

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time — 30th August 2026

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time — 6th September 2026

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

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SATURDAY	5.00pm	St Benedict's
SUNDAY	10.00pm	Abbey Church
SUNDAY	11.00pm	St Benedict's

22nd & 23rd Sundays In the Gospel for the 22nd Sunday, the followers of Jesus are introduced to the Cross – the emblem of our Christianity, at the centre of the 'spiritual worship' to which St Paul enjoins us in the second reading. Sacrifice is part and parcel of human life, and the closing words of the Gospel show us how the message of the Cross is generative of Christian hope for eternity. In the first reading for the same Sunday, the prophet Jeremiah speaks of fire within the soul: 'I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot'. Followers of Jesus have the privilege of being shown how to live fruitfully with the ardour expressed by the prophet: on Holy Cross day (Sept 14th) we 'raise high the Cross', celebrating the triumph of Jesus over sin and death; and the readings for the 23rd Sunday (Sept 6th) show us how to do this in our individual lives. Sept 6th is the day of our Diocesan pilgrimage to Glastonbury – for which there may be individual Cross-bearers! The Mass readings for that Sunday are about how we use our conscience (both individually and collectively) within the life of the Church, where the 'two great commandments' of the Judeo-Christian tradition – love of God and neighbour – are required to be paramount.

Glastonbury Pilgrimage (6th Sept)

We are encouraged to take part in the annual diocesan pilgrimage to Glastonbury which is celebrated this year under the theme 'Mary – Mother of the Faithful'. The day begins in the Shrine Church (Magdalene Steet) before the statue of Our Lady of Glastonbury; a youth procession to the Tor is planned for the morning, when the Chapel of Healing Prayer in the Abbey grounds will also be open. Refreshments can be purchased from the Abbey Café & St Mary's Cake Stall; you are welcome to bring a picnic. The Rosary Procession through Glastonbury (early afternoon) will be followed by the Pilgrim Mass with Bishop Bosco. For further details please visit cliftondiocese.com

There will be no music at Sunday Mass in St Benedict's as the musicians are away or attending the pilgrimage.

Tuesday 1st September Week 22 in OT	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Thursday 3 rd September St Gregory the Great Rosary	6.30pm 7.00pm	St Benedict's
Friday 4 th September St Cuthbert	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Saturday 5 th September St Theresa of Calcutta	9.30am	St Benedict's

Fr Martin is away at Belmont on retreat between September 7th and 12th and so we have to announce with regret that there'll be no weekday Masses during that week.

Season of Creation (1st Sept – 4th Oct) – opens with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on **Tuesday 1st September**. Pope Leo's message for this year's Season of Creation reflects on Isaiah's prophecy about a messianic age in which 'nations will "beat their swords into ploughshares" (Is 2,4), transforming what destroys life into what sustains it': the Pope is calling us to a further 'conversion of heart that will bear fruit in a deeper fidelity to God, love of one another and respect for the gift of creation'. On **1st September**, Adoration will be held as usual before and after morning Mass at Holy Ghost church, Midsomer Norton, and St Benedict's will also be open for prayer and Adoration between 11.30 am and 12.30 pm.

Adoremus

(National Eucharistic Congress: Saturday 10th Oct) 45 places are available for participants from the Diocese of Clifton wishing to take part in this event. Participants aged 18 or over, able to make your own way to Southwark Cathedral for **10.30 am** on the day & prepared to walk the 1.7-mile Eucharistic procession between Southwark and Westminster, should register at adoremusclifton2026.eventbrite.co.uk & attend a preparation session at Clifton Cathedral on **Saturday 12th Sept** (Mass at **12 noon** followed by orientation with issuing of tickets and further information for 10th Oct)

30th August

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 63(62):2. 3-4. 5-6. 8-9. R2b

For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.

O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you;
for you my soul is thirsting.
For you my flesh is pining,
like a dry, weary land without water.

I have come before you in the sanctuary,
to behold your strength and your glory.
Your loving mercy is better than life;
my lips will speak your praise.

I will bless you all my life;
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet;
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you.

For you have been my strength;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings fast to you;
your right hand upholds me.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
enlighten the eyes of our hearts,
so that we may know the hope to which he has called us.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 16:21-27

'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself.'

At that time: Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.'

Memorial Acclamation

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

Parish Safeguarding— Parish Representative – Hettie McDermott is the Parish safeguarding representative and she can be contacted on

mcdermothj@outlook.com

6th September

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 95(94):1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9. R7c, 8a

O that today you would listen to his voice!

'Harden not your hearts.'

Come, let us ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;
let us hail him with a song of praise.

O come; let us bow and bend low.
Let us kneel before the Lord who made us,
for he is our God, and we the people,
the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your forebears put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself,
and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

'If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.'

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.'

Memorial Acclamation

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

17th September

Downside Abbey Heritage Open Day

There will be tours of the Abbey Church (10.15 and 13.15) and the monastery gardens (11.45 and 14.45). At 12.20 there will be an Organ Recital by renowned Cambridge organist, Nigel Kerry. The Exhibition 'Everyday Lives' will be on display. All welcome.