

# 7th Sunday Easter — 17th May 2026

## St Benedict's Parish Newsletter Stratton-on-the-Fosse

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### Sunday Masses

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>St Benedict's</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Abbey Church</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>St Benedict's</b>

**7th Sunday of Easter** On the last Sunday before Pentecost, we listen to our Lord's Prayer to the Father (St John's Gospel chapter 17), honouring God's glory which Jesus has made visible to his disciples through his life and ministry. Having announced his forthcoming 'departure', on the eve of his Passion, Our Saviour both recalls the scope of his earthly ministry and leads his disciples into the apostolic future with his promise of eternal life. The first reading, reminding us that today is the first Sunday after the celebration of our Lord's Ascension three days ago, shows how the Apostles lived out their Master's promise through their prayer and community life, which would give birth at Pentecost to the apostolate. One of the great fruits of Pentecost, St Peter's first epistle addressed to all Christian believers (second reading), illustrates the enduring scope of the same eternal promise, whatever the immediate circumstances of our lives may have been, or may be in future

**RIP** - We shall celebrate the funeral of Carolyn Ablett in Holy Ghost church with a Requiem Mass on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 9.45 am** – and we'll remember Alan Molloy, who also died recently, in the same way - in the Abbey Church at **11.00 am on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May**, with Fr James Hood as principal celebrant. May they rest in peace; please keep them in your prayers together with their families and friends.

Food will be served in the Sixth Form Centre after Alan's funeral and the caterers would like to know numbers and dietary requirements. Please confirm your attendance and advise them of any dietary requirements using the following email [development@downside.co.uk](mailto:development@downside.co.uk)

**Crowning of Our Lady** The Primary School children will celebrate the Coronation of Our Lady in school on the afternoon of **Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup>**. For further details, please ring the school reception – 01761 418594

**Parish Safeguarding — Parish Representative** – Hettie McDermott is the Parish safeguarding representative and she can be contacted on [mcdermott@outlook.com](mailto:mcdermott@outlook.com)

### Weekday Masses

Tuesday 19th May — 7th week of Eastertide	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Thursday 21st May — 7th week of Eastertide Rosary	6.30pm 7.00pm	St Benedict's
Friday 22nd May -7th week of Eastertide	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Saturday 23rd May — 7th week of Eastertide	9.30am	St Benedict's

**Pentecost Vigil** On the eve of Pentecost, the **5 pm Evening Mass** in St Benedict's on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** will take the form of a Vigil, with some extra readings and songs, concluding with a sung Mass ending at around 6.20 pm. This celebration follows the pattern of the Easter Vigil to greet the coming of the Holy Spirit - as announced by Jesus himself on the evening of the day of his Resurrection

**Pentecost Day: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May** Following the 11 am Mass in St Benedict's, our celebration of Pentecost will continue with a **bring-and-share lunch** in the Parish Hall from around midday: please bring your contributions and be ready to join in so that we can receive extra blessings of Pentecost thanks to the personal touch which each is able to give. We would like to make this an 'international' lunch to embrace the different nationalities that make up our parish family. So if you have a favourite dish we would love you to make it!

**Blessed Margaret Pole**—The annual Mass at Farleigh Hungerford Castle will be celebrated on **Saturday 31st May at 6.15pm** by Fr Michael Patey. We are grateful to English Heritage for allowing us to hold this Mass and we are welcome to bring some food and enjoy a picnic after Mass in the grounds (no barbeques or naked flames are allowed on the site). **Please do not arrive before 6pm**

**Now Is The Time** – a Symposium to explore the teachings of Pope Leo in his Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te (Love for the Poor)*. This will be held at St Brendan's College, Brislington, on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May**, with Bishop Bosco, Sir John Battle and Raymond Friel, from 10 am (refreshments from 9.30) until 4.00 pm. Please bring a packed lunch and register with the following link: <https://dilexite.eventbrite.co.uk>

**Dr Scott Hahn** will be giving a talk in St John's, Bath, on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00 pm**. This will be a ticketed event with 350 tickets at £20 per person. To book, please go to: <https://aecsouthwark.churchsuite.com/events/oicym1qd>

**First reading— Acts 1:12-14**

**‘All with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer.’**

After Jesus was taken up into heaven the Apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers and sisters.

**Responsorial Psalm—Ps 27(26):1. 4. 7-8a. R13**

***I believe I shall see the LORD’s goodness in the land of the living.***

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
whom should I dread?

There is one thing I ask of the LORD,  
only this do I seek:  
to live in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD,  
to enquire at his temple.

O LORD, hear my voice when I call;  
have mercy and answer me.  
Of you my heart has spoken,  
‘Seek his face.’

**Second reading—1 Peter 4:13-16**

**‘If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed.’**

Beloved: Rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an evildoer, or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

**Gospel Acclamation -Cf. John 14:18**

Alleluia, alleluia.

I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord.

I am going away and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

Alleluia.

**Memorial Acclamation**

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again**

**Gospel -John 17:1-11a**  
**‘Father, glorify your Son.’**

At that time: Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

‘I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.’

**Word Made Flesh**

Those who possess the Spirit as their guarantee, and are rich in the hope of resurrection, already have a hold on what is in store for them as if it had already come to be. ‘From now on’, they say, ‘we regard no one in the flesh’ (II Cor 5,16). For since the Only-begotten shone upon us, we have been transformed into the Word who gives life to all things. ‘If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation’ (II Cor 5,17) – *St Cyril of Alexandria*

Islam, Judaism and Christianity took a great risk in putting religious experience into words. God took an even greater risk in the Incarnation, and allowed Word to become Flesh. The price we have paid for a certain idolatry of words is that the monotheistic religions became the least tolerant of the world’s religions (Both Hinduism and Buddhism tend to be much more tolerant and accepting of others than we are). The three monotheistic religions each insist upon absolute truth claims in forms of words, whereas Jesus’ truth claim was his person (Jn 14,6), his presence (Jn 6,35f) and his ability to participate in God’s perfect love (Jn 17) – *Richard Rohr OFM*

**Foodbank—Most needed items:** Instant Mash, Instant Coffee (small), Vegetarian tinned meals, Squash/long life juice, Tinned tomatoes, Jars of Pasta sauce, Tinned custard, Tinned rice pudding, UHT milk, Tinned vegetables (carrots and peas), Washing-up liquid, Shaving foam, Deodorant.