

DOWNSIDE ABBEY

ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME (C)
11TH AND 18TH AUGUST 2019

'When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of Scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory' (1 Corinthians 15, 54).

AUGUST IS THE MONTH of school holidays; in holiday mood we will combine our newsletter for the weeks beginning August 11th and 18th. During this period, on Thursday August 15th, we shall celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a holiday of obligation. Mass will be celebrated in St Benedict's at 7 p.m. and in the Abbey Church at 10 a.m.

One of Mary's titles is 'Ark of the Covenant'. St Modestus of Jerusalem (AD 537-634) tells us in a homily attributed to him that Mary was foreshadowed by Noah's Ark, since she had carried God's only Son within herself and he, through her, had saved the human race from the flood of godlessness and sin and has now given us life. He also compares her with the ark that contained the jar of manna and the tablets of the covenant. But, he explains, 'this ark was not drawn by oxen like the Mosaic ark of old, but guided and guarded by a heavenly army of holy angles. It was not an ark made by hands and plated with gold, but a living ark created by God, wholly luminous with the radiance of the all-holy and life-giving Spirit who had visited her.' Such comparisons can be difficult for us to absorb, but Jesus' comparison of himself with the Temple is a preparation for a mystical understanding of his Mother as the Ark of the Covenant. St Modestus concludes: 'Today the human tent that in a wonderful way received God, the Lord of heaven and earth, in the flesh is taken away. She, his own flesh and blood, is made by him immortal, to become together with him for ever strong to defend, protect and save all of us who are Christians.'



Dom Leo Maidlow Davis

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Registered Charity Number 1158507

Family Pilgrimages (No. 3)

St Alphege was born c. 953, perhaps at Weston on the outskirts of Bath. He entered the monastery at Deerhurst, moving later to Bath, where he became an anchorite. He subsequently was appointed Abbot of Bath, perhaps by 977. In 984 he was elected Bishop of Winchester, where he had an organ built that could be heard a mile away and needed 24 men to operate. During Alphege's lifetime England was subjected to raids by the pagan Vikings. Olaf, a Viking leader, became a Christian, and Alphege confirmed him.



Appointed Archbishop of Canterbury in 1006, Alphege was captured by the Danes when they laid siege to Canterbury in September 1011. The Archbishop was held captive for seven months; he forbade anyone to pay the huge ransom the Danes demanded. In a fit of enraged drunkenness they beat Alphege to death at Greenwich on 19 April 1012. St Thomas Becket is said to have invoked him shortly before his own martyrdom.

You can follow in St Alphege's steps at Deerhurst, a tiny village on the banks of the Severn 4 miles from Tewkesbury. Here you will find one of the most important Saxon churches in England, dating back to 700 and, close by, the much later Saxon Odda's Chapel. You can visit his hermitage by the Lansdown Race Course outside Bath, where a splendid panorama can be enjoyed from his well. Turn off Lansdown Lane just below the race course. Downside monks built a church in his honour in Oldfield Lane in Bath, designed by Giles Gilbert Scott and echoing the ancient Roman church of Santa Maria in Cosmedin. Don't miss its capitals, which have scenes from the life of St Alphege. You can ring in advance to make sure the church will be open: 01225 424 894. Fr Malcom Smeaton is the Parish Priest. St Alphege, pray for us.

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Wednesday 14 August at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The main item on the agenda will be the preparations for our Parish Barbecue and Parish Life Exhibition.

Parish Barbecue and Parish Life Exhibition: On Saturday August 31, after the 5 p.m. Mass, there will be a Parish Barbecue and Parish Life Exhibition. Please put the date in your diary and come for what promises to be a wonderful evening. If you wish to attend this event please sign the list at the back of the church so we can cater for the right numbers.

Medical Missionaries of Mary Appeal: Sister Linda of the Medical Missionaries of Mary will be at our Masses on Saturday 31 August and Sunday 1 September, appealing for their work. The Medical Missionaries of Mary are a religious institute of the Catholic Church dedicated to providing health care to the underdeveloped regions of the world. They follow a Benedictine spirituality, with its focus on life in community, shared prayer and hospitality. We look forward to welcoming Sr Linda, who will join us for our Parish Barbecue and Parish Life Exhibition.



