

## ST WULSTAN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

Mass attendance for the week-end of 12th/13th December

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### Scripture Readings for Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020

3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

*Our spirit is guided by God's Spirit*

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

*The fervour of the early Christians*

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

*John's testimony to Jesus*

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### Details of this week-end's Masses

Saturday 5.00pm Mass - celebrated via Zoom. The link will be emailed as usual by Tim Naylor.

Sunday 10.30am - with thanks we can resume Masses in church again. Fr Patrick Lobo from Belmont will be the celebrant. Recording for 'Track & Trace' will be necessary and a face mask must be worn.

### Details of Masses over the Christmas period

Christmas Vigil Mass in church - Carols 8.30pm, Mass 9.00pm - you will need to book in with June Stallard (01684 540357 or [june@junestallard.plus.com](mailto:june@junestallard.plus.com))

Christmas Day Mass in church - 10.30am - you will need to book in - as above

26th December St. Stephen the first martyr - in church 10.00am

27th December in church - 10.30am

1st January New Year's Day - in church 10.00am

Times for Zoom Masses yet to be agreed

### Fundraising

Stock up on your Christmas cards now as proceeds of the Annunciation and Nativity cards (£4 for a pack of 10) support on-going restoration work.

To order, visit the Christmas Card Store website via [www.saint-wulstans.org.uk](http://www.saint-wulstans.org.uk) or go to ARCOS in Avenue Road, Great Malvern, who have some and are open Monday-Friday from 9am to 5pm. Alternatively, email [carvers@bidderscroft.com](mailto:carvers@bidderscroft.com) for an Order Form, or pick one up from the "Collection Table" at the back of the church. For any other enquiries call 01684 592179.

### Malvern Hills Food Bank

Their shortages are: Tinned Fray Bentos Vegetarian Pie & Tinned Carrots

### Diocesan directive relating to COVID19

Anyone who has come to Mass/Church Service and falls into either of the categories below would they please inform Claire Bailey ([clairebailey001@aol.com](mailto:clairebailey001@aol.com) or 07831 864599)

- been in contact with someone who has now tested positive for COVID19.
- have themselves tested positive for COVID19.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Ellen Verdult, Carmel Glennie, Oscar Rasile, Christopher Kouwen, Mary Plunkett and Paul Hothersall, who have died recently, **AND FOR:** John Bilsborough, Andy Cooper, John Crowe, Pat Higgins, Rosemarie Kay, Andy McGowan, Pauline Mills, Peter Onions, Nicholas Ratcliff, Carol Silk, Raymond Turner who are unwell or housebound

### Letter from Abbot Nicholas of Downside Abbey

Dear Parishioners

Firstly, I pray that this wonderful season of Advent is a time of peace and holy preparation for you all. I pray, too, that you are all well and enduring the COVID pandemic and the sadness and problems it has brought to so many. Let us hope and pray that our churches and usual sacramental life may return quickly in 2021.

As you know, since the retirement of Fr Edward earlier this year, the Downside Abbey community have been discerning the way forward for both the parish of St Wulstan and the monastic community itself in these changing and difficult times. One of our decisions, made with a heavy heart, was to sadly announce that we were unable to provide a new priest and consequently we were looking to surrender the responsibility for the parish.

The Parish indicated that they would like to see the Benedictine connection continue and consequently after formal consultation a decision was made to offer the parish to the care of Belmont Abbey, Hereford. Abbot Paul and the brethren have now formally agreed to take on the responsibility for the parish from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. Archbishop Longley has kindly consented to this change and welcomed Belmont's kind acceptance of our offer.

The Downside brethren are sad that this close and long association with the parish is coming to an end. Many of you will have memories of different parish priests over the years. In particular I would like to thank Fr Christopher and Fr Edward who have served the parish in recent years. As a monk of Belmont myself, I am delighted that the Community have taken on this wonderful parish, close as it is to Hereford. On behalf of the parish and Downside community I thank Abbot Paul and Belmont for their generous decision. I would also like to thank Tim Naylor and the interim parish management committee for their help and continued work during this interregnum and handover period.

I look forward to returning to Little Malvern, when the pandemic has receded, to thank you in person on behalf of the Downside community.

With every best wish

Abbot Nicholas

Downside Abbey

## Message from Abbot Paul of Belmont

To the parishioners of St Wulstan's, Little Malvern

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

It's a great joy to be writing to you on the approach to the Third Sunday in Advent, Gaudete Sunday, when we rejoice at the coming of the Saviour to our world. It's a particular cause for rejoicing to be able to share with you the good news, as you will have heard from Abbot Nicholas of Downside, that the monks of Belmont Abbey, Hereford, will be taking over the pastoral care of St Wulstan's Parish from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. I am grateful to Archbishop Bernard for welcoming us into the Archdiocese of Birmingham and for allowing me to appoint Fr Patrick Lobo, whom you already know, as Parish Priest. I hope that the monks of Belmont will continue to have the same happy relationship with St Wulstan's as did the monks of Downside. At the same time, Fr Patrick will continue his work as Chaplain to Hereford Hospital.

Because of the current pandemic, this is not an easy time to be taking over, but we hope and pray that as Spring and Summer approach, the situation will improve and parish life become easier to arrange and carry out. When conditions allow, it will be good to meet with you all, as well as with the Parish Council and Finance Committee and the various parish groups and ministers, with whom Fr Patrick looks forward to working. In the meantime, be assured of my prayers and good wishes. May you all enjoy the blessings of Christmas and the Epiphany and may the New Year bring you all good health and the renewal of your faith.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr Paul

Abbot Paul Stonham  
Belmont Abbey,  
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