

DOWNSIDE ABBEY

ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) 14TH JULY 2019

'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself'
(Luke 10, 27).

Last Saturday, we had our parish pilgrimage to St Thomas of Hereford. The idea was to mark the Bishop's 'Year of Prayer' by some special work. The life of any parish is very much affected by the prayer life of the people who make it up. We do not always realise the importance of our prayers both for ourselves and for others, near and far afield.



Prayer is a loving conversation with God. The Holy Spirit, if allowed, takes up his home in us and prays within us. Since He is God, His work is of infinite beauty and power. Never undervalue this great gift and the influence of for good which we possess. Make time for silence and stillness, away from distraction and harmful contacts. We can pray in silence, listening and praising. We may also use set prayers, especially the Rosary. We ask our saints to join us. There is, in fact, nothing too great (or too small) which we may not ask of God. Our prayer should be loving and trusting, simple and sincere. And of course, we should persevere, for the Lord wishes us to ask and to go on asking. He hears and will answer.

Many devout Catholics do not have a strong and close friendship with Jesus their Saviour. Surely now is a good time to put this right where necessary. Share your day and its moments with Him for He cares about you. Urge your angel to protect you and guide you, and to pray with you and for you. It is easy and simple to pray. The important thing is not to give up. 'Pray always and never lose heart.' (St Luke, XV)

Dom Michael Clothier

Today is **Sea Sunday**, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Without them we would not have most of the items we buy in the shops. Today's second collection is for Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea), the Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. This collection is vital to enable it to continue its work, so please give generously and remember seafarers in your prayers. Thank you. To donate online please visit www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk



Family Pilgrimages. This is the first of an occasional series of places of pilgrimage that can be visited in a day out during the holidays. To see the earliest monastery known in the United Kingdom, you just need to take the road to Street, heading out of Glastonbury. The monastery site lies close to the Premier Inn Hotel. It is not so easy to find, so prepare your visit carefully. Carbon dating shows the earliest burials on the mound date to AD 406 – 544.



The monastery began in late Roman or early Saxon times and before St Benedict wrote his Rule. There are no ruins to see, just a mound with a view back to the Tor and out across the Somerset Levels. When the monks arrived at the end of the Roman occupation it would have been a lonely and remote island, a perfect place for a monastery. The monastic use of the site may have ended in the later ninth century when Somerset was attacked by Viking armies.

While you are there, pray for the monks; the burials seem to include two novice monks and one woman, perhaps a visiting nun or a patron. Paganism is strong in the area; most of the English Heritage signs have been defaced. If you can pray some of the *Opus Dei*, with some of the psalms the monks would have known so well, you will help to sanctify the site afresh. And, if you have young people with you, there is a skate-board park close by and Glastonbury Tor to climb.

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 for Catholics aged 18 to 35 years old, discussing matters of consecrated life, priesthood and lay life, will be held at Downside Abbey from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th October, 2019. The speakers include Sr. Elizabeth Mary Mann, Fr. Nicholas Crowe OP and Prof. Gavin D'Costa. 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 the organiser 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!

Vacancy: CAFOD Clifton is looking for a new staff member to recruit and manage volunteers who work in our parishes and schools around the diocese. The role is based in Bristol. The role is part time (17.5 hours per week), permanent and a great opportunity for someone who cares passionately about poverty and injustice. Please see cafod.org.uk/jobs for details, from 1 July. The closing date is 17 July.

Young Catholic Adults Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: Clifton Diocese and Downside Abbey are organizing a Young Catholic Adults Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, **23rd July to 1st August 2019**. Bookings are still open if you would like to join the existing group of 37 young Catholic adults on pilgrimage to the Holy Land this summer. The group is accompanied by two priests, Fr. Matt Anscombe of Clifton Diocese, and Fr. Anselm Brumwell of Downside. For more information and to book, please contact Rina rinabird@outlook.com

The Safeguarding Representative is Paul Justin. His photograph and details will be available on the Parish Notice Board in the porch.

We pray for the sick of our parish: James Wiseman.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Robert Wiseman, who has recently died. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Mary, Swindon

Ecumenical Prayer Link: Trinity, Radstock

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.

July 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



The **Abbey Visitor Centre** is a great place to have a cup of tea or coffee and this time of year the outside terrace is lovely! There is also a Christian Bookshop selling a wide range of books, gifts, cards, seasonal items and local monastic produce including books and cds produced by Downside.

Opening times are:

Monday - Friday: 9.30am - 12pm/ 2pm - 4pm

Saturday: 9.30am - 12pm

Sunday: 10am - 12pm



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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: Monday July 15 is the Feast of St Felix, who was martyred in Carthage in AD 303. A bishop, he was ordered to hand over the Sacred Scriptures. He replied that it would be better for him to be burnt than that the Sacred Scriptures should be destroyed. He was put to the sword by the Proconsul Anulinus. On Wednesday July 17 falls the Feast of Felix's twelve predecessor martyrs. The Scillitan Martyrs were a company of twelve North African Christians, seven men and five women, who were executed on 17 July AD 180. The martyrs take their name from Scilla (or Scillium), a town in Numidia. The Acts of the Scillitan Martyrs are considered to be the earliest documents of the church of Africa and also the earliest specimen of Christian Latin. Among their offences was the respect in which they held the Letters of St Paul.



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