

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time — 31st August 2025

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

22nd Sunday We shall soon be celebrating the Season of Creation (1 st September – 4 th October) – a time during which we may express our wonder at the beauties of the for the fruits of the earth at harvest time. We are also called to express our concern at degradations within our environment – too often as a result of our own activities. Among the sages of the Old Testament, the author of today's first reading evokes the virtues of patience and humility, traditionally associated with those who till the land; and in St Luke's Gospel, our Lord Jesus Christ warns us against putting ourselves in first place. Our children can help us here, as they begin a new school year: the youngest of them will naturally wait quite a while before attaining any of those honours conferred upon school leavers (the last will be first) whereas – over a more extended time-scale – the intellectual capabilities of the young will eventually be outshone by the wise forgetfulness of the elderly (the first will be last)

Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus This weekend we welcome Sr Theresa, with Sr Veronica, who will conduct an appeal for their Missionary Congregation, the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus. We are asked to pray for this important work and there will be a collection at the end of Mass so that we can give material support (cashless donations can also be made through the 'Dona' machine at the back of church)

Mass in Wells Cathedral The Catholic community in Wells is invited to celebrate a Holy Mass in Wells Cathedral on Monday 8th September, the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady, starting at 3 pm. All are most welcome to attend. For further details, please visit - wells.ssjosephandteresa@cliftondiocese.com

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 2nd September - Week 22 in OT	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Wednesday 3rd September—St Gregory the Great—see below	11.30am	Holy Gost
Thursday 4th September- Week 22 in OT Rosary	6.30pm 7.00pm	St Benedict's
Friday 5th September - Week 22 in OT	9.30 am	Holy Ghost
Saturday 6th September — Week 22 in OT	9.30 am	St Benedict's

St Gregory the Great On St Gregory's day, Wednesday September 3rd, parishioners from St Joseph's, Peasedown, will visit **Holy Ghost Church, Midsomer Norton**, for a morning pilgrimage led by Fr Robert Corrigan, with **Mass at 11.30 am**, followed by a picnic in the Garden of Friendship to which all are invited to contribute. This event is warmly recommended for all of our parishioners

Annual Pilgrimage to Glastonbury: Sunday 7th September 2025 - This annual event will celebrate the Jubilee Year with the theme 'Mary, Woman of Hope'. In addition to the Rosary Procession around the town during the afternoon, there's an invitation to ascend the Tor during the morning, when the Shrine of our Lady will also be open for **Exposition and Adoration from 11am until 2.30 pm**. Prayers for healing will be held as usual in the tented Chapel in the Abbey grounds where the day will culminate with **Mass celebrated by Bishop Bosco at 3 pm**

Vincenza Gallo RIP Her Funeral will be held in Holy Ghost Church, Midsomer Norton, at 10.15 am on Friday, September 5 th, followed by burial in St John's Churchyard, where her husband is at rest. Please keep them, together with all the family, in your prayers

Parish Safeguarding— Parish Representative – Hettie McDermott is the Parish safeguarding representative and she can be contacted on mcdermothj@outlook.com. The safeguarding co-ordinator remains as Andy Kings and he can be contacted on 0136645577 or 07881 7541214.

First reading -Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

‘Humble yourself so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord.’

My son, perform your tasks in meekness; then you will be loved by those whom God accepts. The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself; so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord. For great is the might of the Lord; he is glorified by the humble. The affliction of the proud has no healing, for a plant of wickedness has taken root in him. The mind of the intelligent man will ponder a parable, and an attentive ear is the wise man’s desire.

**Responsorial Psalm -Ps 68(67):4-5ac. 6-7b. 10-11.
R cf. 11b**

In your goodness, O God, you provided a home for the poor.

The upright shall rejoice at the presence of God;
they shall exult with glad rejoicing.

O sing to God; make music to his name.

The LORD is his name.

Father of orphans, defender of widows:

such is God in his holy place.

God gives the desolate a home to dwell in;

he leads the prisoners forth into prosperity.

You poured down, O God, a generous rain;

when your heritage languished, you restored it.

It was there that your flock began to dwell.

In your goodness, O God, you provided for the poor.

Second reading—Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a

‘You have come to Mount Sion and to the city of the living God.’

Brothers and Sisters: You have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.

But you have come to Mount Sion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant.

Gospel Acclamation—Matthew 11:29ab

Alleluia, alleluia.

Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord,
and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.
Alleluia.

Gospel -Luke 14:1, 7-14

‘Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.’

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honour, saying to them, ‘When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honour, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, “Give your place to this person”, and then you, with shame, will take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, “Friend, move up higher.” Then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.’

He said also to the man who had invited him, ‘When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends, or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbours, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.’

Food Bank Needs— Milk (IUHT), Long life Juice, Tinned Pulse, Tinned Custard, Instant Coffee, Tinned Vegetarian Meals, Tomato Past Sauce (Jars), Instant Mash.
Non-Food Items—Deodorant and Shampoo.

Jubilee Prayer Group—will meet **Sunday at 6pm** at Suzanne’s house. Please phone 07863 212897

Memorial Acclamation

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free