

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time — 21st June 2026

St Benedict's Parish Newsletter Stratton-on-the-Fosse (find us on Facebook)

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Sunday Masses

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|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Saturday | 5.00pm | St Benedict's |
| Sunday | 10.00am | Abbey Church |
| Sunday | 11.00am | St Benedict's |

12th Sunday Jesus envisages a glorious fruitfulness for the forthcoming mission of his Apostles because his Spirit will be with them. Without telling them so directly, he intimates that their mission is to be an extension of his own. He has already shown the healing salvation of the Gospel they are to carry, and now he tells them something of the nature of its revelatory power, which they are to hand on to others. Secrets will be revealed through the mystery of their relationship with the Father; their lives are to be preserved so they'll be enabled to do His will; their loyalty to Jesus will be an active instrument through which His Spirit will work the wonders which the Saviour is now bringing to earth. Because of all this, the future Apostles are to be persecuted; and the discourse we are hearing, from Matthew 10, is peppered with references to the dangers they are going to face: like Jesus himself, they are not to fear those who kill the body but not the soul; instead, they are strengthened against the assaults of enemies who threaten death to 'both body and soul in hell'. Because of the infinite value of their lives, they will appear as vulnerable as sparrows who are 'sold for a penny', whereas the strength that Jesus gives to them has its own witnesses in the heavens. (The scope of the mission of the Apostles has already been hinted at in messages given in today's first two readings)

Fr Martin will be away at Belmont from midday on **Sunday June 21st until the afternoon of June 25th**: in case he needs to be contacted in an emergency, his mobile number is 07938 156031. Please keep the Catholic and other patients in our local care homes in your prayers; thanks to our 'extraordinary ministers', parishioners who are housebound or in care homes can be visited with communion weekly

First Holy Communion We continue to pray for the children who will receive their First Holy Communion – together with their families – in St Benedict's on Sunday July 5th: Nikolai Asquith, Dara Breddy, Wilfrith Carter, Gus Cooney, Jeanna Galera, Rowan Goldstrom, Namaali Liedong, Alfred Medlicott, Samantha Medrana & Sairose Ryan

Weekday Masses

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|------------------------------------|--------|---------------|
| Thursday 25th June — Week 12 in OT | 6.30pm | St Benedict's |
| Rosary | 7.00pm | |
| Friday 26th June -Week 12 in OT | 9.30am | Holy Ghost |
| Saturday 27th June—Week 12 in OT | 9.30am | St Benedict's |

11th July Parish Outing/Pilgrimage Belmont Abbey – The minibus is now full. If you wish to go but haven't booked a place please add your name to the bottom of the list and we will try and find places. This will be on a 'best endeavours' basis as it will depend on a number of factors.

We will leave St Benedict's church at 9.30am and will return approximately 7.45pm. There is a planned stop at Tintern Abbey at 11.00am. Please **bring a packed lunch** which we will have in the grounds at Belmont.

Downside Abbey Festival 16-19 July. There will be a series of concerts by artists including David Bednall and the Bristol Brass Consort, the Choir of St Mary's, Wimbledon and the Tenebrae Associate Artists. The highlight of the four-day festival will be a 'Come and Sing', directed by Sir John Rutter – full details and information to book tickets is available on the website [Downside Abbey Festival 2026 | Downside Abbey](#)

English Martyrs Next Sunday, we shall be celebrating the solemnity of SS Peter & Paul, who have rather a special place in the Roman Martyrology (see ewtn.co.uk). The two 'great apostles' are also part of the virtual landscape of our own islands through the number of parishes, schools and a great variety of churches dedicated to them. As martyrs, they inspired hosts of other witnesses, such as SS John Fisher and Thomas More whose feast is celebrated on June 22nd and who head the list of the Martyrs of the English reformation (commemorated yearly on May 4th). Other martyrs such as St Alban (June 20th), St Thomas Beckett (Dec 29th) and St Oliver Plunkett (July 1st) gave their lives for the freedom of a Church (whatever her denomination) that has been persecuted surprisingly often in our islands. The 'red and the green' that were favourite colours in the decoration of our medieval churches have been seen to represent the holy blood of Christian martyrs falling on fertile ground; the colourful reredos in St Benedict's further illustrates sixteen English and Welsh 'white martyrs' who are part of the same story. Members of our PPC currently plan to produce a small booklet about them for our visitors: would anyone like to collaborate or to contribute?

Procession - On **Thursday 25 June** pupils of Downside School will lead a procession of Our Lady from **2pm**. We will meet on Abbey Road near the visitor centre for a 2pm start, praying the rosary and singing Marian hymns while walking through the Abbey Gardens, moving through the West doors and concluding with prayers in the Lady Chapel. This will be followed by tea in school. All welcome.

Parish Safeguarding – Parish Representative – Hettie McDermott is the Parish safeguarding representative and she can be contacted on mcdermotthj@outlook.com

First reading—Jeremiah 20:10-13

‘He has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.’

Jeremiah said: I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! ‘Denounce him! Let us denounce him!’ say all my close friends, watching for my fall. ‘Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him.’ But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten. O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause. Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

Responsorial Psalm—Ps 69(68):8-10, 14, 17, 33-35. R14c

In your great mercy, answer me, O Lord.

It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame has covered my face.
To my own kin I have become an outcast,
a stranger to the children of my mother.
Zeal for your house consumes me,
and taunts against you fall on me.

But I pray to you, O LORD,
at an acceptable time.
In your great mercy, answer me, O God,
with your faithful salvation.
LORD, answer, for your mercy is kind;
in your great compassion, turn towards me.

The poor when they see it will be glad,
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the LORD attends to the needy,
and does not spurn his own in their chains.
Let the heavens and the earth give him praise,
the seas and everything that moves in them.

Gospel Acclamation—John 15:26b, 27a

Alleluia, alleluia.
The Spirit of truth will bear witness about me, says the Lord, and you also will bear witness.
Alleluia.

Memorial Acclamation

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess
your Resurrection until you come again**

Second reading—Romans 5:12-15

‘The free gift is not like the trespass.’

Brothers and Sisters: Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned — for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for many.

Gospel—Matthew 10:26-33

‘Do not fear those who kill the body.’

At that time: Jesus instructed his Apostles: ‘Have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father knowing. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.’

Wisdom of the Apostles (Prayer Corner)

Our Lord called his disciples the salt of the earth, because with heavenly wisdom they restored the taste which men’s hearts had lost through the action of the devil. Now he calls them the light of the world as well, because they have been enlightened by the one who is the true and eternal light and so themselves have become a light in the darkness – *St Chro-matius*

History instructs, the law disciplines, prophecy foretells, correction shows us our faults and morality suggests what should be done; but in the book of psalms there is something more than all this and, at the same time, a sort of medicine for man’s spiritual health. Whoever reads the psalms finds a special remedy to cure the wounds caused by his own passions – *St Ambrose*

At the beginning of the first book of Samuel, Hannah ‘was speaking in her heart; her lips moved, her voice was not heard; and the Lord heard her’. We read likewise in the psalms: ‘Speak in your hearts and repent on your beds’. Through Jeremiah the Holy Spirit suggests and teaches the same thing: ‘In the heart, O Lord, we ought to worship you’ – *St Cyprian*