

DOWNSIDE ABBEY

ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) 7TH JULY 2019

'Yet do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you; rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven' (Luke 10, 20).

M **ALE AND FEMALE** he created them: *Towards a Path of Dialogue on the Question of Gender Theory in Education.* This is the title of a brief document that has just been issued by the Congregation for Catholic Education for Educational Institutions. Since we are all involved in education in one way or another, this publication invites our careful attention. The issues of sexual identity and the separation of concepts of gender from sexual identity create new and pressing problems for families and schools. The document concludes that 'The challenge is to cooperate to train young people to be open and interested in the reality that surrounds them, capable of care and tenderness.' On the way, however, it warns against the hazards of making the human will an absolute that can manipulate the body as it pleases. There are echoes here of the ecological crisis that humanity is now experiencing; matter, including the human body, has come to be viewed as disposable, having no intrinsic dignity. For Christians, however, the body has its own eternal dignity; it is destined for resurrection. Conversely, the result of concluding that one's gender is more important than being male or female in sex is, in the end, to empty the concept of enduring relationships, and of the family itself, of meaning. It is significant that the Church encourages us to speak of the 'person' more than of the 'individual'. Persons exist in relationship with one another. Individuals can be viewed as having a degree of independence that eventually becomes isolation. That is partly why we talk of the three 'Persons' of the Trinity and not the three 'Individuals' of the Trinity. This important document cannot be summarised in our Parish Newsletter. Copies may be purchased in the Abbey Visitor Centre for £3.95 or read on line as a PDF. As Catholics we need to be able to enter with effective argument and charitable sympathy into this vital debate. Ways of thinking eventually become ways of living, which is why we cannot ignore the question of gender theory in education.



Paradise, by Lucas Cranach the Elder, 1530

Dom Leo Maidlow Davis

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Registered Charity Number 1158507

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Glastonbury: The Glastonbury Pilgrimage in 2019 will be held on Sunday 14th July. The first pilgrimage to Glastonbury in modern times was in 1895, when it marked the beatification of Abbot Richard Whiting on the anniversary of his martyrdom 1539. Thousands of pilgrims from all over the country arrived by train and climbed the Tor, where Mass was said. Pilgrimages took place after both World Wars in thanksgiving for the survival of the participants.

12 noon – 3p.m. Glastonbury Abbey, Sacrament of Reconciliation and Prayer

2.15 p.m. Rosary procession

3.30 p.m. Mass in the Abbey grounds, presided over by Bishop Declan



Ruins of Glastonbury Abbey from the Abbey Archives, 1917

The Parish will not be providing transport. Would pilgrims kindly make their own travel arrangements?

The Safeguarding Representative is Paul Justin. His photograph and details will be available on the Parish Notice Board in the porch.

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 for Catholics aged 18 to 35 years old, discussing matters of consecrated life, priesthood and lay life, will be held at Downside Abbey from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th October, 2019. The speakers include Sr. Elizabeth Mary Mann, Fr. Nicholas Crowe OP and Prof. Gavin D'Costa. 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 the organiser 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!

Vacancy: CAFOD Clifton is looking for a new staff member to recruit and manage volunteers who work in our parishes and schools around the diocese. The role is based in Bristol. The role is part time (17.5 hours per week), permanent and a great opportunity for someone who cares passionately about poverty and injustice. Please see cafod.org.uk/jobs for details, from 1 July. The closing date is 17 July.

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

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: Holy Rood, Swindon

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.

July 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



The **Abbey Visitor Centre** is a great place to have a cup of tea or coffee and this time of year the outside terrace is lovely! There is also a Christian Bookshop selling a wide range of books, gifts, cards, seasonal items and local monastic produce including books and cds produced by Downside. Opening times are:

Monday - Friday: 9.30am - 12pm/ 2pm - 4pm

Saturday: 9.30am - 12pm

Sunday: 10am - 12pm



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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 Benedict's feast falls on Thursday
July 11. Mass will be celebrated in the Abbey Church at 8.35
a.m.



Friday July 12 is the feast of **St John Jones**, OFM, also known as John Buckley, John Griffith, Godfrey Maurice, or Griffith Jones. He was a Franciscan friar, Catholic priest, and martyr. He was born at Clynog Fawr, Caernarfonshire, Wales, and was executed 12 July 1598 at Southwark. His life of extraordinary heroism, sustained by so many other heroic Catholics, is well worth learning about.



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