

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time — 4th October 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

27th Sunday It is sometimes said that large inheritances burn holes in people's pockets – as when ancient buildings are passed on to new generations for restoration. In today's first reading, the Lord's beautiful vineyard, with its watchtower and walls, is reduced to a sorry state; and, for some, the message of the Gospel parable seems to be worse: the 'wicked tenants' of the Lord's vineyard are to lose the kingdom which is now reserved for those producing its fruits. In the second reading, St Paul looks beyond the temporalities to describe the building of a fruitful Christian community: in the light of the Good News of Jesus, the Apostle is able to re-echo the hopes with which Isaiah opened his Song for the Beloved, about the vineyard on the fertile hill, even if it was exposed to the weather. St Paul goes so far as to speak of a harvest of peace, the ultimate hope of those (potentially all of us!) who are privileged with capacities for sowing good things in the Lord's vineyard

From Seed to Plant – a theological life-journey (Saturday October 17th) This is a day at **St John's in Bath** (BA2 4AF) - for all catechists, and for those interested in becoming catechists. The day begins at 10 am and concludes around 4 pm (please bring a packed lunch): all are most welcome to register: fromseedtoplant.eventbrite.co.uk

Adoremus – National Eucharistic Congress (Saturday October 10th) The highlights of this event are to be live-streamed from London – for further details, please see westminstercathedral.org.uk/adoremus

First Communion / Confirmation Adults and teenagers wishing to receive these sacraments in 2027 should apply to Fr Martin; a course of preparation will begin in November. Easter (the usual time for adults to receive the Sacraments of Initiation) falls earlier than usual next year. For children of First Communion age (8 or over) we currently have a course every other year (the next one being envisaged for 2027-8)

St Benedict's Primary School During the school year, some of the children (with their RE teacher) will be attending the weekday Mass on the first Tuesday of the month at Holy Ghost Church, Midsomer Norton; the first day for this will be **Tuesday October 6th at 9.30 am**

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 6th October – St Bruno Hermit	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Thursday 8th October – Week 27 in OT	6.30pm	St Benedict's
Rosary	7.00pm	
Friday 9th October – SS John Roberts & Ambrose Barlow Priests and Martyrs	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Saturday 10th October - Week 27 in OT	9.30am	St Benedict's

The Pope's prayer intention for October: for mental health ministry to be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination towards people with mental illness

The **Notre Dame Cafe** will return (on a monthly basis) to the Parish Hall from 4 - 5 pm on Wednesday 7th October. There will be an autumnal flavour! All welcome.

Lourdes Prayer Petitions – A parishioner who regularly attends 10am Sunday Mass in the Abbey, is going to Lourdes at the end of November. He would be happy to take any prayer petitions to Lourdes and deposit them in the dedicated box within the grotto. These prayer petitions are prayed over and offered to Our Lady during the torchlight procession every evening. Please put any prayer requests into a sealed envelope and clearly mark the envelope with 'Lourdes' (please do not put in any money). The petitions will be collected **after 10am Mass on 25th October**.

CAFOD Family Fast Day 2nd October – You can donate by card using the Dona machine or with cash using the envelopes available at the back church. Or you can scan the QR code from the envelope and donate online. Please gift aid your donation if possible.

Prayer: Rosary; Holy Hour October is the month of the holy Rosary, and World Mission offers a prayer intention for every day (see the Autumn edition of *Missio* in the church porch) – in addition to the Pope's 'intention near the head of this page. This month's Holy Hour in St Benedict's will be held on **Wednesday October 28th at 4.30 pm**

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

First reading - Isaiah 5:1-7

‘The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel.’

Let me sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
and he looked for it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
What more was there to do for my vineyard,
that I have not done in it?
When I looked for it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and briars and thorns shall grow up;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed;
for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 80(79):9, 12. 13-14. 15-16. 19-20. R̥ Isaiah 5:7a

The vineyard of the LORD is the house of Israel.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
It stretched out its branches to the sea;
to the River it stretched out its shoots.

Then why have you broken down its walls?
It is plucked by all who pass by the way.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,
devoured by the beasts of the field.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the stock your right hand has planted,
the son you have claimed for yourself.

And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.
Bring us back, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

Second reading -Philippians 4:6-9

‘Practise these things, and the God of peace will be with you.’

Brothers and Sisters: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise: think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me — practise these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation -Cf. John 15:16

Alleluia, Alleluia.- I chose you out of the world, says the Lord,
that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide.
Alleluia.

Gospel -Matthew 21:33-43

‘He will let out the vineyard to other tenants.’

At that time: Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, ‘Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence round it and dug a wine press in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than at first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.” And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’

They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.’

Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes”? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.’

Memorial Acclamation

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