32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time — 8th November 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**

32nd Sunday In today's Gospel, the parable of the Midnight Wedding prepares us for the great parables of judgement which we shall hear on the last two Sundays of the church year (weeks 33-4). St Matthew brings his account of our Lord's ministry to a climax with these 'tales of the unexpected' in which we are confronted with the mystery of our human destiny – and reminded of the active parts we have to play in it! When the Bride arrives late, in a modern-day church wedding, we know she's worth waiting for .. and the same goes for the Bridegroom who arrives in the middle of the night. Forgetting our male / female stereotypes for the moment, we (most of us) can recognise our own (un)readiness for a vital rendez-vous with the most important person in our lives (that is, with Jesus Christ, our Bridegroom who awaits us at the end of our life's journey). The parable of the Midnight Wedding encourages us with the Wisdom of the Gospel (cf today's first reading) to keep our lamps burning with the Light of Christ, to remind ourselves of our truthful destination and thus to maintain the real purposes of our existence. We might even find that we have some extra oil left over, when the time comes, for anyone whose lamp might be empty?

November Envelopes - November is the month we traditionally remember those who have died and gone before us. It is a work of mercy to pray for our dead. The Church commemorates all her faithful children who have departed from this life but have not yet attained the joys of heaven.

The Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered each day in November for the Holy Souls. Parishioners are invited to complete a list with the names of deceased family and friends in an envelope and hand to Fr Martin or Abbot Nicholas with any traditional offering. These names will be especially remembered during this month.

Soup Lunch - There will be a **soup lunch** on **Wednesday 25th** November in the parish hall. £6 entry - all welcome.

Prayer and Praise –Friday November 13th (6 pm) This will be held in St Benedict's for those whose names are recorded in the Lady Chapel – and in this year's November envelopes. As usual, the programme consists of prayer, scripture reading and song, concluding with Exposition and Adoration and followed by light refreshments in the Parish hall

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 10d November – At Leo The Great	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Thursday 12th November – week 32 in OT Rosary	6.30pm 7.00pm	St Benedict's
Friday 13th November – All Saints of the Order of St Benedict	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Saturday 14th November – Week 32 in OT	9.30am	St Benedict's

The Pope's prayer intention for November: For the proper use of wealth - Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

All Souls' / November devotions - Holy Hour for the month of November will be held in St Benedict's at **4.30 pm on Wednesday November 11 th** . There will be prayers for Remembrance and also a brief thanksgiving from members of the small group of parishioners who recently made a pilgrimage to Medjugorje

Downside Abbey - Parishioners and visitors to Downside Abbey will notice that work has finally begun on replacing the antiquated wiring and improving the lighting in the basilica. The initial stages running up to Christmas will mostly involve preparatory work below the church, especially in the crypt and boiler rooms where most of the junction boxes and cabling are to be found. From January to Easter work will move to the inside of the basilica and will necessitate a certain amount of disruption and noise on week days - though we don't anticipate any issues with access for visitors.

Parish Social on Saturday 21st November at 6pm. An evening of food and musical celebration in honour of St Cecilia. There will be sing-a-.long favourites and a ploughman's supper. There is no set charge for food but there will be a donation plate available on the night. Tea and coffee will be provided but please feel free to bring any drinks you would like. Please add your name on the list at the back of the church so we know numbers for catering.

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

First reading - Wisdom 6:12-16
'Wisdom is found by those who seek her.'

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. He who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for he will find her sitting at his gates. To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and he who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths and meets them in every thought.

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 63(62):2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8. ℟2b
For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.

O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you;
for you my soul is thirsting.
For you my flesh is pining,
like a dry, weary land without water.

I have come before you in the sanctuary,
to behold your strength and your glory.
Your loving mercy is better than life;
my lips will speak your praise.

I will bless you all my life;
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet;
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you.

When I remember you upon my bed,
On you I muse through the watches of the night.
For you have been my strength;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

Second reading - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
'Through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.'

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by the word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Gospel Acclamation - Matthew 24:42a, 44
Alleluia, alleluia.
Stay awake and be ready,
for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
Alleluia.

Gospel - Matthew 25:1-13
'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, "Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise answered, saying, "Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves." And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterwards the other virgins came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he answered, "Truly, I say to you, I do not know you." Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

Telling our Story Parishes are being invited to participate in a reflection upon local activities that can demonstrate how we are working and flourishing together in Communion for Mission: a Conference to be held at St John the Baptist, Trowbridge, on **Saturday 14th November (10 am – 3 pm)** will encourage us in this – 'Telling our Story' to nurture a culture of synodality and recognise shoots of hope in Christian community life. The keynote speaker will be Fr Jerome Ajakaiye, who will offer his thoughts and encouragement as a Parish Priest. Further details for those wishing to attend may be found on the diocesan website (**cliftondiocese.com**)

Remembrance Sunday: November 8th As usual, there will be a Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial in the middle of the village, starting at 11 am. We are encouraged to gather there on foot, but Fr Martin will also hold the same prayers inside St Benedict's for latecomers and for those unable to stand outside. Mass will begin at approx.11.10 am

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