission Sunday** - Missio, the Pope's charity for World Mission, encourages us to pray and to give generously in support for the Church's work in Mission territories. Please remember the missionaries who bring God's love to those who are poor or in need throughout the world, regardless of their background or belief. There will be a second collection for Missio on the weekend of Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October, and the red boxes for your coins over the coming year are available at the back of church, together with envelopes for next Sunday and Gift Aid forms for the Red Box. You can also give to Missio by calling **020 7821 9755** during office hours; or visit **missio.org.uk**

**Letter from Abbot Nicholas** – “Dear Parishioners, At the end of next month, after Mass on Sunday November 26<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our Parish AGM. This will be an opportunity for us to come together to share in the aspirations and concerns of the parish going forward. There will also be several vacancies to be filled on the Parish Council – do think if you are able and willing to serve on this advisory body. The Council meet most months and whilst it is not a public meeting, parishioners are welcome to attend as observers – though most of the agenda is usually fairly dry and business-like!”

**Abbot Nicholas, Parish Priest.**

**First Holy Communion** - Catholic Children in the upper half of Primary School (aged eight or over as of next Easter) are encouraged to join a First Communion course if they haven't already done so. St Benedict's Primary School will be running occasional classes after school (approximately 3.30-4.15 pm on a weekday – probably Tuesday or Thursday) and in the parish we shall have classes 'in parallel' with the School, for parents and children simultaneously, held at 10.00 am on occasional Sunday mornings leading up to First Holy Communion in May or June of next year. Parents of children who are interested are invited to obtain enrolment forms from Fr Martin

**Sacrament of Confirmation** - Bishop Declan visits Downside School to confer the sacrament of Confirmation every spring – usually during May – for teenagers who'll have reached the age of thirteen around Easter time. Looking ahead to the Bishop's visit, Confirmation classes for young people will begin in the parish shortly after Christmas. This Sacrament is of course available to practising Catholics of all ages: please contact Fr Martin for enrolment forms so we can look ahead, advancing in our knowledge of what Jesus holds out to us: those already Confirmed who'd like refresher courses are most welcome too!

**Synod on Synodality** - The first session of the 16th Assembly of the Synod of Bishops began on 4th October and continues until the 29th. But the Synod actually began in our parishes – early last year for most of us – when Pope Francis asked the entire church to participate in a synodal approach to her future. Our responses to the questionnaires were probably submitted in the Spring of 2022; but it isn't too late to take an interest! Annual sessions will continue in Rome and elsewhere until 2025 and, to raise our awareness of the synodal process, Catholics in and around Bath are invited to a Synod Experience Day to be given by the Pope's Biographer **Austen Ivereigh** – offering opportunities for developing the synodal approach prayerfully and communicatively – to be held in **St Mary's Parish Hall, Julian Road, Bath BA1 2SQ on Saturday 11th November between 10 am and 4 pm**. To reserve a place, please contact [Stephen-paradox@outlook.com](mailto:Stephen-paradox@outlook.com). Please bring your own lunch; donations between £5-£20 are invited, depending upon what you can afford, to create a thank-you donation for Austen

**Dom Gregory Murray** - Nigel Kerry from Cambridge is writing the biography of Dom Gregory Murray, Parish Priest of St Benedict's from 1952 to 1987. He would love to hear from any parishioners who have any reminiscences about Dom Gregory, either 'face to face' or via email/telephone etc.

Nigel will be staying in Chilcompton from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> October and can be contacted at [music@olem.org.uk](mailto:music@olem.org.uk) or on 07867 793 015.

**St Benedict's Church Hall** – The church hall is available to hire for private functions. The terms and conditions can be found on the parish section of the Downside website.

**Prayer Corner** – God, grant me the  
Serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
Courage to change the things I can and  
Wisdom to know the difference.



