33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time — 15th November 2026

St Benedict's Parish Newsletter Stratton-on-the-Fosse (find us on Facebook)

parish@downsideabbey.co.uk - **Tel: 01761 751615 (Answer Machine)**

Sunday Masses

Saturday	**5.00pm**	**St Benedict's**
Sunday	**10.00am**	**Abbey Church**
Sunday	**11.00am**	**St Benedict's**

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 17th November – week 33 in OT	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Thursday 19th November – week 33 in OT Rosary	6.30pm 7.00pm	St Benedict's
Friday 20th November – week 33 in OT	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Saturday 21st November – Week 33 in OT	9.30am	St Benedict's

33rd Sunday In the Parable of the Talents (today's Gospel), a 'good and faithful servant' is invited to share in an infinity of happiness – his or her Master's joy. Why? Because (s)he'd doubled the Master's fortune (quite an enterprise in this story:- a 'talent' was a measure equivalent to about 30 kg of gold). The most important line in the parable, which is easily missed, is in the Master's voice: 'You have been faithful over a little .. I will set you over much' – making clear that the values of the Kingdom of Heaven are quite different from, and much greater than, those of our own world. The ponderous golden talents are outweighed by the lightness of the spiritual gifts with which we have been entrusted, and which should be seen as our truest currency – the real values in which we can trade with one another: 'bearing' with one another, forgiving, lending and making ourselves available for service. The fruitfulness of the 'wife' in the first reading surmounts her 'charm' or 'beauty' – which might sadden her husband until he reads St Paul's description of the Day of the Lord, the goal of our existence which hopefully reveals the 'children of light' in their true colours:- 'Let her works praise her in the gates'

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.

Safeguarding Sunday (15th November 2026) This is part of an awareness campaign led by Thirtyone:eight, the UK's leading Christian, independent safeguarding charity. Over 5,400 individual churches of different denominations took part last year. This year's theme – 'Love Protects' (cf I Corinthians 13) – is intended to remind us that safeguarding, more than bureaucracy, is Christian love in action and therefore a part of church ministry. We continue to pray for victims and survivors of church-related and other abuse – and for those ministers in our parish and elsewhere who are called to put the new safeguarding laws and guidelines into practice week-by-week (with special thanks to Hettie McDermott, our parish safeguarding rep)

Soup & Cheese Lunch: Mary's Meals (Wednesday 25th November, 12 noon – 2 pm) Come and support Mary's Meals, the charity that feeds over 3 million school-children per year in 16 different countries: it costs just £19.15 to provide meals for a child in a place of education in those countries over a school year. **We're invited to take part in St Benedict's Parish Hall at the advertised time: £6 entry – all welcome**

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.

Church Cleaning St Benedict's - Martin Prior has kindly taken over organising the cleaning roster. Please check for your envelopes in the porch at St Benedict's. Thank you to everyone who cleans the church on a regular basis, it is appreciated!

God who Speaks - The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, in collaboration with the Bible Society, promotes **godwhospeaks.uk,** a website which all are invited to visit for deeper understanding of the messages of the Bible through the year. The latest addition to the site comes from Professor Stephen Gomez of Clifton Diocese (author of God of our Senses), encouraging us to use our eyes and ears to perceive God's voice in His Creation: **godwhospeaks.uk/sense-and-perception**

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

First reading - Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
'She works with willing hands.'

An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 128(127):1-2. 3. 4-5. Ṛ1a
Blessed are all who fear the LORD.

Blessed are all who fear the LORD,
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be blessed and prosper.

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive
around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the husband who fears the LORD.
May the LORD bless you from Sion.
May you see Jerusalem prosper
all the days of your life!

Second reading - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
'Do not let the day of the Lord surprise you like a thief.'

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers and sisters, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

Gospel Acclamation

John 15:4a, 5b

Alleluia, alleluia.
Abide in me, and I in you, says the Lord.
Whoever abides in me bears much fruit.
Alleluia.

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

Gospel -Matthew 25:14-30
'You have been faithful over a little, enter into the joy of your master.'

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

'Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, "Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, "Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours." But his master answered him, "You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." '

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**)