

DOWNSIDE ABBEY

ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

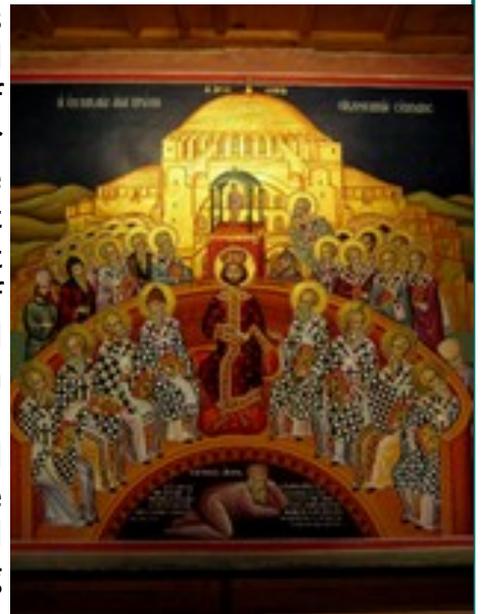
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (C)
15TH SEPTEMBER 2019

'My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found' Luke 15, 31-32).

NICAIA is a town in modern Turkey, known today as Iznik, that lies south east of Istanbul, which was called Constantinople at the time of the Council. In the summer of AD 325 it was the ideal lake-side location for the Emperor Constantine to gather a council of all the bishops of the Roman Empire. He invited 1,800, about 1,000 from the East and 800 from the West. Iznik may seem remote to us, but at that time it was close to the Roman Empire's centre of gravity. Tradition tells us that 318 bishops actually attended this first Ecumenical Council, though probably none from Britain.

A major question for the Council to settle concerned the nature of Jesus Christ and his relationship with God the Father. Arius was arguing that God the Father had created Jesus out of nothing and that he therefore had a beginning like other creatures. Against him St Alexander of Alexandria and St Athanasius maintained that Jesus had been 'begotten' by the Father from his own divine being and he therefore had no beginning. The Council gave its overwhelming support to Alexander and Athanasius, with only two bishops dissenting. The Arian heresy nevertheless continued after the Council. Our Catholic belief is that God's revelation of himself through his Son Jesus Christ can only be complete if his Son shares fully in his Father's divine nature. He also needs to share fully in our human nature; this seeming paradox would be the subject of subsequent Councils. Phrases in the Creed we recite on Sundays and Solemnities have their origin in the Council of Nicaea. We assert that Jesus is 'God from God, light from light', 'begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father'. This accords with what Jesus says in John 10, 30: 'I and the Father are one'. Eusebius, writing c. 338, tells us that it was Constantine himself who suggested the word 'homoousios' or, in its Latin form, 'consubstantial'.

Councils may sound rather dull to people today, but they defend the life-giving and saving truth that St John expressed when he wrote, '... but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name' (John 20, 31).



*Arius lies at the feet of
Constantine*

Dom Leo Maidlow Davis

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Registered Charity Number 1158507

Parish Harvest Celebration Weekend of 5th and 6th October - This year we would like to celebrate the harvest and thank God for the food He provides. Refreshments will be served after every Mass and there will be an opportunity to buy some fresh produce. Donations of fresh fruit and vegetables (home-grown or otherwise) and packaged food will be very welcome. The money raised will go to CAFOD and the packaged food will be donated to the food bank. If you wish to know more please contact Julie Justin (07930 062552).

Pope Francis established 1 September as the **World Day of Prayer** for the Care of Creation as the beginning of Creation Time which ends on the 4th October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. This is to encourage the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home and is inspired by Pope Francis' landmark encyclical *Laudato Si'*, which calls on "every person living on this planet" to care for our shared Earth. He calls us all



to celebrate this opportune moment to "reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation, as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live."

To support this Caroline Lane from CAFOD is showing the Global Healing Film in the Church Hall after the 9.00 and 11.00 Mass on the 29th September. After the 11.00 showing there will be a chance to discuss the film and what we can do as a Parish to support Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* to care for this earth. We hope as many parishioners as possible will come to watch the film.

Evening Retreat & Healing Service: will take place at St Alphege's Catholic Church on Monday 23rd September from 5 to 8 p.m. Fr Antony Parankimalil, VC, will lead. There will be music, confessions, scriptural talks, Mass and Eucharistic Adoration. For more information contact Sara 01225 332 202; stalphege@cliftondiocese.com Our Lady & St Alphege's RC Church, Oldfield Lane, BATH BA2 3NR

St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) Awareness Month 2019: 'Love your neighbour' Week 3

"I would like to embrace the whole world in a network of charity" Blessed Frédéric Ozanam.

On the notice boards this week is a story highlighting the work of an SVP Conference in Leeds. Our conference's focus is regular visiting and befriending. In the last year, our members made 268 visits totalling 280 hours and sang in 2 Residential Homes. Please look at either notice board for our members and who to contact. Thank you to all who have donated and to our benefactors. Fundraising has totalled approximately £500. We have been able to support SVP causes and cover both our annual National Office costs and expenditure of approximately £75.



Parish Maintenance Team: The next maintenance day will be Saturday 28th September. Breakfast will be ready for 9am!

Sycamore course starts again! The Sycamore Course (part 1) is a 10-week course for anyone who is interested in thinking more deeply about their faith. It covers fundamental issues for Christians, such as the existence of God, the identity of Jesus, the nature and purpose of the Bible, the Church. Each session is based on a video, presented by Fr Stephen Wang of the Archdiocese of Westminster, and will involve discussion of these key issues. It is aimed at those with little knowledge of Christianity as well as those who wish to deepen their knowledge and faith. A group of parishioners participated in this course 2 years ago, and much enjoyed it. Since then, the video content has changed and improved, so please come again! Each session will be in the parish hall. We will gather from 7pm and start the video at 7:15pm. We will finish by 8:45pm. **The first session will be on Tuesday, 24th September 2019.** All are welcome – parishioners, friends, believers, non-believers and those who are not quite sure. Contact Dom Anselm for more information (domanselm@downside.co.uk).

Second Collection this week is for Home Mission Sunday.

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!

We pray for the sick of our parish: Arthur Haynes

Diocesan Prayer Link: All Religious Communities in the diocese

Ecumenical Prayer Link: St Peter's, 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.

September Needs Coffee, Custard, Tinned fruit, Fruit juice, Ketchup/brown sauce, Milk (UHT or powdered), Macaroni cheese, Meat soup, Dry pasta, Pasta sauce, Rice puddings, Snacks (sweet and savoury), Sponge puddings, Instant mashed potato, Tinned potatoes, Tuna



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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

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| 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

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| 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 Ninian's commemoration this year falls on Monday 16 September. St Bede, writing in the eighth century, says that Ninian was a Briton who had been instructed in Rome; he made his church of stone, which was unusual among the Britons; his episcopal see was named after Saint Martin of Tours; he preached to and converted the southern Picts; his base was in a place called Candida Casa or White House, which was in the province of the Bernicians, and he was buried there, along with many other saints. This is a good time to remember Scotland and England's common Christian inheritance.



St Ninian's cave, Whithorn

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