

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time — 19th July 2026

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

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Sunday Masses

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

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 21st July — Week 16 in OT	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Thursday 23rd July — St Bridget of Sweden, Patron of Europe Rosary	6.30pm 7.00pm	St Benedict's
Friday 24th July - Week 16 in OT	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Saturday 25th July - St James, Apostle	9.30am	St Benedict's

16th Sunday Our Lord's Parables of the Kingdom have often been understood as celebrations of God's Creation: on our 'day of rest' we hear today of the mustard seed and of the yeast which appear to promote growth of their own accord (forgetting for the moment how seeds might be planted; and how a baker - or other bread-maker! - can work quite hard to produce loaves of bread). Last week's Parable of the Sower, and today's 'Wheat and Weeds' parable, both look ahead to a harvest whose final results may well be variable - depending upon where seeds are sown, or even upon who planted them in the first place. The Parables of the Kingdom are actually about our own participation in God's Creation - our own response to Him, and our success (or otherwise) in furthering God's will for a world that is given for us to live in. Today's first reading explains how God Himself is the most effective judge of human endeavour in the end; and the Holy Spirit of Jesus, sent from the Father, as St Paul reminds us in his letter to the Romans, is our most effective present helper: 'he who has ears, let him hear'!

St Benedict Grateful thanks are due to those who organised last weekend's parish outing to Belmont Abbey (St Michael's) - on St Benedict's feast-day (July 11th). We were greeted by members of St Michael's parish as well as by 'our' monks of St Gregory's, who now reside at Belmont: it was good to see them again and to be shown parts of their new home such as the beautifully decorated chapel of St Benedict in Belmont Abbey church. Following the patronal weekend, we continued to celebrate St Benedict on Monday morning with the annual visit of St Benedict's Primary School to our parish church for their patronal Mass

This weekend's Appeal: Missionary Society of St Paul We welcome Fr Franklin Achionye MSP to St Benedict's this weekend. He represents the Missionary Society of St. Paul (MSP), whose priests are making Mission Appeals throughout our Diocese in 2026. The MSP is a religious congregation working in different parts of the world, committed to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ and the salvific work of God the Father in the Holy Spirit. The MSP warmly invites you to support their Mission Appeal - whether in today's second collection, by Direct Debit or cheque (payable to The Missionary Society of St Paul at Barclays Bank sort code 20-29-63, account no 73306224) or with your smartphone using the QR code printed here. Online donations can be made at <https://donate.mydona.com/missionary-society-of-st-paul>; you can also use the DONA machine at the back of church if it's working today



Plant Sale— There will be a plant sale in the hall this weekend. All welcome to come and browse/buy. Everything must go! Proceeds to Mary's Meals

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

First reading—Wisdom 12:13, 16-19**‘You give repentance for sins.’**

Neither is there any God besides you, whose care is for all, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly. For your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all. For you show your strength when men doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. You are sovereign in strength but you judge with mildness, and with great forbearance you govern us; for you have power to act whenever you choose. Through such works you have taught your people that the one who is righteous must be kind, and you have filled your sons with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.

Responsorial Psalm**Ps 86(85):5-6. 9-10. 15-16a. R5a*****O Lord, you are good and forgiving.***

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of mercy to all who call to you.
Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer,
and attend to my voice in supplication.

All the nations you have made shall come;
they will bow down before you, O Lord,
and glorify your name,
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God.

You, O God, are compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abundant in mercy and fidelity;
turn and take pity on me.

Second reading—Romans 8:26-27**‘The Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.’**

Brothers and Sisters: The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Gospel Acclamation—Cf. Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.

Alleluia.

Memorial Acclamation

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we
proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come
again**

Gospel— Matthew 13:24-30**‘Let both grow together until the harvest.’**

At that time: Jesus put another parable before the crowd, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?” He said to them, “An enemy has done this.” So the servants said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” But he said, “No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, ‘Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ” ’

Prayer Corner

Lord our God, whose Church encompasses all nations, have mercy upon those who, in faith and love of your holy name, have given alms this day; upon all who have remembered us in their prayers; and upon all whom we have promised to remember in our own – whether in life or departed, in sickness or in health, at home or far away. Hear my prayer, loving God; call back to yourself those who have turned aside from the way of truth, that men and women everywhere may seek you with their whole heart. Keep us safe under your protection, that no temptation may separate us from you. We beseech your mercy, that all things may turn out according to your will, through our Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour and Redeemer of this world, Amen (*Alcuin* – 9th century)

Lord Jesus Christ, I adore you, lifted up from the earth in order to draw all things to yourself. For with your arms outstretched upon the Cross, as though wishing to embrace us, I hear you cry: ‘Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened, and I will welcome you and refresh you’ (*Paradisus Animae* – 17th century)

Foodbank—Most needed items: Instant Mash, Instant Coffee (small), Vegetarian tinned meals, Squash/long life juice, Tinned tomatoes, Jars of Pasta sauce, Tinned custard, Tinned rice pudding, UHT milk, Tinned vegetables (carrots and peas), Washing-up liquid, Deodorant, Shampoo, Conditioner, Soap, Toilet Rolls, Toothpaste Household Cleaners.