

1st Sunday of Lent — 22nd February 2026

St Benedict's Parish Newsletter Stratton-on-the-Fosse

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Sunday Masses

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

1st Sunday of Lent Through three temptations in the wilderness, Our Lord shows His power against sin and death in everyday life. In first place, human need for physical nourishment is complemented by a deeper need which God alone can satisfy. Following the first temptation (because the Tempter is assiduous) Jesus offers us his vision for life ('Thou shalt not tempt the Lord your God') through the substance of divine worship ('God alone'). We are being invited to join in! The final phrase in St Matthew's account of the three temptations reminds us of the presence of 'good angels' in our experience of life – confirming our real capacity for the faith which Jesus has shown to us. The story of Adam and Eve, who make loin cloths for themselves, is the story of Everyman. Jesus opens a door beyond this story by shining a light upon our true potential (for individuals and communities alike) – as illustrated for us in the White Garment of our Baptism. The presence of many 'good angels', whom we may encounter at the different stages of our faith-journey, gives us our privileged access to the gifts and graces which St Paul is describing for us in today's second reading

Reconciliation Services Each week of Lent, Bishop Bosco will visit a different part of the Diocese beginning with St Mary's, Glastonbury, where he will hold a celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Tuesday 24th February at 7 pm**

Notre Dame Café in the Parish Hall – Wednesday 4th March from 4 – 5pm. All welcome!

Pilgrimage to Lourdes The annual diocesan pilgrimage, to be led by Bishop Bosco with the Catholic Association of Lourdes UK, is being planned for **Friday 21st – Friday 28th August 2026**. For advance details and / or to reserve a place: lourdes@cliftondiocese.com. To find out more about Lourdes and the Pilgrimage Trust (HCPT) which still promotes trips for small groups of children with special needs: tafosman@hotmail.co.uk

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

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 24th Feb — 1st week in Lent	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Thursday 26th Feb— 1st week in Lent	6.00pm 6.30pm	St Benedict's Rosary
Friday 27th Feb - 1st week in Lent	9.30am 6.30pm	Holy Ghost St Benedict's
Stations of the Cross		
Saturday 28th Feb—1st week in Lent	9.30am	St Benedict's

Stations of the Cross are being held in St Benedict's on **Fridays at 6.30 pm** throughout Lent, preceded on **Friday 27th March** by a **Reconciliation Service at 6 pm**

Baptismal Vocation Please pray for Rowan Jones and Matt Smith, who are preparing to be baptised at Easter this year. Preparations for adult Baptism culminate during this time of Lent, with the Rite of Election held in the Cathedral for adult catechumens on the first Saturday of the season (Feb 21st), followed by the Scrutinies, during which the catechumens are introduced to the Parish community, on two forthcoming Sundays of Lent. The weeks leading up to Easter give us all a good time to reflect on our collective Baptismal Vocation – a personal calling for each one of us. A booklet (obtainable from adult.education@cliftondiocese.com or from Fr Martin) entitled **We Dare to Ask** is available at £1.25 to guide us through the five weeks of Lent – whether individually or in small groups – with dialogue around the baptismal theme in mind: 'If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him' (2 Timothy 2:11-12)

Taizé for Lent Beautiful chants from the Taizé tradition, with seasonal reading & prayer, led by the musicians of **St Monica's, Cote Lane, Bristol BS9 3UN: Sunday 1st March from 5 pm** – all welcome (contact Roger on 0117 462 1117 for further info)

Message from CAFOD: Lent Fast Day (Friday 27th February) *This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10. (The second collection will be held in St Benedict's: 28th February / 1st March)*

First reading—Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
The creation and sin of our first parents.

The LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God actually say, “You shall not eat of any tree in the garden”?’ And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.”’ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 51(50):3-4. 5-6b. 12-13. 14, 17. R cf. 3a
Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your merciful love;
according to your great compassion,
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me completely from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions, truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

Create a pure heart for me, O God;
renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence;
take not your holy spirit from me.

Restore in me the joy of your salvation;
sustain in me a willing spirit.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Gospel Acclamation—Matthew 4:4b

Glory and praise to you, O Christ.
One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

Second reading
Romans 5:12-19

‘Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.’

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. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man’s sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man; much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

Gospel—Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus fasts for forty days and is tempted.

At that time: Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

And the tempter came and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.’ But he answered, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”’

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the Temple and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you”, and “On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.”’ Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written, “You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.”’

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.”’ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Memorial Acclamation

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