

DOWNSIDE ABBEY

ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

TWENTY-NINTH AND THIRTIETH SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

20TH AND 27TH OCTOBER 2019

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart (Luke 18, 1).

'For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted' (Luke 18, 14).

BECAUSE FR LEO will be absent in Madrid and then in Cumbria for the next two Sundays we have decided to issue a single newsletter to cover the rest of October. Over the weekend of the Twenty-Ninth Sunday we will be having the Vocations Discernment Retreat at Downside, which has been organized in conjunction with the Clifton Diocese, and will have talks from Fr Colin Mason, Clifton's newly appointed Director of Vocations, and from other Religious as well as from members of our own monastic community.



Each one of us was called at our Baptism to enter fully into the life of Christ and to continue in our own place and time Jesus' obedient response to his Father as Prophet, Priest and King. As Christians, therefore, we do not doubt that we have a vocation or calling from God together with a great and special dignity. Our responsibility is to take steps to discern what that calling is asking of us and then to take up our cross and follow Jesus through his Passion to the Resurrection. As St John Henry Newman teaches us in his well-known prayer, 'God has created me to do him some definite service ... I have my mission.' A Christian vocation is a great challenge because it is opposed to what the Kingdom of the World sees as success and fulfilment. Our vocation is a calling to freedom and eternal life, something that fulfils our deepest and truest longings, but it is found when we stop trying to satisfy ourselves with everything that is not of God. Christ leads us because, rather than grasping equality with God, he emptied himself and accepted in humility everything that becoming human entails, including the humiliation of death on the cross (cf. Philippians 2, 6-11). Ultimately our vocation is to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect by giving ourselves as generously and abundantly as he does (Cf. Matthew 5, 48). Of course, this is impossible for us, but 'for God everything is possible' (Matthew 19, 26). That is why your Christian Vocation is the best and greatest Vocation of all.

Dom Leo Maidlow-Davis

www.downsideabbey.co.uk
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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.

Our **harvest celebration** of God's bounty towards us was a nice reflective pause before we slide into autumn. Many thanks to everyone who donated produce for display in St Benedict's, especially Root Connections www.rootconnections.co.uk at Manor Farm. They generously provided us with a crate of organic vegetables, which then went into the successful soup lunch on Wednesday. They work in our local Christian community growing beautiful vegetables for delivery to customers with the help of young homeless or rough sleepers, temporarily resident at The Dairy House on Manor Farm. This is a unique direct access hostel providing emergency housing for vulnerable men and women aged 25 and over in the Mendip area. They can stay for up to 12 weeks, away from a toxic environment, whilst working on the Root Connections small holding and discovering the benefits of Christian fellowship as they find a way to readjust their lives. Search www.rootconnections.co.uk / tel: 07904398639 if you would like to sample a veg box, volunteer in their garden or support their work in any other way. Your donations received were £45.75, for which Cafod is grateful. Chew Valley Food Bank were pleased with the many donations of essential tins and other packaged supplies.



A huge **thank you** to all the volunteers who help in so many different ways and to those who supported our very successful soup and cheese lunch for CAFOD We raised a magnificent £280.80 which means more poor families around the world will be able to receive life-changing help.

There will be a talk in the Abbey Visitor Centre on Tuesday 5th November at 10am by Clare Asquith. 'Was Shakespeare a Catholic?' will focus on ideas from Clare's books that Shakespeare used coded methods to dodge censorship and air the political issues of the day. Booking is essential as places are limited. Please email Steve Parsons at sparsons@downside.co.uk or phone 01761 235323 to book a place.

We are now half way through the Parish **Sycamore Course**, having looked at the meaning of life, God and Jesus; just a few small topics! These have been the source of great discussions, stimulated by the superb videos by Fr Stephen Wang. We continue to meet from **7pm on Tuesdays** in the parish hall (video starts at 7:15pm, and we finish by 8:45pm). The next 2 weeks will be on The Holy Spirit and the Church (22 October) and The Bible (29 October). All are very welcome. Take a risk and come along. You might even enjoy it!!



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

Diocesan Prayer Link: Christ the King, Amesbury

Ecumenical Prayer Link:

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)

DOWNSIDE ABBEY

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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 22nd October is the Memoria of Pope St John Paul II. Karol Wojtyła's university career was cut short by the outbreak of World War II. While working in a quarry and a chemical factory, he enrolled in an underground seminary in Kraków. He was ordained priest in 1946. He attended all four sessions of Vatican II and contributed especially to its Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World. In 1964 he was appointed Archbishop of Kraków and made a Cardinal in 1967. He was elected Pope in 1978, the first non-Italian in 455 years.

His 1979 visit to Poland encouraged the growth of the Solidarity movement there and hastened the collapse of Soviet rule in his native land. He established the Day of Prayer for World Peace in Assisi in 1986 and began World Youth Day, travelling to many countries, including England and Wales, to strengthen the Church. He forgave Mehmet Ali Agca, who had attempted to assassinate him in 1981. He was canonized in 2014.



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