

# DOWNSIDE ABBEY

## ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

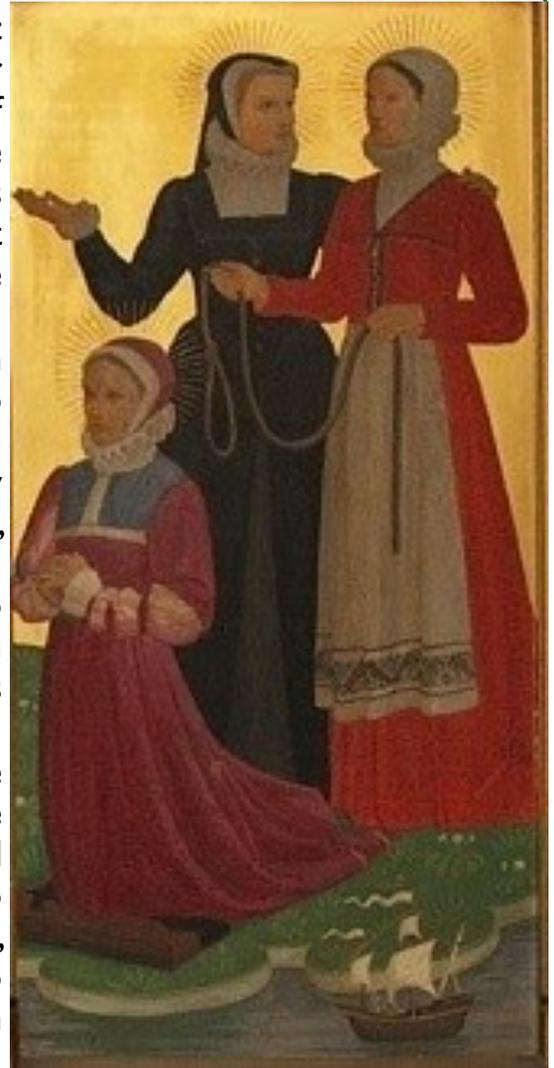
**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) 25<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST  
2019**

*'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed' (Luke 13, 24).*

**T**HE HIDDEN STRENGTH of the Catholic Church are the women of prayer. It is their silent, humble and sacrificial work of intercession which brings down upon the people of God, and indeed society as a whole, countless graces and blessings. Their life is a continuation of that of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the great sharer in the redemptive work of Our Saviour.

This is nowhere more clearly demonstrated than in the lives of the brave women who helped to preserve the faith in penal times. Three great women martyrs from this period are celebrated on Friday August 30th: namely Blessed Margaret Clitheroe, Blessed Anne Line and Blessed Margaret Ward. In each case they harboured priests and arranged for Mass to be celebrated in secret in their houses. Their heroism continued over many years and after many warnings about their conduct.

It is their example which is so important for the Church in our land today. The persecution is more subtle, but just as determined; and perseverance and prayer are equally necessary now. Perhaps it is time to state clearly and forcefully that the life of unremarkable, unnoticed prayer and self sacrifice is both pleasing to God and powerful in its effect. May these holy women martyrs pray for us all today.



Dom Michael Clothier

[www.downsideabbey.co.uk](http://www.downsideabbey.co.uk)  
[monks@downside.co.uk](mailto:monks@downside.co.uk) 01761 235100

Registered Charity Number 1158507

### **Family Pilgrimages (No. 3)**

St Alphege was born c. 953, perhaps at Weston on the outskirts of Bath. He entered the monastery at Deerhurst, moving later to Bath, where he became an anchorite. He subsequently was appointed Abbot of Bath, perhaps by 977. In 984 he was elected Bishop of Winchester, where he had an organ built that could be heard a mile away and needed 24 men to operate. During Alphege's lifetime England was subjected to raids by the pagan



Vikings. Olaf, a Viking leader, became a Christian, and Alphege confirmed him. Appointed Archbishop of Canterbury in 1006, Alphege was captured by the Danes when they laid siege to Canterbury in September 1011. The Archbishop was held captive for seven months; he forbade anyone to pay the huge ransom the Danes demanded. In a fit of enraged drunkenness they beat Alphege to death at Greenwich on 19 April 1012. St Thomas Becket is said to have invoked him shortly before his own martyrdom.

