

# DOWNSIDE ABBEY

## ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST  
2019**

*'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs'  
(Luke 12, 15).*

**WHAT IS our Parish for?** Now and again it is useful to ask such a simple question. One place to start looking for an answer is in the Code of Canon Law, which helps by detailing the responsibility of a Parish Priest. He is to ensure that the Word of God is proclaimed in its entirety to those living in the Parish so that Parishioners are instructed in the truths of their faith. The Homily at Mass and catechetical formation are essential means of achieving this. He is to foster works that promote the spirit of the Gospel and



contribute to social justice. He is to have special care for the Catholic education of children and young people. With the collaboration of the faithful he must strive to bring the Gospel to those who have given up religious practice or who have never heard the Gospel proclaimed. He must ensure that the celebration of the Eucharist is at the heart of the life of the Parish. He must also see to the provision of the sacraments that carry Christians into the Kingdom of Heaven and that Parishioners frequently approach the sacraments of the Blessed Eucharist and of Penance. He should encourage the life of prayer, including prayer in the family.

Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century Pope St Pius X reminded us that the purpose of the parish is to gather people with their different backgrounds and talents and insert them into the universality of the Church. The parish is a microcosm of the whole Church. While nurturing the souls of the faithful members, the parish as a whole must be ready to respond to the broader needs of the diocese, and the national and international Church. The faithful must also have a sense of serving the needs of all the faithful throughout the world and of building up the Kingdom of God now.

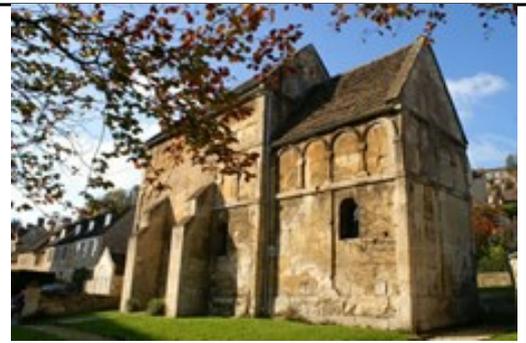
On Saturday August 31 this year we will have a Parish Life Exhibition together with our barbecue after Mass on Saturday evening. This will be a special opportunity to see the life of our Parish on display, so deepening our love for and commitment to our Parish community.

Dom Michael Clothier & Dom Leo Maidlow Davis

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Registered Charity Number 1158507

**Family Pilgrimages (No. 2)** St Aldhelm was the patron Saint of our chapel in Chilcompton. He was born in Wessex in 639 and died at Doultling near Shepton Mallet in 709. Famous for his learning, he became Abbot of Malmesbury and was appointed the first Bishop of Sherborne. He is therefore one of the Apostles of our diocese, and was famous for enticing the reluctant to Church by playing his harp outside. You can make a



pilgrimage to the attractive town of Bradford-on-Avon to venerate St Aldhelm. The little church of St Lawrence is the most complete surviving Anglo-Saxon church in the country. Some think the building goes back to St Aldhelm himself, though it is probably later than that. However, you will feel his presence as you pray there. Don't miss the chapel of St Mary Tory (tor = hill), which is magnificently placed on a terraced hillside overlooking the town. It is sometimes referred to as a hermitage and sometimes as a pilgrim chapel located, as it is, on the pilgrim route between Glastonbury and Malmesbury. You should also see the great tithe barn that belonged to the nuns of Shaftesbury Abbey. There are plenty of places to eat in Bradford-on-Avon; but the numerous hills can make invalid access difficult.

**Fr Thomas Atthill's Golden Jubilee of Ordination** will be celebrated in Downside Abbey Church on Wednesday 21 August 2019 at 6.30 p.m. There will be refreshments afterwards in the Weld Café. All parishioners will be most welcome. RSVP [thomasratthill@gmail.com](mailto:thomasratthill@gmail.com) or Stoneleigh Cottage, Pound Lane, Oakhill, Radstock, Somerset BA3 5BG.

**Letter from James Heapey, MP:** On 26 June Caroline and Paul Lane presented a CAFOD petition signed by many parishioners, asking the Government to achieve zero emissions by 2045, to work to keep global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees and to make policy connexions between crises of poverty, environmental degradation and climate change. Mr Heapey has written to acknowledge the petition, saying that he has passed it on to the Prime Minister. He says, 'In light of the sobering IPCC report of climate change, I'm delighted that the Government has stepped up its response and become the first leading economy in the world to commit to net zero by 2050. I share your view that UK investment overseas must be in line with our climate objectives at home and that our international aid should exclude fossil fuels and be used to mitigate the effects of climate change. I'll be lobbying the Government to do this.'

**Mass will be celebrated in the Extraordinary Form** in the crypt of the Abbey Church at 11.15 a.m. on Sunday August 4<sup>th</sup>.

**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 put the date in your diary and come for what promises to be a wonderful evening.

**The music group** at 11 a. m. Mass will be on holiday during August, therefore the next folk Mass will be on Sunday 1st September. Look forward to seeing you all then.

**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](mailto: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 and James Wiseman

**Please pray** for Clive Whitcombe, who has died.

**Mary Preston's funeral** will take place in St Benedict's Church, Stratton-on-the-Fosse on Monday 5 August at 11 a.m. Cremation to follow. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** Christ the King, Thornbury; Holy Cross, Wooton-under-Edge

**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.

**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



If anyone is able to do some **gardening** for a lady in Chilcompton for an hour or two a week, then please contact Stuart on 07943815269.

# 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

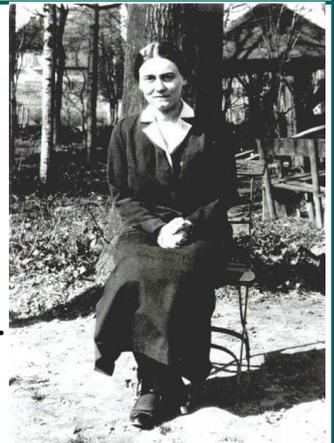
Clothier. Tel: 01761 235111

**Assistant Parish Priest:** Dom

Leo Maidlow Davis. Tel: 01761 235107

**Martyrology:** The Transfiguration falls on Tuesday 6 August. This recalls the day when Jesus appeared in his glory to Peter, James and John on a high mountain, accompanied by Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets. This mysterious event reveals to us our own glory as made in the image and likeness of God, which was corrupted in Adam but has now been restored in Christ by the free gift of grace.

The Feast of St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross falls on Friday August 9. Edith Stein was born of Jewish parents in 1891. Amid great difficulties she proved a marvellous student of philosophy. She became a Catholic and entered the Discalced Carmelites in 1933. She was arrested by the Nazi regime in 1942, along with all Catholics of Jewish extraction, and taken to Auschwitz, where she was put to death in the gas chambers. She once said, 'I had given up practising my Jewish religion when I was a 14-year-old girl and did not begin to feel Jewish again until I had returned to God.' Like St Benedict, she is a Patron of Europe.



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