

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time — 15th February 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

6th Sunday Today's Gospel, perhaps more than any other passage of Our Lord's preaching, illustrates the truly revolutionary nature of the message and teaching of Jesus. The first two readings we hear at Mass today give a context for the Gospel in wisdom traditions with which Our Lord would have been familiar; St Paul announces: 'Among the mature, we do impart wisdom (but) not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age'. The Lord 'is mighty in power and sees everything' (Sirach 15,18). St Paul's message to the Corinthians in the second reading shows how and why the teaching of the early Church was Trinitarian and therefore deeply Christian: 'We impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God .. the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God'. The remarkable thing is that, in the Gospel, Jesus is able to plumb the same depths within a purely human nature which we normally regard as entirely fallible ('the rulers of this age .. are doomed to pass away'). Like the sacrifice of the Mass, the revolution proposed by Jesus is without bloodshed. 'Not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished'

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 17th Feb — 6th week in OT	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Ash Wednesday— 18th February	9.30am 12 noon 6.00pm	Holy Ghost Abbey Church St Benedict's
Thursday 19th Feb— Thursday After Ash Wednesday Rosary	6.00pm 6.30pm	St Benedict's
Friday 20th Feb - Friday After Ash Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Saturday 21st Feb—Saturday After Ash Wednesday	9.30am	St Benedict's

Ash Wednesday (February 18th) Times of Masses (with imposition of ashes) are advertised at the head of the page. The season of Lent interrupts Ordinary Time with its call to penitence and self-knowledge. The traditional 'ashes to ashes, dust to dust' message, which we may hear when the ashes are imposed on our foreheads, reminds us of our mortality; alternatively the words 'Repent and believe in the Gospel' recall the first coming of Jesus, heralded by St John the Baptist with the call to new life — destined for potential Christians as well as others (meaning all of us) who stand in need of a renewal of faith!

Reconciliation Services In each week of Lent, Bishop Bosco will visit a different part of the Diocese beginning with St Mary's, Glastonbury, where he will hold a celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Tuesday 24th February at 7 pm**. Later in the season, there'll be a Reconciliation Service on a Friday evening in St Benedict's, combined with:

Stations of the Cross are being held in St Benedict's on Fridays at 6.30 pm throughout Lent, beginning on **Friday February 20th at 6.30 pm**

Shrove Tuesday 17th February pancakes will be served in **St Benedict's Parish Hall from 3-5pm**. Delicious pancakes with a variety of fillings and a cup of tea/coffee £5.

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

On Ash Wednesday, Mass will be celebrated in the Abbey Church at 12 noon, celebrated by Abbot Nicholas.

Mill Hill Missionaries—The National Novena to St Joseph takes place from 10th—18th March 2026 at St Joseph's Church Maidenhead. If you are able, and if it possible to attend, Masses are daily at 10am except 11am Sunday (duration of the Novena). These Masses will be available on YouTube, via the Mill Hill website [Nine-Days Novena To St. Joseph 2026 - Mill Hill Missionaries](https://www.millhillmissionaries.org/novena-to-st-joseph-2026). The Novena Prayer booklet is available on request—for a suggested donation of £1 per booklet. For a booklet or to request a petition for Mass, please write to The Novena Director, 6 Colby Gardens, Maidenhead, SL6 7GZ

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

First reading
Sirach 15:15-20

‘He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly.’

If you desire, you will keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is a matter of choice. He has placed before you fire and water: stretch out your hand for whichever you wish. Life and death are in front of people, and whichever one chooses will be given to him. For great is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power and sees everything; his eyes are on those who fear him, and he knows a person’s every deed. He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly, and he has not given anyone permission to sin.

Responsorial Psalm—Ps 119(118):1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34.

R1b

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the LORD!

Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD!
Blessed are those who keep his decrees!
With all their hearts they seek him.

You have laid down your precepts
to be carefully kept.

May my ways be firm
in keeping your statutes.

Deal bountifully with your servant,
that I may live and keep your word.

Open my eyes, that I may see
the wonders of your law.

LORD, teach me the way of your statutes,
and I will keep them to the end.

Grant me insight that I may keep your law,
and observe it wholeheartedly.

Second reading—1 Corinthians 2:6-10

‘A wisdom God decreed before the ages for our glory.’
Brothers and Sisters: Among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, ‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him’ — these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

Gospel Acclamation—Cf. Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.

Alleluia.

Gospel—Matthew 5:17-37

‘It was said to those of old; but I say to you.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

‘You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgement.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

‘It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.” But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

‘Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.” But I say to you: Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply “Yes” or “No”; anything more than this comes from evil.’

Memorial Acclamation

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