

# DOWNSIDE ABBEY

## ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

### SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2019

*But the Lord answered: 'Martha, Martha,' he said 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her' (Luke 10, 41-42).*

**T**HIS YEAR'S PARISH BARBECUE is planned for August 31<sup>st</sup> and will begin after the Saturday 5 p.m. Mass. We will combine it with a Parish Life Exhibition. The intention is to have a number of small stands, each attended by a representative of our different activities, so that the varied aspects of our Parish life become more visible. This will help us to:

- celebrate what we do,
- encourage new people to join and help,
- and enable some fresh initiatives to begin.

Shortly, Peter Beaven, Chair of our Parish Council, will be contacting representatives of each of the activities to invite them to come to the barbecue ready to explain what their group does and to have prepared a simple short leaflet



with any helpful details. At the last count there were 27 activities in which St Benedict's Parish engages, and we may have missed some! Bishop Declan is inviting us to dedicate next year, after our year dedicated to Prayer, to Communion. He says, 'Our Parishes and Communities should be places where Christ is celebrated, shared, proclaimed and lived, where everyone is welcomed and valued, and all have a sense of responsibility for the life of the community and the world'. Let us pray that this will be an enjoyable and stimulating evening that will energise us for the Year of Communion.

Dom Michael Clothier & Dom Leo Maidlow Davis

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Registered Charity Number 1158507

**Excellent pilgrimage to Herefordshire:** First stop Belmont Abbey, where old friend Fr Alexander showed us the Abbey grounds. The beautiful Church of St Michael and All Angels houses a piece of the True Cross, boasts marvellous stained-glass windows, and several detailed statues of papier-mâché. Commissioned in 1854 by Francis Wegg-Prosser, a local landowner, to ensure a Catholic presence in the area, he invited the Benedictines to reside there. Fr Michael said Mass and after we lunched al fresco.

Thence to Hereford Cathedral, wherein a shrine to and a relic of St Thomas of Hereford. Excommunicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury, he set forth for Rome to appeal to the Pope, dying before his exoneration, but assured of saintliness by the many miracles attributed to him at home. This majestic edifice shelters a *Mappa Mundi*, the Sat Nav of the known world c.1300 and here too awe inspiring windows, both ancient and modern, illuminate the interior.

Having failed in the ritual attempt to lose three or four parishioners, we finally set off home, stopping only to water the horses, after a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Many thanks to Fr Michael and Lawrence our patient driver. Something similar next year please!

Liam O'Gorman



**Noah's Camp** is a Catholic family camp open to all denominations. It is an amazing five days for the whole family to grow in faith together. Set in rural Gloucestershire, with daily worship, teaching, prayer, sacraments and endless opportunities to encounter God.

The speakers this year include Christie Wimber, Charles & Sue Whitehead, Pippa Barker, Fr Gabriel CFR, and Rob Cates, with worship led by international worship leader Steve Tebb, from Catch the Fire London. For more information or to book, go to [www.noahscamp.co.uk](http://www.noahscamp.co.uk) or see the poster on the church notice board.

Tamsyn Richardson-Aitken

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

## **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:** James Wiseman.

**Dr Stephen Rye:** the funeral will take place on Friday August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2 p.m. in the Abbey Church. The burial, for family only, will be at Ashwick. The family invite the congregation to tea in the Weld Refectory straight after the funeral Mass. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** St Peter, Swindon; Sacred Heart, Royal Wootton Bassett

**Ecumenical Prayer Link:** Bath City Church, Local Group

**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

# 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.

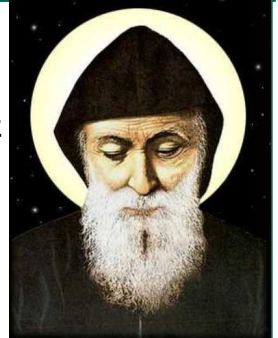
Midday Office 12.30 p.m.

Vespers/Benediction 5 p.m.

**Parish Priest:** Dom Michael Clothier. Tel: 01761 235111

**Assistant Parish Priest:** Dom Leo Maidlow Davis. Tel: 01761 235107

**Martyrology:** Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July is the **Memoria of St Sharbel Makhluf**. He was a Lebanese monk, born in a small mountain village and ordained in 1858. Devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, he spent the last twenty-three years of his life as a hermit. Despite temptations to wealth and comfort, Sharbel taught the value of poverty, self-sacrifice and prayer by the way he lived.



Thursday 25 July is the **Feast of St James, Apostle**. James, the brother of John, was one of the three witnesses to Christ's Transfiguration as well as to the Agony in the Garden. He was the first Apostle to die for the faith, being put to the sword in Jerusalem in about AD 42. Please pray for our Dom James on this, his feast day, and for Freddie Mills, a young man who is now walking the long pilgrimage route to Compostela.



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