

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time — 16th November 2025

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

33rd Sunday The Gospel – like the Old Testament – is full of powerful prophecy, and in the New Testament the life and teaching of Jesus give quite a new colour to our experience of God's presence in the world: with Jesus, we can celebrate a fulfilment of prophecy in the sacramental life of the Church and a new dimension to those prophetic promises that remain, for the time being, unfulfilled in individual Christian lives. Faith in the one God takes on new meaning where the presence of Jesus is celebrated by his people; Christian lives – in light of the Resurrection which we proclaim – possess a newly revelatory capacity for those in whose life we are potentially able to share and with whom we can ratify our faith sacramentally in the ways we live (and even die). November (sometimes called 'the month of the dead') has traditionally been celebrated as a time for deepening our Christian understanding of the Four Last Things (Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell) and their meaning for our personal lives. We can pursue these meditations most fruitfully by bearing in mind that our witnesses in the world include people of all faiths and of none: in his sermon for the 33rd Sunday (Year C), Fr Alex McAllister, former Parish Priest at St Alphege's in Bath, writes: 'Do not be fooled. When (the other witnesses) look at us, looking for Christ .. they do find Him'

Safeguarding Sunday (November 16th) In recent years, this has become an annual event observed by many parishes and different churches during the month of November – the purpose being to raise awareness of safeguarding issues in the church (in parallel with other institutions such as hospitals, schools and many others in which safeguarding can become a potential 'life or death' issue). Safeguarding Sunday, seen as 'a practical, powerful way to show local communities what love in action really looks like', is an occasion on which we pray for victims of clerical abuse and for the healthy life of our educational and other institutions. Bishop Bosco has sent us his Prayer for Safeguarding Sunday 2025 which is available on leaflets at the back of church

Soup and Cheese Lunch in aid of **Mary's Meals. Wednesday 19th November** in the Parish hall at St Benedict's Church from **12-2pm**. Bring and buy table and raffle. Entrance £6. Anyone needing a lift please call 07887 366324. Please support this very worthy cause.

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 18th November – Week 33 in OT	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Thursday 20th November – Week 33 in OT Rosary	6.30pm 7.00pm	St Benedict's
Friday 21st November - Week 33 in OT	9.30 am	Holy Ghost
Saturday 22nd November — St Cecilia	09.30 am	St Benedict's

Pro-Life prayers: Monday November 17th Those who follow 'Today in Parliament' will be aware of the pro-Life issues (against abortion and euthanasia) that are so easily side-stepped and obscured beneath a mass of words. Our prayer never consists exclusively of words and the pro-Life movement advocates public gestures as part of our prayer for just and equitable laws to govern our lives. Hence the posters that are displayed around the parish in support of a monthly National Day of Prayer and Fasting promoted by **GoodCounselNetwork.com**

Confirmation / First Communion 2026 A small group of adults and teenagers will soon be embarking upon a course of preparation for Confirmation: Bishop Bosco will confer the sacrament in Downside Abbey next year, on the evening of **Friday May 8th**; if you'd like to join in, please let Fr Martin know. First Communion preparation for summer 2026 will also be starting soon: it is hoped to provide a course that will run from Christmas-time until June or July - we'll aim to establish dates for the mutual convenience of everyone involved

Essential Training for Catechists This is available for anyone involved or interested in any kind of catechesis for adults, young people or children: the training is provided by Clifton Diocese in partnership with Light of Truth and will consist of three online sessions on Saturday mornings – **6th, 13th & 20th December, 9 am - 12 noon**; please visit <https://www.lightoftruth.uk/join> (or <https://cliftondiocese.com>) to sign on for the course

Parish AGM—this will take place after the **11.00am Mass next Sunday, 23rd November**. If you would like more information about how to become a member of the Parish Pastoral Council please speak to Fr Martin

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

First reading -Malachi 4:1-2a**‘For you the sun of righteousness shall rise.’**

Behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven,
when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble.
The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the
LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root
nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of
righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings.

Responsorial Psalm**Ps 98(97):5-6. 7-8a. 8b-9b. 9cd. R cf. 9*****The LORD comes to judge the peoples with fairness.***

Sing psalms to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn,
raise a shout before the King, the LORD.

Let the sea and all within it thunder;
the world, and those who dwell in it.
Let the rivers clap their hands.

The hills ring out their joy
at the presence of the LORD, for he comes.
He comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with justice,
and the peoples with fairness.

Second reading—2 Thessalonians 3:7-12**‘If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.’**

Brothers and Sisters: You know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labour we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

Gospel Acclamation—Luke 21:28

Alleluia, alleluia.

Straighten up and raise your heads,
because your redemption is drawing near.
Alleluia.

Gospel—Luke 21:5-19**‘By your endurance you will gain your lives.’**

At that time: While some were speaking of the Temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, Jesus said, ‘As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.’ And they asked him, ‘Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?’ And he said, ‘See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, “I am he!” and, “The time is at hand!” Do not go after them. And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.’

Then he said to them, ‘Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name’s sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness. Settle it, therefore in your minds, not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and sisters, and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives.’

Food Bank Needed— Milk (UHT), Instant Mash, Chocolate Bars, Vegetarian Meals (Tinned), Long Life Juice, Biscuits, Curry Sauce (Jars), Packet Noodles, Custard (Tinned), Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned Soup, Fish (Tinned), Pasta Sauce (Jars).

Non-Food Items—Deodorant and Shampoo and Dental Supplies.

Memorial Acclamation

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