

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time — 2nd August 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 4th August — St John Mary	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Thursday 6th August — The Transfiguration of The Lord	6.30pm 7.00pm	St Benedict's
Friday 7th August - Week 18 in OT	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Saturday 8th August - St Dominic, Religious and priest	9.30am	St Benedict's

18th Sunday In his prophecy, Isaiah invites thirsty people to 'come to the waters' – but what of those who are hungry? 'He who has no money, come, buy and eat'. (In Biblical times, perhaps, the few with money had less compulsion to work for a living than many others?) In many places, Holy Scripture reminds us that the human lot has less to do with money than with 'toil for bread', and today's Gospel shows Jesus - and the disciples - sharing with spirit in this human necessity, on the generous side of their human nature: the disciples had suggested that some of the other followers of Jesus be 'sent away to buy food', but Our Lord gave the famous reply: 'They need not go away: you give them something to eat'. The result was the Feeding of the Five Thousand – the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy, in which the word of God is equated with food for humanity: 'The grass withers; the flower fades; but the word of the Lord endures for ever' (Is 40,8). Like the 'waters' which are mentioned first in today's passage from Isaiah, the word of God is a free gift, with a nourishing quality, which we still receive in the first half of every Mass – coupled with the sacrament in the second half, which is Jesus himself

Missionary Society of St Paul Fr Franklin Achinoye MSP, who visited us two weeks ago to conduct this year's Mission Appeal, has sent a message with grateful thanks for the reception he received and for generous donations from parishioners towards the work of the Missionary Society. Pamphlets about the work of the MSP are still available in St Benedict's and we continue to pray for their work in many different parts of the world

Mrs Pamela Bridges RIP Following her funeral which was held at St Benedict's and Mendip Crematorium on July 22nd, Pamela's ashes were interred in her husband's grave next to the east wall of the church (behind the altar, facing towards the Fosse Way). Many will wish to remember her, together with her family and the large circle of friends who were present for her funeral celebration (she was 90 years old and her twin sister Pauline is still with us)

Wedding Please pray for Leanna O'Sullivan and Bryn Allen, who are to be married in St Benedict's at 11.30 am on Saturday August 8th. The wedding is being celebrated with a sung Mass, with many thanks to Julie Justin, and flowers are also being provided from the parish: gratitude to Marybell. The Nuptial Mass will be followed by light refreshments in the Parish Hall

St Francis of Assisi The 800th anniversary of the passing of St Francis (†1226) will be celebrated on the weekend of October 4th (St Francis' day) preceded by the Season of Creation (from September 1st) during which St Francis is remembered under his new title of Patron Saint of Ecology. Members of our parish led by Alice Maddalena are planning to anticipate the celebrations in honour of St Francis with a 5 mile contemplative **country walk in the vicinity of Mells** which is being planned for the afternoon of **Saturday August 22nd**.

Meet 1.15pm for 1.30pm start under the yew tree in Mells churchyard. We aim to be back in Mells for 4pm where refreshments can be purchased at Mells Walled Garden or The Talbot.

Please wear comfortable shoes and bring water, sunscreen, hats, waterproofs as appropriate.

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

First reading—Isaiah 55:1-3

‘Come and eat.’

Thus says the Lord:

‘Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight
yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an
everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.’

Responsorial Psalm—Ps 145(144):8-9. 15-16. 17-18. R cf. 16

You open your hand and fulfil us, O Lord.

The LORD is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good is the LORD to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand and satisfy
the desire of every living thing.

The LORD is just in all his ways,
and holy in all his deeds.
The LORD is close to all who call him,
who call on him in truth.

Second reading—Romans 8:35, 37-39

**‘Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from
the love of God in Christ.’**

Brothers and Sisters: Who shall separate us from the love
of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or
famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these
things we are more than conquerors through him who
loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor an-
gels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor
powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all crea-
tion, will be able to separate us from the love of God in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Acclamation—Matthew 4:4b

Alleluia, alleluia.

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.
Alleluia.

Memorial Acclamation

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

Gospel—Matthew 14:13-21

‘They all ate and were satisfied.’

At that time: When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist,
he withdrew in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when
the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.
When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compas-
sion on them and healed their sick. Now when it was evening,
the disciples came to him and said, ‘This is a desolate place, and
the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villag-
es and buy food for themselves.’ But Jesus said, ‘They need not
go away; you give them something to eat.’ They said to him,
‘We have only five loaves here and two fish.’ And he said,
‘Bring them here to me.’ Then he ordered the crowds to sit
down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish,
he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the
loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave
them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And
they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over.
And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides wom-
en and children.

Prayer Corner

Man has a noble task – that of prayer and love. To pray
and to love, that is the happiness of man on earth .. My
children, your hearts are small, but prayer enlarges them
and renders them capable of loving God .. Prayer makes
time seem to pass quickly, and so pleasantly that one fails
to notice how long it is. There are those who lose them-
selves in prayer, like a fish in water, because they are ab-
sorbed in God. There is no division in their hearts. How I
love those noble souls. Saint Francis and Saint Colette saw
our Lord and spoke to him as we speak to one another (*St
John Mary Vianney, Curé of Ars*)

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