

# DOWNSIDE ABBEY

## ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (C)**  
**22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

*'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money' (Luke 16, 13).*

**T**HE COUNCIL OF NICAEA, held in 325, had not brought a full end to the Arian assertion that Christ had been created. Constantine, who had died in 337, had been succeeded by his Arian-inclined son, Constantius II. There was even talk of replacing the Nicene Creed itself. Further, because Nicaea had not clarified the divinity of the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity, this too had become matter for debate. A party called the Macedonians denied the divinity of the Holy Spirit, claiming that the Holy Spirit was only a creature; their position was described as Pneumatomachianism (fighting against the Holy Spirit). In 380 Theodosius became Emperor and, supported by St Gregory Nazianzus (329-390) one of the three great Cappadocian Fathers, decided to convene a second Ecumenical Church Council to resolve these disputes and to unify the Church's faith and discipline. This Council met in Constantinople itself, opening in the spring of 381.



The story of each Council is absorbing, and there were often mighty clashes between the different parties. However, we can see what the achievements of the First Council of Constantinople were by noting at Mass the words that were added to the Creed issued from Nicaea. These additions include the words: 'and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary'; 'he was crucified under Pontius Pilate'; 'and was buried'; 'He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father'. And to the words of the Nicene Creed 'and in the Holy Spirit' are added '... the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.' And the last section, referring to the Church and to Baptism, was also added at Constantinople. After the First Council of Constantinople Trinitarian doctrine emerged as well developed and widely agreed. The focus would now move to Christology; how was Jesus Christ fully divine and fully human? This question would be the topic of the Council of Ephesus of 431 and the Council of Chalcedon of 451.

These Councils clarified and articulated our Christian faith, helping us to accept God's love expressed through Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit so that we may enjoy the gift of eternal life. In this perspective the political disputes of our own time are less fundamentally important than we may feel at this moment.

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 Parrish 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.

### **St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) Awareness Month 2019: 'Love your neighbour' Week 4**

*"Charity is the cement which binds Communities to God and persons to one another" St. Vincent de Paul.*

The focus of SVP work is visiting and befriending people in need. Last year almost 10,000 Society members made over 430,000 visits. Our conference members work on the ground face-to-face with the people they help or support with prayer. The people we visit could be the elderly, the homeless or people staying in hospitals or care homes. Please look at either notice board for our members and who to contact.



**The Convent Flat:** Mary and Charlotte are preparing the convent flat for hospitality for young women coming for retreats or to share in their community life. There are some household items they need. These include the following:

Freezer (doesn't need to be very big), Iron, Ironing board, Mop and bucket, Broom, Dustpan and brush, Chest of drawers, Drawers, Shelves, Bedside tables, Lamps, Bedside lamp, Dining room table.

If you could help, perhaps with items you no longer need, please contact Fr Michael or Fr Leo.

**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).

**Evening Retreat & Healing Service:** will take place at St Alphege's Catholic Church on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:stalphege@cliftondiocese.com) Our Lady & St Alphege's RC Church, Oldfield Lane, BATH BA2 3NR

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

**Please pray for Marie-Louise McGarvey**, who has died, and for her family. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** Diocesan Departments, Alexander House/St Ambrose

**Ecumenical Prayer Link:** Trinity Westfield

**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



**Lee Rodgers and your MOT:** Lee, our maintenance team leader, has just qualified as an MOT Tester and now works with JB AUTOS. He would be delighted if you would have a free cup of tea as you wait for your MOT at JB, the one for me!  
[www.jbautosradstock.com](http://www.jbautosradstock.com) 01761 416244 (07971 825271)

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# 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:** Tuesday 24 September is the Memorial of **Our Lady of Walsingham**. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century England was known as Our Lady's Dowry and Walsingham was its Little Nazareth. In 1061 Our Lady had appeared in a vision to Richeldis de Faversches, showing her the house of the Annunciation and requesting her to build a similar house at Walsingham. In time Walsingham would become one of the great shrines of Christendom. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Charlotte Boyd, an Anglican convert, gave the Slipper Chapel at Walsingham to the monks of Downside. In 1934 the chapel was formally consecrated as the National Catholic Shrine to Our Lady; today it is a marvellous centre of pilgrimage and prayer. You can see Our Lady of Walsingham, seated with the Child Jesus on her lap, carved on the outside of our Abbey Church's east end.



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