

# DOWNSIDE ABBEY

## St Benedict's Parish Newsletter

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) 5TH MAY 2019**

*So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in (John 21, 6).*

In the month of May, the Church urges us to pray most especially to the Mother of Jesus, and our Mother too. Her own particular prayer is the rosary, and I hope all of you will say some part of it in the coming weeks.

In a mysterious way, Mary is the Mother of Grace, and thus all

blessings and favours come to us through her. This in no way denies their absolute source and origin: Christ our Lord; He is grace. The merciful and immaculate heart of Mary has been honoured since the days of the early Church; and we would be mistaken, surely, if we did not take up this opportunity to turn to her in prayer for all our needs, and for those of others everywhere.

The great saints have written at length about our blessed Mother and Her powers of intercession. Her many titles indicate her love for each one of us. Her merciful heart turns away nobody, however hardened by sin. 'Let us then fly to her Patronage' as a 2nd century hymn so well expresses it.

Next year this country will again be dedicated to Our Lady as the 'Dowry of Mary'. This too is an ancient and privileged honour, claimed by England. First mentioned in an 11th century document, it reminds us of present responsibility. Our Lady Queen of Peace, pray for us.

Dom Michael Clothier,  
Parish Priest



### May Needs

Instant mash/Jam (not marmalade)  
Long life fruit juice  
Sponge puddings/Sweet snacks  
Household cleaner/Men's deodorants  
Toilet cleaner/Toilet rolls  
Washing powder/Washing up liquid



### 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)

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

Registered Charity Number 1158507

**SVP Young Vincentians** On 5th May, the 9 am & 11 am 'tea & coffee after mass' will kindly be in aid of the SVP's work with young people and in celebration of the founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam. Please come along to share cakes and biscuits and find out about Young Vincentians.

**Homemade Soup and Cheese Lunch** with Homemade Breads, Wednesday 8th May in the parish hall of St Benedict's Church, Stratton on the Fosse. 12noon - 2pm, entrance £4 with a raffle and bring and buy table. Please come and help us raise lots of money for WaterAid, a charity which transforms millions of lives by improving access to clean water, toilets and hygiene.

**The Parish Maintenance Team** put in a productive day's work on Holy Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> April. We are most grateful for the progress they are making. The next maintenance day is Saturday 11th May.

**Schools Vocations roadshow:** During May the Diocesan Schools and Colleges Department will travel to six places in the Diocese to witness to the vocations of marriage, priesthood and religious life. The target audience is Year 5 and above, including secondary schools and colleges. Please support this initiative with your prayers.

**The Parish Maintenance Team** put in a productive day's work on Holy Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> April. We are most grateful for the progress they are making. The next maintenance day is Saturday 11th May.

**Marian Procession and Celebration on Sunday 19th May 2019.** The Procession will leave St John's Church in Bath at 2.30 p.m. and make its way to Parade Gardens. From 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. there will be hymns, prayers and the Rosary. Parade Garden will remain open until 5 p.m. for family picnics and informal musical contributions.

There will be a talk, '**Somerset's Nature Reserves**' by Simon Clark, Manager of Natural England's reserves in the county in the Abbey Visitor Centre on Tuesday 21st May at 10.30am. Donations are welcome and booking is advisable through [sparsons@downside.co.uk](mailto:sparsons@downside.co.uk)

The **Annual Mass in Honour of Blessed Margaret Pole** is Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 6.00 p.m. in the Farleigh Hungerford Castle Chapel and the celebrant is Dom Boniface Hill. Please bring some food and drinks to share.

**Parish Quiz Night** to be held on Saturday 1st June at 7.30 p.m. 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Martyrology: Blessed Thomas Pickering's** was martyred on 9th May 1679 after the false accusations of Titus Oates that he was part of a plot to kill King Charles II. Pickering was a lay brother of St Gregory's, Douai, and served the chapel of Catherine of Braganza, the wife of King Charles.

In 1678 Oates made false claims of a threat to the life of the king and Pickering was accused of being involved. There was no evidence against him apart from Oates' word and even the queen announced her belief in him but he was still found guilty and sentenced to death. King Charles wanted to stop the executions of Pickering and two others, but was forced to order the deaths

of William Ireland and John Grove, hoping they would satisfy those wanting the Catholics dead. However, parliament petitioned for Pickering's death as well and he was hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn.



**We pray for the sick of our parish** especially Ron Pullen.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** St Augustine of Canterbury, Matson and English Martyrs, Tuffley.

**Ecumenical Prayer Link:** St Nicholas

**The Parish Collection:** Last week raised: £186.69

**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.

**Class teacher required** for September 2019. St Mary's, Bath requires a temporary full-time teacher for one year. Full details can be downloaded from the 'our community' section of our website [www.st-marys.bathnes.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys.bathnes.sch.uk)

If you would like to receive the **newsletter by email**, please contact Steve Parsons [sparsons@downside.co.uk](mailto:sparsons@downside.co.uk)

**Young Catholic Adults Pilgrimage to the Holy Land:** Clifton Diocese and Downside Abbey are organizing a Young Catholic Adults Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, 23 July to 1 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](mailto:rinabird@outlook.com)

**Vocations Discernment Retreat:** A residential Vocations Discernment Retreat, organised by Clifton Diocese and Downside Abbey, will take place at Downside from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:rinabird@outlook.com)

# 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 from 10.15-11 a.m.

Sundays in St Benedict's from 10.15-10.45 a.m.

Sundays in the Abbey church from 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.     |

#### Do you find the Newsletter hard to read?

A large-print edition is available on request by filling in a form in the church porch.

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

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

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