

28th and 29th Sundays in Ordinary Time — 11th and 18th 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

28th & 29th Sundays The gifts of God are available to all; but they may reach us in unexpected ways – through other people whom we don't really know; or even through channels that we might not normally trust. In the first part of Isaiah's prophecy (28th Sunday), God's bounty is revealed in a world beyond death – on a holy mountain, in the Kingdom that Jesus offers to those with faith in him. Later on (29th Sunday), the providence of God extends beyond the chosen people to Cyrus, the emperor of Persia – newly chosen to bring the Babylonian exile of Judah to an end. Are God's chosen now to be beholden to the kings of the earth? ('Pay to Caesar what is due to Caesar', says Jesus in the Gospel). The readings from St Paul's letters to Philippi and Thessalonica similarly remind us that Christian life can embrace a wide range of human contingencies: through his resurrection, Jesus has a message that transcends all our conditions of life, including the most difficult. The troubling parable we hear in the Gospel for the 28th Sunday ('Many are called but few are chosen') reminds us that a lot may depend upon our own responses to the Good News we've received ('Pay to God what is due to God')

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)

World Mission Sunday – 18th October - This is our chance to show love and solidarity to our brothers and sisters overseas. In offering our prayers, we join with missionaries everywhere in communion and compassion to support them in spreading the Good News, and by giving a donation we respond to Christ's call to feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

John Taylor RIP Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Taylor, who died recently, and for his family and friends. His funeral will be held in St Benedict's at 11 am on Friday October 23rd, followed by burial in the churchyard of St Vigor's

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 13th October – Friday 23rd October

No Weekday Masses

Sunday Masses as usual

Saturday 24 th October - Week 29	9.30am	St Benedict's in OT
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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

Medjugorje A small group from our parish are visiting Medjugorje in the coming days, accompanied by Fr Martin. The Franciscan priests who look after the pilgrimage centre in honour of Our Lady (month of the Rosary!) will have been celebrating the 800th anniversary of their founder's heavenly birthday (October 1226). Because Fr Martin is away, we regret that there will be no weekday Masses until Saturday October 24th

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**

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**.

The Glastonbury healing team are giving a presentation in the Parish Hall on **Tuesday 27th October** with a view to establishing a healing team at St Benedict's. Please join us to learn about the wonderful ministry of healing Jesus asked us to continue, with no obligation to commit to anything at this stage. Refreshments will be served. Ahead of this information gathering exercise you can experience a **Healing Mass at the shrine of Our Lady of Glastonbury this Tuesday, October 13th, 6pm**. All are welcome. Please call 7863 212897 if transport is a problem.

11th October 2026

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. R1
In the LORD'S own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.

The LORD is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.-
Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul.

He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the LORD's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.

Gospel Acclamation - Cf. Ephesians 1:17-18
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 22:1-10

'Invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.'

At that time: Jesus again spoke to the chief priests and the elders of the people, in parables, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, "Tell those who are invited, 'See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.' " But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find." And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.'

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

18th October 2026

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 96(95):1, 3. 4-5. 7-8. 9-10a, c. R7b
Ascribe to the LORD glory and power.

O sing a new song to the LORD;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory,
and his wonders among all the peoples.

For the LORD is great and highly to be praised,
to be feared above all gods.
For the gods of the nations are naught.
It was the LORD who made the heavens.

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and power;
ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts.

Worship the LORD in holy splendour.
O tremble before him, all the earth.
Say to the nations, 'The LORD is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness.

Gospel Acclamation -Philippians 2:15d, 16a
Alleluia, alleluia.

Shine as lights in the world,
holding fast to the word of life.
Alleluia.

Gospel - Matthew 22:15-21

**'Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and
to God the things that are God's.'**

At that time: The Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle Jesus in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, 'Whose likeness and inscription is this?' They said, 'Caesar's.' Then he said to them, 'Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'

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

Parish Safeguarding— Parish Representative —

Hettie McDermott is the Parish safeguarding
representative and she can be contacted on

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