Group for first profession of vows 2017
from Brazil, Malawi, Nigeria and Tanzania

Have you ever wondered what God is calling you to do with your life? If so, please read on! A three day Vocations Discernment Retreat organised by Clifton Diocese and Downside Abbey for Catholics aged 18 to 35 years old, will be held at Downside from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th October, 2019.



The talks during the Retreat will consider all vocations; the consecrated life; priesthood; and lay life. Speakers include Sr. Elizabeth Mary Mann, Fr. Nicholas Crowe OP and Prof. Gavin D'Costa. Fr. Colin Mason, the newly appointed Director of Vocations for Clifton Diocese, will also be giving one of the talks.

The residential cost with all meals included is £50 in shared accommodation in a Retreat House or £70 in an en-suite twin room in the Monastery Guest Wing. The non-residential cost with all meals included is £40. No one should feel unwelcome if they cannot meet these costs, so please discuss this with the organiser. For more information and to book please contact rinabird@outlook.com

Your Parish Priest has the full programme should you wish to see it. The last Discernment Retreat attracted nearly 40 young Catholics who found the weekend hugely beneficial, so do please join us!

Fr Thomas Atthill's Golden Jubilee of Ordination will be celebrated in Downside Abbey Church on Wednesday 21 August 2019 at 6.30 p.m. There will be refreshments afterwards in the Weld Café. All parishioners will be most welcome. RSVP thomasratthill@gmail.com or Stoneleigh Cottage, Pound Lane, Oakhill, Radstock, Somerset BA3 5BG.

We pray for the sick of our parish: Eileen Barrett and James Wiseman

Please pray for Clive Whitcombe, who has died.

Diocesan Prayer Link: 11 August: Sacred Heart, Tisbury with Wardour; 18 August: St John the Baptist Trowbridge with Westbury.

Ecumenical Prayer Link: 11 August: St Nicholas; 18 August, Radstock Baptist Church

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 10 a.m. Mass in the Abbey, please make yourself known to the priest saying the Mass.

August Needs Meat pies, Corned beef, Coffee, Sponge puddings, Rice, Puddings, Fruit juice, Instant mash, Milk (powdered & UHT), Ketchup, Tinned pasta, Pasta sauce, Tinned vegetables, Tinned tomatoes, Chocolate, Deodorants (M/F), Kitchen rolls, Shampoo, Shaving foam, Tooth brushes, Toothpaste



If anyone is able to do some **gardening** for a lady in Chilcompton for an hour or two a week, then please contact Stuart on 07943815269.

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Mass & Office Times

Everyone is welcome

Masses in St Benedict's church

Saturday Vigil Mass 5 p.m.
Sunday Masses 9 a.m. 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

Weekday Masses in Holy Ghost church, Midsomer Norton

Tuesday, Friday & Saturday at 9.45 a.m.

Confessions

Saturdays at Holy Ghost 10.15-11 a.m.
Sundays in St Benedict's 10.15-10.45 a.m.
Sundays in the Abbey church 9.35-9.55 a.m.

Regular events

Adoration 9.30-5pm Monday to Saturday
and 11.30-6 p.m. on Sundays
Prayer group on Mondays at 7.30 p.m. in
Holy Ghost church
Rosary on Thursdays at 7 p.m. in
St Benedict's

The Abbey Church Weekdays

Vigils	6 a.m.
Lauds	7.10 a.m.
Mass	8.35 a.m.
Midday Office	12.30 p.m.
Vespers	6 p.m.

Sundays

Lauds	7.30 a.m.
Mass	10 a.m.
Midday Office	12.30 p.m.
Vespers/Benediction	5 p.m.

Parish Priest: Dom Michael
Clothier. Tel: 01761 235111
Assistant Parish Priest: Dom
Leo Maidlow Davis. Tel: 01761 235107

Martyrology: St Rose of Lima's memorial falls on Friday 23 August. Rose was born in Peru in 1586; her father was Spanish and her mother a criolla native of Lima. She joined the Third Order of St Dominic and lived as a mystic recluse in a garden hut, experiencing trials, family persecution and interior desolation, but also spiritual consolation. She gave devoted care to the sick and poor, dying at the age of 31 after a long illness. She is the first canonized saint of the Americas. Saint Rose is the patroness of the Americas, of indigenous people of the Americas, especially of Lima, Peru, of Sittard in the Netherlands, of India, and of the Philippines.



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