

# DOWNSIDE ABBEY

## ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

**TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C)**  
**6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019**

*The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith' (Luke 17, 5).*

**O**n Monday 30 September this year Pope Francis issued a *motu proprio* with the title *Aperuit illis*. A *motu proprio* is a document issued by the Pope on his own initiative that bears his signature. It is not a response to a formal request from another party but it does convey an important message to the Church. In *Aperuit illis* the Pope reminds us that at the end of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy he proposed setting aside a Sunday given over entirely to the Word of God so that we can experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his Word and enables us to proclaim the wonderful riches of this Word to our world. Pope Francis now declares that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time will be the Sunday of the Word of God, which in 2020 will fall on 26th January. He has chosen this moment because it is the season when we are encouraged to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity.



*The disciples with Jesus on the road to Emmaus*

To mark this Sunday with a special solemnity the Pope recommends that the sacred text be enthroned. We should find ways of highlighting the proclamation of the Word of the Lord, and the homily should emphasize the honour that is its due. We should renew our efforts to train and support all those who have the honour of proclaiming the Word. The Pope has special advice for the pastors, who in their homilies should express an urgent need to make God's Word accessible to their community. As a Benedictine community we will be inspired by St Benedict's remark in the closing chapter of his Rule: 'What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?' (RB 73, 3). It is vital that we all attend to the Word of the Lord because in it we come to discover our own true identity and purpose (cf. James 1, 22-25).

Pope Francis reminds us that on the first Easter Day Jesus patiently opened the eyes of his disciples as they walked together to Emmaus so that they could see that everything related in the Scriptures found its fulfilment in his life, death and resurrection (Luke 24, 27). St Jerome has told us that 'Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ'; our love of Christ will inspire us to deepen our love of the Bible and our love of the Bible will deepen our love of Christ.

Dom Leo Maidlow Davis

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Registered Charity Number 1158507

**October** is the extraordinary Month of Mission and the Month of the Rosary. A decade of the Rosary will be recited before each of the Sunday Masses and before the weekday Masses in Midsomer Norton.



### **Blessed John Henry Newman is to be canonized**

in Rome on Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup>. Some of us were privileged to attend his Beatification by Pope Benedict XVI at Birmingham during his visit to England and Scotland in 2010. Blessed John Henry Newman was a major influence on the Second Vatican Council. Downside is privileged to have his copy of the Bible in which he has written 'I suppose I have used no Bible more than this. J.H.N.' It was given him by his father when he was a little boy. Blessed John Henry also celebrated Mass at St John's in Bath when it was a Downside Priory Church.

**Marie-Louise McGarvey's funeral** will take place in the Abbey Church on Monday 14 October at 2 p.m. followed by cremation at the Mendip Crematorium, near Shepton Mallet.

**Soup and Cheese Lunch**, Wednesday 9th October 12-2pm in St Benedict's Parish Room in aid of CAFOD. Bring and Buy table and raffle. Entrance £4. Homemade soups and breads and always a warm welcome so do come and support us. Donations of raffle prizes always gratefully received. If you need a lift please call 01761 232183.

### **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!



Last week's **Sycamore Course** looked at some of the reasons why people do or do not believe in God, and you can imagine that this provoked some lively discussion! This Tuesday's session is called "A God who speaks" and will look at the way in which people experience God in a personal way, and the idea of Jesus as the image of God. We gather in the parish hall from about 7pm, and start the video at 7:15pm. Each session finishes by 8:45pm. All are very welcome – come and see what it is like!

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

**Carmen Moore**, who worked at Downside for many years, has died. Her funeral will be on Monday 7 October at 11 a.m. in St Benedict's with the burial afterwards in Holcombe. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** All chaplaincies to HM Forces in the diocese.

**Ecumenical Prayer Link:** Radstock Baptist Church

**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.

**October 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



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

**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](mailto:sparsons@downside.co.uk) or call (01761 235323)

**CAFOD Harvest Day:** No one should be beyond reach of the love and support they need to thrive. Today is CAFOD Harvest Sunday, so please collect a Fast Day envelope and give generously at Mass.

**BRIGHTEN  
UP** this <sup>★</sup>  
★ **HARVEST**  
and **BUILD** a  
**BRIGHTER WORLD**

# 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.

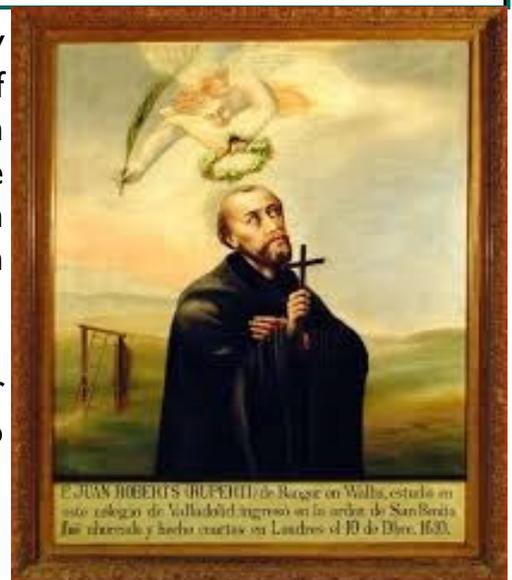
#### Sundays

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:** Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October is the Solemnity of SS. John Roberts and Ambrose Barlow. These are two of the six martyr monks of our monastic community. St John came repeatedly to England to serve as a Priest to the persecuted Catholic community, being martyred at Tyburn on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1610. St Ambrose served as a priest in Lancashire for 24 years before being arrested while celebrating Mass on Easter Day. He was martyred at Lancaster on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1641. Mass on 9<sup>th</sup> October will be celebrated in the Abbey Church at 10 a.m., and so there will be no Mass at 8.35 a.m.



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