

DOWNSIDE ABBEY

ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) 2ND JUNE 2019

'Father, may they be one in us as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me' (John 17, 21).

A **STHE POLITICAL CRISIS DEEPENS** in this country, our focus must be upon Our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Our prayers are powerful, and we must respond to the anxiety and confusion by entrusting ourselves and our society to God's merciful love. At the same time, we must uphold and respect the rule of law. Even if governments totter and fall, even if the media jubilantly fill our hearts with despondency, we have the Holy Spirit to impart to the fearful and confused. The divisions are clear enough, but the issues are so incomprehensible that the experts, especially the politicians, know not what they are. Furthermore, the crisis in other countries also gives ground for alarm. The search for security leads inevitably to extremes of right and left. We are now faced with an opportunity and a moment of grace. We are not powerless or hopeless or gloomy for the spirit of God fills all the earth, 'and we have the mind of Christ.'



Dom Michael Clothier

The results of the recent MEP elections show a country that is deeply divided within itself. Even the break-up of the United Kingdom seems once again to be a possibility. The divisions within the two traditional major parties resemble the crackle in an Old Master painting in need of urgent restoration. The Devil encourages and loves division. Our response should be a willingness to listen to the opposing views with respect even if, and especially if, they differ from our own. Our last two editorials have focused on the immense threats posed to our century by the damage we are inflicting on Creation. We need to recover a deeper sense of unity and communion if we are to respond in any adequate way to these threats, which are world-wide and by no means restricted to the United Kingdom or even Europe. Pope St John Paul I was urging us almost 30 years ago to be conscious of our duties and obligations towards future generations. This is not the time to lose sight of the needs of all our children and grandchildren.

Dom Leo Maidlow Davis

www.downsideabbey.co.uk
monks@downside.co.uk 01761 235100

Registered Charity Number 1158507

Parish Pilgrimage to Belmont Abbey and Hereford Cathedral, Saturday July 6th

08.45 Coach departs from Abbey Road by St Benedict's Church

11.00 Arrival at Belmont Abbey; followed by coffee and tour of Abbey Church

12.00 Mass in Belmont Abbey Church; followed by picnic lunch (please bring your own)

14.00 Coach to Hereford

Cathedral and the Shrine of St Thomas of Hereford

15.30 Coach leaves Hereford, stopping for tea on way home

18.00 Estimated time of return to St Benedict's Church



Fr Patrap Reddy wishes to thank the Parish for its most generous response, both in prayer and finance, to his appeal for help in his parish in the Diocese of Kurnool in East India. He also enjoyed his few quiet days in the monastery.

St Augustine's Catholic College, Trowbridge: On Monday 1 July 2019, Year 5 students are invited for a day of fun and reflection if they are contemplating St Augustine's for secondary education. Contact the School Chaplain, Faith Wheat at wheatf@st-augustines.wilts.sch.uk On Wednesday 10th July 2019 there will be an Open Evening at St Augustine's from 6-8 p.m.

Ammerdown Event: Sunday 9th June 2.30 p.m. - 5 p.m. A Churches Together Event to join together in the Christian faith. We will do this by showing what Pentecost means to us and others through a display, talk, family activity and church service in the Ammerdown Chapel. Refreshments available.

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 6th 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.

Young Catholic Adults Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: Clifton Diocese and Downside Abbey are organizing a Young Catholic Adults Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, 23rd July to 1st August 2019. Bookings are still open if you would like to join the existing group of 37 young Catholic adults on pilgrimage to the Holy Land this summer. The group is accompanied by two priests, Fr. Matt Anscombe of Clifton Diocese, and Fr. Anselm Brumwell of Downside. For more information and to book, please contact Rina rinabird@outlook.com

Vocations Discernment Retreat: A residential Vocations Discernment Retreat, organised by Clifton Diocese and Downside Abbey, will take place at Downside from 18th to 20th 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.

Diocesan Prayer Link: Salisbury parishes

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.

June Needs Meat pies, Corned beef, Coffee, Sponge puddings, Rice puddings, Fruit juice, Instant mash, Milk (UHT AND POWDERED), Shampoo, Toothpaste, Tooth brushes, Deodorant (M/F), Shaving foam, Toilet rolls, Tinned pasta, Kitchen rolls, Ketchup, Brown sauce



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

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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: St Boniface was born around 675 in Devon, and is the patron saint of Germany. He was pivotal in the Anglo-Saxon mission to the Frankish empire in the 8th century and was made Archbishop of Mainz in 732 by Pope Gregory III.

He was martyred in 754 in Frisia after being attacked by thieves. He is reported to have said to them 'Cease fighting. Lay down your arms, for we are told in Scripture not to render evil for good but to overcome evil by good.'

St Boniface's remains now lie in Fulda Cathedral, which was once an abbey church.



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