

# DOWNSIDE ABBEY

## St Benedict's Parish Newsletter

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019**

*'I have made you a light for the nations,  
so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth'(Acts 13, 47).*

This Sunday is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. It is essential that we realise that each one of us has a calling from God the Father in Christ and that we must ask the Holy Spirit to enable us to follow our call. Vocations are not just for other people; you have your own unique vocation for which you are accountable. Pray that others may fulfil their vocations, but pray as earnestly that you fulfil your own.

Pope Francis warns us about 'the culture of zapping', in which we can fall prey to every passing trend. When we encounter novelty, we need to decide whether it is new wine brought by God or an illusion created the spirit of this world or the spirit of the devil. Following our vocation calls for a lifetime's dedication. This sounds daunting, but a uniquely exciting journey lies before us. 'It has to do with the meaning of my life before the Father who knows and loves me, and with the real purpose of my life, which nobody knows better than he.' Our world faces new and terrifying threats, but our calling as Jesus' followers has never been a timid or small one. Over the next two weeks, Dom Michael and I will be writing here about the threats posed to God's creation by humanity's misuse of power. As members of the Church, the Body of Christ, we have the privilege of holding a special place in a community that is unlimited in space and time. This is the moment to remember afresh what God gives and asks of you: 'I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth' (Acts 13, 47).



Dom Leo Maidlow Davis  
Assistant Parish Priest

### May Needs

Instant mash/Jam (not marmalade)  
Long life fruit juice  
Sponge puddings/Sweet snacks  
Household cleaner/Men's deodorants  
Toilet cleaner/Toilet rolls  
Washing powder/Washing up liquid



### 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](http://www.downsideabbey.co.uk)  
[monks@downside.co.uk](mailto:monks@downside.co.uk) 01761 235100

Registered Charity Number 1158507

**Thanks for Water Aid Lunch:** Once again a Wednesday soup-and-cheese lunch and raffle was well attended and much enjoyed. We thank the organizers and expect that a significant sum of money has been raised for Water Aid. Pope Francis has reminded us that 'access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights. Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity.'

**Holy Communions:** We thank all those who helped with the Holy Communion candidates last Saturday. Fifteen children made their First Holy Communion in a packed Abbey Church on what will always be a memorable day for them and their families.

**SVP Young Vincentians Appeal** Thank you to everyone who helped raise £60.20 at last weekend's 'tea & coffee after mass' which was in aid of the SVP society's work with young people.

**Confirmation:** Bishop Declan will administer the sacrament of Confirmation in the Abbey Church on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6.30 p.m. This is always an encouraging and inspiring occasion, which is strengthened by any parishioners who are able to attend.

**Marian Procession and Celebration on Sunday 19th May 2019.** The Procession will leave St John's Church in Bath at 2.30 p.m. and make its way to Parade Gardens. From 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. there will be hymns, prayers and the Rosary. Parade Garden will remain open until 5 p.m. for family picnics and informal musical contributions.

There will be a talk, '**Somerset's Nature Reserves**' by Simon Clark, Manager of Natural England's reserves in the county in the Abbey Visitor Centre on Tuesday 21st May at 10.30am. Donations are welcome and booking is advisable through [sparsons@downside.co.uk](mailto:sparsons@downside.co.uk)

There will be mass at **St. Benedict's school** on Wednesday 22nd May at 11.15 a.m. to celebrate the First Holy Communion children. All welcome.

The **Annual Mass in Honour of Blessed Margaret Pole** is Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 6.00 p.m. in the Farleigh Hungerford Castle Chapel and the celebrant is Dom Boniface Hill. Please bring some food and drinks to share.

**Parish Quiz Night** to be held on Saturday 1st June at 7.30 p.m. in the parish room. Teams of 4-6, £5 a head to include a ploughman's supper. There will be tea and coffee and squash available but no bar so please feel free to bring any alcoholic drinks required. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 'wooden spoon' teams. There will be a raffle, so raffle prizes will be gratefully received. To enter your team please add your name to the list at the back of the church or phone Liz on 01761 232040

**Diocesan Day:** On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July there will be a day for formation, prayer, reflection and conversation at St Brendan's Sixth Form College, Bristol. The Bishop is encouraging all who can to participate.

**Schools Vocations roadshow:** During May the Diocesan Schools and Colleges Department will travel to six places in the Diocese to witness to the vocations of marriage, priesthood and religious life. The target audience is Year 5 and above, including secondary schools and colleges. Please support this initiative with your prayers.

We are **looking for volunteers** to help steward the procession from St John's garden to Parade Gardens that starts the celebration of Mary Queen of the May next Sunday the 19th. On the day, we will meet at 1.30 p.m. at St John's garden to help ensure that people make their way safely to Parade Garden for the service there at 3pm. Please get in touch with Richard Mishra on 075334 75961, or email [richard\\_mishra@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:richard_mishra@yahoo.co.uk) as soon as possible, so we can ensure we have enough stewards for a safe event.

**Vocations Discernment Retreat:** A residential Vocations Discernment Retreat, organised by Clifton Diocese and Downside Abbey, will take place at Downside from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The Retreat will be for both men and women between the ages of 18 and 35. Invited speakers will look at all vocations. Further information will follow after Easter, but if you would like to be added to the email contact list, please register with Rina [rinabird@outlook.com](mailto:rinabird@outlook.com)

**We pray for the sick of our parish:** Robert Wiseman and James Wiseman are both in hospital and would appreciate prayers. Please continue prayers for Ron Pullen.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** St Benet, Kemerton, St Joseph, Tewkesbury, St Nicholas, Winchcombe, with Bishop's Cleeve.

**Ecumenical Prayer Link:** Radstock Baptist Church

**The Parish Collection:** Last week raised: £366.08

**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.

If you would like to receive the **newsletter by email**, please contact Steve Parsons [sparsons@downside.co.uk](mailto:sparsons@downside.co.uk)

**Martyrology: St Pancras** has his feast day on 12th May, and while we know the train station who was the saint? He was martyred in 303AD by Diocletian for resisting calls to make a human sacrifice at the age of just 14. He is the patron saint of children, jobs and health.

Also this week on 16th May is the feast of **Blessed Michael**

**Wozniak.** A priest of Warsaw, Poland, he was imprisoned and tortured by the Nazis for being a Catholic. He was sent to Dachau concentration camp where he died on 16th May 1942. He was beatified in 1999 by Pope John Paul II.



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## St Benedict's Parish Newsletter

### 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 from 10.15-11 a.m.

Sundays in St Benedict's from 10.15-10.45 a.m.

Sundays in the Abbey church from 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.

#### 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 Leo Maidlow Davis. Tel: 01761 235107

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