

30th Sundays in Ordinary Time — 25th 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

30th Sunday - The two great commandments given by Jesus in today's Gospel both begin with three words ('Thou shalt love...'), naming the preeminent virtue which St Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, defines as the 'greatest gift':- 'Love ('charity', in some translations) never fails' or 'doesn't come to an end' (I Cor 13). St Paul's suggestion is consistent with today's words of Jesus who, quoting from the law of Moses, names the further gifts or human faculties ('heart, soul, mind' – and 'strength', which St Matthew doesn't mention) with which we are to love God, whose own love 'is without end' or 'endures for ever' (Psalm 135 or 136). To reinforce the Christian aspect of the greatest of the virtues as love of neighbour, in St John's Gospel, Jesus gives his disciples the 'new commandment: love one another as I have loved you' in which his love links in with the faith through which he leads us to the Father (Jn 15: 9-12). Hope, the remaining theological virtue, is defined by St Paul in today's second reading as serving God while 'waiting for his Son ... whom he raised from the dead - Jesus who delivers us from retribution'

Assisi anniversary - 27th October is the 40th anniversary of Pope St John-Paul II's initiative in inviting leaders of the world's religions to fast and pray for peace at Assisi: inspired by the witness of St Francis, this took place during a Franciscan anniversary month with a wide-ranging invitation from the Pope to 'promote together, and for the benefit of all mankind, social justice and moral welfare, as well as peace and freedom'. See also the current prayer intentions for each day of October, published in the autumn edition of Mission Today (available at the back of church)

Parish Safeguarding— Parish Representative –

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

mcdermothj@outlook.com

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 27 th October – Week 30 in OT	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Thursday 29 th October – Week 30 OT	6.30pm 7.00pm	St Benedict's Rosary
Friday 30 th October – Week 30 in OT	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Saturday 31 st October - Week 30 in OT	9.30am	St Benedict's

Hallowe'en Next weekend we shall be celebrating the festival of All Saints. After the 5 pm Mass on Saturday 31st October (the 'Eve of All Hallows') we shall gather in the churchyard with candles to be placed on the graves of our loved ones, for whom we can continue to pray on Monday 2nd November (All Souls' Day: there will be Masses in Holy Ghost Church, Midsomer Norton, at 9.30 am and in St Benedict's at 6.30 pm)

Prayer: Rosary; Holy Hour - As Rosary month reaches its conclusion, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held in St Benedict's between **4.30 – 5.30 pm** on **Wednesday 28th October**. Please let Fr Martin know of any prayer intentions for this occasion, when there will also be readings for the feast of SS Simon & Jude including texts relating to the recent parish visit to Medjugorje

Holy Saints, Holy Souls and Catholic History - This is the title of a talk to be given by Fr Michael Patey at **7 pm** on **Wednesday 4th November** in St Benedict's Parish Hall. There will be refreshments from around 6.30 and the talk will last about an hour: it is part of a short course designed for adults who are preparing for reception into the Church (including Baptism and / or Confirmation) next year and all are most welcome to attend and meet some of our future parishioners

Dates for your diary. There will be a **social evening** with music and supper on **Saturday 21st November** and a **soup lunch** on **Wednesday 25th November**.

Your Parish Needs You! We need people to help with church cleaning, coffee after the 11.00am Mass and readers for the 5pm and 11.00 am Masses. If you can help please put your name on the list at the back of the church. Thank you!

First reading - Exodus 22:21-27

‘If you mistreat any widow or fatherless child, my wrath will burn against you.’

Thus says the Lord: ‘You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless. If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a money-lender to him, and you shall not exact interest from him. If ever you take your neighbour’s cloak in pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down, for that is his only covering, and it is his cloak for his body; in what else shall he sleep? And if he cries to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate.’

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 18(17):2-3a. 3b-4. 47, 51ab. R2
I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength;
O Lord, my rock, my fortress, my saviour.

My God, my rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my saving strength, my stronghold.
I cry out, ‘O praised be the Lord!’
and see, I am saved from my foes.

The Lord lives, and blest be my Rock!
May the God of my salvation be exalted.
The Lord gives great victories to his king,
and shows merciful love for his anointed.

Second reading -1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10

‘You turned away from idols to serve God and to wait for his Son.’

Brothers and Sisters: You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Memorial Acclamation

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

Gospel Acclamation - John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia.

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord,
and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.
Alleluia.

Gospel - Matthew 22:34-40

‘You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.’

At that time: When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’

Month of November It is a work of mercy to pray for our dead and the Church commemorates all her faithful children who have departed from this life but have not yet attained the joys of heaven. Parishioners are invited to complete a list with the names of deceased family and friends in an envelope and hand to Fr Martin. Specific Mass intentions can also be indicated using the ‘Mass Offering’ envelopes available at the back of church

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

Prayer Corner

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.
Amen.