

DOWNSIDE ABBEY

ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C)
13TH OCTOBER 2019

'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you' (Luke 17, 19)

PERHAPS the most difficult thing we can ever do in life is change our minds. Changing our mind about what we believe can pull from under us what we have always understood about ourselves and separate us from home, family and friends. This has been the experience of many Saints who have changed their previous way of life to follow Jesus in the new ways that he asks. John Henry Newman had that experience in 1845 when he answered the call to become a member of the Catholic Church. He had to leave Oxford, a place he loved and in which



he was outstandingly successful, his relationship with his sister was permanently severed and old friendships fell away. He was not always understood or made wholly welcome in the Church that he joined. Some of the projects that were dearest to him failed. But he never became callous or embittered; his heart remained ever fresh and open towards Jesus.

During his life he wrote 21, 000 letters. When William Brownlow, the future Bishop of Clifton, wrote to him explaining his difficulties as he prepared to renounce his own Anglican ministry to enter the Catholic Church, Newman simply invited him to come and stay with him: 'Name any day you please for coming.' In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* Newman is one of the most quoted of modern writers, being surpassed only, as far as I can see, by SS Teresa of Avila and Thérèse of Lisieux. The canonization of John Henry Newman this Sunday is a great moment in the history of the Church that will fill our hearts with joy. It is only nine years since Pope Benedict XVI beatified him at Cofton Park in Longbridge near Birmingham on 19 September 2010, an occasion that many thousands of Catholics in this country were privileged to attend. The two miracles that are the signs from God confirming that he is a safe guide for the Church both occurred in America. If you can, go to newmancanonisation.com and see the testimony of Melissa Villalobos on one of the videos.

Blessed John Henry Newman lived the words of his own prayer: 'God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.' St John Henry Newman, pray for us.

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Registered Charity Number 1158507

October is the extraordinary Month of Mission and the Month of the Rosary. A decade of the Rosary will be recited before each of the Sunday Masses and before the weekday Masses in Midsomer Norton.



Thank you to all parishioners who watched the **Global Healing film** after Mass on the 29th September. It was a thought provoking film which raised issues we all should consider. If you missed it you can find it on <https://www.ourcommonhome.co.uk/main-session> If you want to know more about what CAFOD is doing go to www.cafod.org.uk

The next **PPC meeting** is on Wednesday 23rd October at 7.30 in the Church Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make last Sunday's Parish Harvest Celebration and our Soup and Cheese CAFOD lunch on Wednesday 9 October such successful occasions. These events help those whose lives can be so hard and they bring us together in the joy of the Gospel.

Have you ever wondered what God is calling you to do with your life?

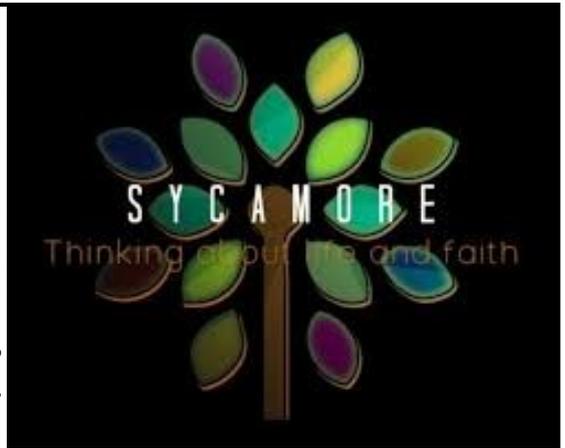
If so, please read on! A three day Vocations Discernment Retreat organised by Clifton Diocese and Downside Abbey for Catholics aged 18 to 35 years old, will be held at Downside from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th October, 2019.

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!

Last week's **Sycamore Course** looked at ideas about the hiddenness of God and how God might reveal himself. As you might expect, this brought a lot of good and interesting discussion. We were delighted to welcome a couple more people, who had come for the first time – it is never too late to join us! The next session will be on Tuesday in the parish hall. We gather from about 7pm and start the video at 7:15pm, finishing by 8:45pm. The topic will be “Who is Jesus?”. You could look at the website (sycamore.fm) and get a preview, if you are nervous! All are very welcome!



We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish: Arthur Haynes, Eileen Barrett and Will and Detta Duggan

Marie-Louise McGarvey's funeral will take place in the Abbey Church on Monday 14 October at 2 p.m. followed by cremation at the Mendip Crematorium, near Shepton Mallet.

Diocesan Prayer Link: All Hospital and Prison Chaplaincies in the Diocese.

Ecumenical Prayer Link: St Benedict's, Stratton on the Fosse

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.

October Needs Biscuits, Brown sauce & ketchup, Corned beef, Custard, Dried pasta, Instant mashed potato, Meat pies (tinned), Pasta sauce, Powdered milk, Savoury rice, Sponge, Puddings, Super noodles & pot noodles, Tinned fruit, Tinned ham, Tinned potatoes, Tinned vegetables, Tuna, UHT milk. The foodbank is now collecting Christmas items. Many thanks also for the generous donations from the harvest services.



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

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)

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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: Tuesday 15 October is the Memorial of St Teresa of Avila (1515-1582). Teresa came from a Jewish family that had converted to Christianity. She was not highly educated, being unable to understand Latin, but she is now a Doctor of the Church and is more quoted in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* even than St John Henry Newman! *The Way of Perfection* and *The Interior Castle* are an amazing mix of spiritual profundity and

common sense. Aware that her daughters, the sisters, could content themselves with beautiful thoughts rather than practical acts of love, she kept repeating, 'Works, works, my daughters.'



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