

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time — 7th September 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

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 9th September - Week 23 in OT	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Thursday 11th September- Week 23 in OT Rosary	6.30pm 7.00pm	St Benedict's
Friday 12th September - Week 23 in OT	9.30 am	Holy Ghost
Saturday 13th September — St John Chrysostom Bishop and Doctor	9.30 am	St Benedict's

23rd Sunday The gifts of the Holy Spirit* are named already in the Old Testament (Isaiah 11; 2-3*): today's first reading focusses on just two of them, reminding us of how they are accessible, potentially, to all – whether before or after Baptism. In his words to the Pharisee Nicodemus about the significance and importance of Baptism (St John's Gospel, chapter 3), Our Lord likens the Spirit to the 'wind' of God who 'blows where He wills'. The freedom of the Spirit is celebrated by St Paul, 'the prisoner of the Lord', who has so much to teach us about the right use of our spiritual gifts (see his first Letter to the Corinthians!) Both today's New Testament readings encourage us in our use of the gifts of Wisdom and Understanding in extremely down-to-earth situations, affecting for example the destiny of a Christian slave (Onesimus in St Paul's letter to Philemon) and (in two parables of Jesus) those who have some building to do – or who have a 'campaign' ahead of them. These images are probably relevant to us in most of our lives!

(*translated in the Catechism as Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and Fear of the Lord)

Season of Creation Mass for the Care of Creation will be celebrated in the garden of Emmaus House, Sleep Lane, Whitchurch (BS14 0QN) at **midday** on **Tuesday September 9th**, followed by a shared plant-based lunch. Those who would like to attend are invited to contact an-nemmaus40@gmail.com

Baptism The Baptism of Heidi Bella Porter will be celebrated in St Benedict's at **2 pm** on **Saturday September 13th**. We are asked to keep Heidi and all of her family, future Godparents and friends in our prayers

Mass in Wells Cathedral The Catholic community in Wells is invited to celebrate a Holy Mass in Wells Cathedral on **Monday 8th September**, Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady, beginning from **3 pm**. All are most welcome to attend. For further details: wells.ssjoephandteresa@cliftondiocese.com

Glastonbury Pilgrimage / Parish Prayer Group Many parishioners will be at Glastonbury for today's Jubilee Pilgrimage (7th September from 11 am): the Rosary Procession (from 1.45 pm) and Mass with Bishop Bosco (3 pm) are the main events of the afternoon; earlier in the day, Exposition and Reconciliation in St Mary's and Healing Prayers in the Abbey Grounds are available until 2.30 pm. For these reasons, there'll be **no meeting** of the Prayer Group this Sunday evening: we shall resume at **6 pm** on **September 14th**

Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus Last weekend's Mission Appeal, led by Sisters Theresa and Veronica of the Handmaids of Jesus, was well-supported at St Benedict's: the sisters asked Fr Martin to convey their sincere thanks. For those still wishing to support their missionary work in Africa and elsewhere, final donations (whether in cash or via the 'Dona machine') can be made this weekend

Children's Liturgy starts up again this Sunday: we are very grateful to Angela and to all those (teachers or catechists) who are responsible for looking after the children – keeping their DBS certificates up-to-date and providing fun activities for the very young during the first half of Sunday Mass. Children's Liturgy takes place in the Parish Hall (approx. 11.05 – 11.30 am) and is intended especially for those who haven't yet received First Holy Communion but is open to all – from toddlers to teens; parents may accompany the youngest children if desirable

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

First reading -Wisdom 9:13-18b

‘Who can discern what the Lord wills?’

What human being can learn the counsel of God? Or who can discern what the Lord wills? For the reasoning of mortals is worthless, and our designs are likely to fail, for a perishable body weighs down the soul, and this earthy tent burdens the mind full of thoughts. We can hardly guess at what is on earth, and what is at hand we find with labour; but who has traced out what is in the heavens? Who has learned your counsel, unless you have given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high? And thus the paths of those on earth were set right, and people were taught what pleases you.

Responsorial Psalm—Ps 90(89):3-4. 5-6. 12-13. 14, 17. R1

*O Lord, you have been our refuge,
from generation to generation.*

You turn man back to dust,
and say, ‘Return, O children of Adam.’
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away like a dream,
like grass which is fresh in the morning.
In the morning it sprouts and is fresh;
by evening it withers and fades.

Then teach us to number our days,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Turn back, O LORD! How long?
Show pity to your servants.

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the LORD our God be upon us;
give success to the work of our hands.
O give success to the work of our hands.

Gospel Acclamation -Psalm 119(118):135

Alleluia, alleluia.

Let your face shine forth on your servant,
and teach me your decrees.

Alleluia.

Memorial Acclamation

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

Second reading -Philemon 9b-10, 12-17

**‘Have him back no longer as a bondservant but as a
beloved brother.’**

Beloved: I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus — I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother — especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me.

Gospel—Luke 14:25-33

**‘Any one who does not renounce all that he has cannot
be my disciple.’**

At that time: Great crowds accompanied Jesus, and he turned and said to them, ‘If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, “This man began to build and was not able to finish.” Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.’

**Food Bank Needs — Urgently needed— Long life Juice,
Tinned Custard, Tinned Soup - Always needed; Milk
(IUHT), Instant Coffee, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned
Meat, Tinned Carrots/Peas, Tinned Fruit.
Non-Food Items—Deodorant and Shampoo.**

Jubilee Prayer Group—there’ll be **no meeting** of the
Prayer Group this Sunday evening: we shall resume at **6
pm on September 14th**