

2nd Sunday of Lent — 1st March 2026

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

2nd Sunday of Lent In the readings (and especially in the Gospels) that we hear at Mass on the Sundays leading up to Easter, we have the opportunity to grow closer to Jesus during the different stages of our Lenten journey, whether in solitary prayer or in company with others. Last Sunday, the temptations of Jesus might have reminded us of how to live 'on our own' – how to ignore the harmful influences that can assail each one of us – in such a way as to remain consciously in God's presence every day of our lives. As Christians, we also have the experience of being called together into God's presence at special times – like the three disciples in today's Gospel. Abraham, in the Old Testament, represented an entire people when he was called, with his entire clan, to leave Ur of the Chaldees for the Promised Land. Peter, James and John, invited to ascend the mountain of Transfiguration with Jesus, caught a brief glimpse of heaven to inspire them for a yet greater journey. When St Paul wrote to his chosen disciple St Timothy - who had extensive responsibilities in different churches of the time - he would have remembered how a disciple is always (definitively) close to a Master, especially in view of what Jesus has to offer to those in his company, 'not because of our works, but through his own purpose and grace'

Notre Dame Café in the Parish Hall – Wednesday 4th March from 4 – 5pm. All welcome!

Fast Day Collection 'By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion by helping another family put food on the table' - through the agency of CAFOD, your donation can help families around the world grow food in the face of difficult conditions: please contribute to this weekend's collection for CAFOD and join in our prayers for their work; Gift Aid envelopes are available at the back of church. You can also give online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. To donate £10, text CAFODLENT to 70085

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

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 3rd March — 2nd week in Lent	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Stations of the Cross	10.00am	
Thursday 5th March — 2nd week in Lent	6.00pm	St Benedict's
Rosary	6.30pm	
Friday 6th March - 2nd week in Lent	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Stations of the Cross	6.30pm	St Benedict's
Saturday 7th March — 2nd week in Lent	9.30am	St Benedict's

Stations of the Cross are celebrated during Lent in St Benedict's on **Fridays at 6.30 pm** and in Holy Ghost church, Midsomer Norton, on **Tuesdays at 10 am**

First Holy Communion Children aged eight and over, wishing to prepare for their First Communion this summer, should join the course which begins today (March 1st) as part of the Children's Liturgy held during Sunday morning Mass. The course, led by Mrs Angela Bennett, will run fortnightly on Sundays during this term and the first half of next; during June, the Sunday sessions will be weekly, leading to First Holy Communion on **July 5th**. Parents should submit an enrolment form (obtainable from Angela or from Fr Martin) at the start of the course, and be ready to produce a Certificate of Baptism for their child

Taizé for Lent Beautiful chants from the Taizé tradition, with seasonal reading & prayer, led by the musicians of **St Monica's, Cote Lane, Bristol BS9 3UN: Sunday 1st March from 5 pm** – all welcome (contact Roger on 0117 462 1117 for further info)

RIP We are asked to remember Dorene James, whose anniversary falls this Sunday. Following her death on February 29th a few years ago, volunteers in the Downside archives (where the parish registers are kept) have offered to help us maintain a list of deceased parishioners for whom we can pray week-by-week – to remind us of our extended family as we pray for their immortal souls

St Carlo Acutis The relics of this London-born 'first millennial saint' will visit Cheltenham (parish of St Gregory the Great) early next week: **March 8th-10th**. To obtain tickets for Masses and other events linked with our veneration of his relics, visit <https://stgregorys.org.uk/relics>

First reading—Genesis 12:1-4a

The call of Abram, the father of the People of God.

In those days: The LORD said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonours you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33(32):4-5. 18-19. 20, 22. R5b

***May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O LORD.***

The word of the LORD is upright,
and all his works to be trusted.

The LORD loves justice and right,
and his merciful love fills the earth.

Yes, the LORD’s eyes are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their soul from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the LORD.
He is our help and our shield.
May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O LORD.

**Second reading -2 Timothy 1:8b-10
God calls and enlightens us.**

Beloved: We share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling not because of our works, but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.
From a bright cloud, the Father’s voice was heard:
‘This is my beloved Son, listen to him’.
Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

Gospel -Matthew 17:1-9

‘His face shone like the sun.’

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.’ When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Rise, and have no fear.’ And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one, but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, ‘Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.’

Lord Jesus, during this holy season of Lent, we come before You with repentant hearts.

We acknowledge our sins and ask for Your mercy and forgiveness.

Help us to turn away from sin and to turn toward You with renewed faith and love.

Grant us the grace to live as Your faithful disciples, following Your example of self-sacrifice and love.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Food Bank Most Needed—Coffee (small jars), Rice Pudding (Tinned), Vegetable meals (Tinned), Long Life Juice/Squash, Custard (Tinned), Mash (Instant), Milk (UHT), Fish (Tinned), Tomatoes (Tinned)

Non-Food Items—Deodorant, Washing Up Liquid

Memorial Acclamation

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