**Parish Collections** - The parish collections from both Masses last weekend was £245.00

**Date for your diary - Family Advent Reflection Day** - You're warmly invited to join us at St Mary's Glastonbury (BA6 9EJ) on **Saturday 9th December from 9:30am - 1pm**. Adults get a chance to prepare spiritually for Christmas with Mass, adoration and confession, whilst children are engaged with Advent activities. There will then be a family Advent service, followed by a bring and share

lunch. For more information or to register, please email Helen at [catholicmotherssomerset@gmail.com](mailto:catholicmotherssomerset@gmail.com).

**Please pray for the repose** of the soul of Sara Tambling who died recently. Chris and Sara were an integral part of the music at Downside for many years, guiding and nurturing many young musicians. Please remember her family in your prayers at this time. May she rest in peace.

**Foodbank Needs** – Thank you everyone for your help. Cash donations should only be given via authorised collection boxes. If you want to know more information about the Somer Valley Foodbank, please check out the Facebook page or website - <https://somervalley.foodbank.org.uk>

The items needed are as follows: Milk Powder, Milk (UHT), Instant Mash, Mac Cheese, Sponge and other puddings, Coffee, Custard, Tuna and Meat Pies (tinned), Tinned Vegetables, Vegetable Soup and Jam. Non-food items – Toilet Rolls, Household Cleaner, Washing Up Liquid, Toilet Cleaner, Hair Conditioner and Shampoo, Razors and Shaving Foam, Deodorant. Thank you!  
Registered Charity Number: 1154122 | Registered in England and Wales.

### **Christmas at Ammerdown - Saturday 23 – Wednesday 27 December 2023 Residential:**

**£780** - Please don't let someone you care about be lonesome this Christmas. If you know anyone who has not yet made plans for Christmas 2023, why not encourage them to book a festive break at Ammerdown? The 2023 Christmas House Party will be hosted by Rupert Kaye, Ammerdown's cheerful Chaplain, and his lovely wife, Claire. For details: <https://www.ammerdown.org/WhatsOn/1065-/Christmas-House-Party>

**Parish Safeguarding** – The Parish safeguarding representative is Hugh Walters and can be contacted on [hughwalters64@gmail.com](mailto:hughwalters64@gmail.com) or 07552 467240. The safeguarding co-ordinator is Andy Kings and he can be contacted on 01364 645577 and 07881 754121

**Newsletter Items** – If you have any items for the newsletter, please email them to Julie Justin and Fr Martin by Wednesday evening - [juliejustin1@gmail.com](mailto:juliejustin1@gmail.com) and [parish@downsideabbey.co.uk](mailto:parish@downsideabbey.co.uk)

### **First reading Isaiah 45:1,4-6**

#### **I have taken Cyrus by his right hand to subdue nations before him**

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: 'It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.'

### **Responsorial Psalm Psalm 95(96):1,3-5,7-10**

#### ***Give the Lord glory and power.***

O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
Tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples.

#### ***Give the Lord glory and power.***

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,  
to be feared above all gods;  
the gods of the heathens are naught.

It was the Lord who made the heavens,

***Give the Lord glory and power.***

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,

give the Lord glory and power;

give the Lord the glory of his name.

Bring an offering and enter his courts.

***Give the Lord glory and power.***

Worship the Lord in his temple.

O earth, tremble before him.

Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'

He will judge the peoples in fairness.

***Give the Lord glory and power.***

### **Second reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5**

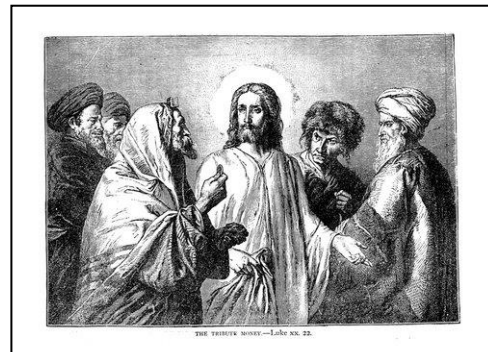
#### **We constantly remember your faith, your love and your hope**

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ. We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

### **Gospel Matthew 22:15-21**

#### **Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar**

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'



**Memorial Acclamation 3 – Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**