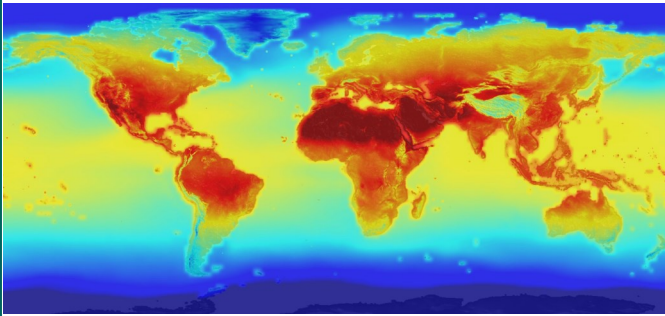


# DOWNSIDE ABBEY

## St Benedict's Parish Newsletter

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019**

*'By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples' (John 13, 35).*



**G**od has appointed man as priest of all creation. Not only do we have a duty of care for our world, but we are to be true and responsible custodians and stewards of all God has made. We are not entitled to squander our limited resources out of silly indulgence and greed. The seventh commandment says we may not

steal. Waste and destruction of vital natural assets is in fact theft. There is thus a moral aspect to our conduct, and wealthier nations are often prone to exploit and move on.

What is required is really a new attitude, a genuine change of heart. There must be a new sense of responsibility at each level, not just among super powers, but among ourselves as well. The recent UN IPBES report is important, for it is the first attempt to form a global view, with contributors from every part of the world. And it is a bleak and disturbing view. Obviously we all deeply regret the extinction of many animal and vegetable species. This however is not the whole point of the report. It is our own survival which is at stake. The time to conserve, to protect and husband our planet, is not in the next twenty years. It is now, and without further delay. Unrestricted industrial effluent, to take one example, is known to affect the air quality of countries far distant from the source. Likewise the state of the oceans. The damage is here with us at this moment.

Pope Francis, in his remarkable encyclical 'Laudato Si', has not only touched on many of the causes of our current crisis, but has put forward several important initiatives. There must now be a dialogue at several levels, and the principle of the common good recognised. The so called developed nations have, it seems, much to answer for. They have the power, the wealth and the technology as an habitual monopoly. With this comes the call to care. The Pope explains the fundamental relationship between religion and environment; the attempt to reduce our world to a mere chance interplay of chemicals fails utterly to appreciate the wonder and the mystery.

We can conclude, quite wrongly, that it is all too difficult for us to do anything. We are hopelessly dominated by powerful economic forces. To this fear we bring the answer of grace and prayer. Even if we start in a very small way, using less plastic, recycling cans and paper or wasting less food and fuel, all of these have their effect. If many of us join together, then the message spreads in hearts. It is not too late for action and the Lord stands by our side.

Fr Michael Clothier,  
Parish Priest

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Registered Charity Number 1158507



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.

### **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.

**Parish quiz night** to be held on **Friday 14th June at 7.30pm** 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.

**Soup and Cheese Lunch**, a big thank you to all who contributed in any way to another very successful lunch last week and particularly for braving the very wet weather conditions! There was a lovely friendly atmosphere and everyone appreciated our delicious homemade soups and bread! We raised a magnificent £305 for WaterAid and they are thrilled with this money which will make a real difference.



**WaterAid**

**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.

**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

**We pray for the sick of our parish:** Eileen Barratt, who is in Paulton Hospital. Robert Wiseman and James Wiseman are also both in hospital and would appreciate prayers. Please continue prayers for Ron Pullen.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** St Dunstan's, Keynsham

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

**The Parish Collection:** Last week raised: £326.65

**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.

### **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 and 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)

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

# DOWNSIDE ABBEY

## 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 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:** On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May we celebrate the **Feast of St Christopher Magallanes** and his companion Mexican martyrs. St Christopher wrote and preached against armed rebellion, but was falsely accused of promoting the Cristero Rebellion against the secular government. Arrested on May 21, 1927, while going to celebrate Mass at a farm, he gave away his few remaining possessions to his executioners, gave them absolution and, without a trial, was killed four days later with Saint Agustín Caloca in Colotlán, Jalisco. His last words to his executioners were 'I die innocent, and ask God that my blood may serve to unite my Mexican brethren.' St Christopher and 24 other Mexican martyrs were canonized by Pope St John Paul II in 2000.



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