You can follow in St Alphege's steps at Deerhurst, a tiny village on the banks of the Severn 4 miles from Tewkesbury. Here you will find one of the most important Saxon churches in England, dating back to 700 and, close by, the much later Saxon Odda's Chapel. You can visit his hermitage by the Lansdown Race Course outside Bath, where a splendid panorama can be enjoyed from his well. Turn off Lansdown Lane just below the race course. Downside monks built a church in his honour in Oldfield Lane in Bath, designed by Giles Gilbert Scott and echoing the ancient Roman church of Santa Maria in Cosmedin. Don't miss its capitals, which have scenes from the life of St Alphege. You can ring in advance to make sure the church will be open: 01225 424 894. Fr Malcom Smeaton is the Parish Priest. St Alphege, pray for us.



**Parish Barbecue and Parish Life Exhibition:** On Saturday August 31, after the 5 p.m. Mass, there will be a Parish Barbecue and Parish Life Exhibition. Please come for what promises to be a wonderful evening and sign the list you will find at the back of the church so that we can cater for the right numbers and minimise any waste.

**Medical Missionaries of Mary Appeal:** Sister Linda of the Medical Missionaries of Mary will be at our Masses on Saturday 31 August and Sunday 1 September, appealing for their work. The Medical Missionaries of Mary are a religious institute of the Catholic Church dedicated to providing health care to the underdeveloped regions of the world. They follow a Benedictine spirituality, with its focus on life in community, shared prayer and hospitality. We look forward to welcoming Sr Linda, who will join us for our Parish Barbecue and Parish Life Exhibition.



Group for first profession of vows 2017 from Brazil, Malawi, Nigeria and Tanzania

## 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:** Eileen Barrett.

**Jim Wiseman's funeral** will take place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 10.30 a.m. at St Benedict's. Pray for the repose of this soul and for his family.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** St George, Warminster

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

**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.

**August 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



**Shakespeare Weekend:**

## The Tempest

Shakespeare, Prospero and the Island

Join writer Clare Asquith, scholar Gerard Kilroy, and lawyer Cyril Kinsky to discuss the play over a drink and a meal.

**SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER | 6:30PM**  
**MELLS BARN, MELLS, FROME, BA11 3PN**  
**TICKETS £15.00, TO INCLUDE FOOD AND DRINK**

Tickets from office@theelizabethanplayhouse.com | 01373 832113  
All proceeds to community run Mells Village Shop Ltd

## The Tempest

The Play, Performed by Ilyria

Award Winning Theatre Company with introduction by scholar Gerard Kilroy

**SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER | 3:00 PM**  
**THE ELIZABETHAN PLAYHOUSE**  
**MANOR FARM, CORSLEY, WARMINSTER, BA12 7QE**  
**TICKETS £30.00, TO INCLUDE CHAMPAGNE TEA**  
**OR £25 WHEN BOOKED WITH THE EVENT AT MELLS ON SATURDAY 7TH**

Tickets from office@theelizabethanplayhouse.com | 01373 832113  
All proceeds to The Shakespearean Authorship Trust

# 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:** Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August sees the Memoria of SS. Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line and Margaret Ward. These three women all died as martyrs in the sixteenth century because they protected Catholic priests, who were forbidden to enter England on pain of death. St Margaret Clitherow became a Catholic after her marriage to John Clitherow, who turned a blind eye when she began to shelter priests in their home. She was crushed to death in York on March 25 1586, the Feast of the Annunciation, when she was 30. St Anne Line became a Catholic when she was 20. When her convert Catholic husband was exiled to Flanders, she became housekeeper to a Jesuit priest. She was arrested while Mass was being celebrated in the house and put to death the following day. St Margaret Ward was a servant who helped Fr William Watson escape from Bridewell prison by smuggling in a rope. She was arrested, tortured, tried, convicted and executed on 30 August 1588 along with a priest and four laymen. Let us ask for their prayers and pray for those who martyred them, as they would have done.



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