

# DOWNSIDE ABBEY

## ST BENEDICT'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)**  
**8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

*'Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple' (Luke 14, 27).*

**A** MID THE POLITICAL TURMOIL of these days it may help our perspective to turn our attention to the great controversies that shook the early Church. Traditionally the first Church Council was that of Jerusalem, held in about AD 50 and described in Acts 15. The conflict that needed resolution was over non-Jews (Gentiles) who wanted to accept Christ as their Saviour and to follow his teachings as members of his community or Church. Should they be obliged to keep the law of Moses, the law given by God to his Chosen People? Was Jesus' message for the whole world or just for those who could live in accordance with the Jewish Law? The Council, which may have been presided over by SS. James and Peter, decreed that the Gentile males did not need to be circumcised. This had obviously been a major barrier to potential converts. However, they would be asked to refrain from eating blood, meat containing blood, and meat of animals not properly slain, and from fornication and idolatry. These commands concern diet, sexual morality (and may refer particularly to marriage within prohibited degrees of kinship) and the worship of pagan gods, such as the gods revered by the Romans and Greeks and the worship of the Emperor. The last command would be the key issue in the persecution of Christians and in the trials of the martyrs. We may say that the aim of the Council of Jerusalem was to make Jesus' Good News of eternal life as widely available as possible to the world of that time, defining basic moral standards that would determine how Christians should live so as to bear witness to the love of God in Christ and to free them from any unnecessary restrictions that would prevent the flourishing of the Church as the community of welcome and salvation. We might say that all subsequent Councils have shared these aims. But the Councils also teach truths that Christians must abide by even at the cost of their lives when the kingdom of this world is opposed to the Kingdom of God. 'Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple' (Luke 14, 27).



Dom Leo Maidlow Davis

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Registered Charity Number 1158507

**Barbecue and Parish Life Exhibition:** Our thanks are due to all those who worked so hard to make our Barbecue and Parish Life Exhibition held last Saturday evening after Mass such a happy and successful occasion. The Exhibition helped us to appreciate the care taken by members of our Parish to enable Christ's mission of teaching, healing, prayer and care for the sick, poor and marginalised to be at work among us. Our thanks are due most of all to God our Father, who gives us everything we need.

**Medical Mission Sisters Appeal.** Sister Linda gave us a moving account at the Masses last Saturday and Sunday of the work of her Sisters in this country and overseas. Our international Church is well placed to help with problems that cross national boundaries. Sister Linda greatly enjoyed her time with us and it is good to announce that the Parish has raised around £1000 in response to her appeal. To learn more, visit: [www.medicalmissionsisters.org.uk](http://www.medicalmissionsisters.org.uk)



**Evening Retreat & Healing Service:** will take place at St Alphege's Catholic Church on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September from 5 to 8 p.m. Fr Antony Parankimalil, VC, will lead. There will be music, confessions, scriptural talks, Mass and Eucharistic Adoration. For more information contact Sara 01225 332 202; [stalphege@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:stalphege@cliftondiocese.com) Our Lady & St Alphege's RC Church, Oldfield Lane, BATH BA2 3NR

### **St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) Awareness Month 2019: 'Love your neighbour' Week 2**

*"Let us do without hesitation whatever good lies at our hands" Blessed Frédéric Ozanam*

The SVP is aware that poverty exists beyond where we can see. The posters highlight the different ways in which members support others; this could be in prisons, schools or in their homes. Being a member can be both a challenge and a reward – seeking and finding, supporting and responding. Our conference's focus is regular visiting and befriending. In the last year, our members made 268 visits totalling 280 hours and sang in 2 Residential Homes. Please look at either notice board for our members and who to contact.



**Heritage Open Days:** On Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th September Downside Abbey will be taking part in Heritage Open Days. This is a national event run by the National Trust to open the country's historic places to the public. Downside will be running guided tours of the abbey church and also of the monastery gardens. There will also be opportunities to see items from the monastic library and some of our wonderful vestment collections. For more details visit [www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/downside-abbey](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/downside-abbey)

**Parish Pastoral Council:** The next meeting takes place in the Parish Hall on Wednesday 11 September at 7.30 p.m.

**Parish Maintenance Team:** The next maintenance day will be Saturday 28th September. Breakfast will be ready for 9am!

**Sycamore course starts again!** The Sycamore Course (part 1) is a 10-week course for anyone who is interested in thinking more deeply about their faith. It covers fundamental issues for Christians, such as the existence of God, the identity of Jesus, the nature and purpose of the Bible, the Church. Each session is based on a video, presented by Fr Stephen Wang of the Archdiocese of Westminster, and will involve discussion of these key issues. It is aimed at those with little knowledge of Christianity as well as those who wish to deepen their knowledge and faith. A group of parishioners participated in this course 2 years ago, and much enjoyed it. Since then, the video content has changed and improved, so please come again! Each session will be in the parish hall. We will gather from 7pm and start the video at 7:15pm. We will finish by 8:45pm. **The first session will be on Tuesday, 24th September 2019.** All are welcome – parishioners, friends, believers, non-believers and those who are not quite sure. Contact Dom Anselm for more information (domanselm@downside.co.uk).

### **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. 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.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** St Luke and St Teresa, Wincanton, with Mere, Milbourne Port, Castle Carey and Bruton.

**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.

**September 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



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## 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.

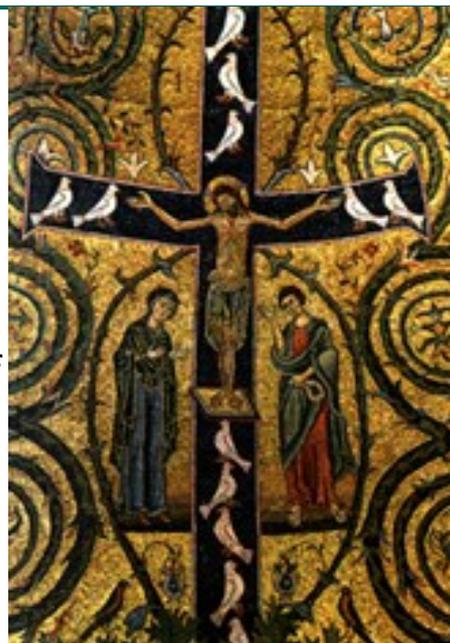
**Parish Priest:** Dom Michael

Clothier. Tel: 01761 235111

**Assistant Parish Priest:** Dom

Leo Maidlow Davis. Tel: 01761 235107

**Martyrology:** The Exaltation of the Holy Cross falls on Saturday 14 September. This feast marks the finding of the True Cross by St Helena, mother of the emperor Constantine; the dedication of the churches built by Constantine on the site of the Holy Sepulchre and Calvary, and the restoration of the True Cross to Jerusalem by the emperor Heraclius II in AD 629/30. The Feast celebrates Christ's cross as the Tree of Life on which Christ's obedience reversed Adam's disobedience when he ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.



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