All Saints — 1st 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**

All Saints'- In the Beatitudes, Jesus welcomes the poor of the earth into the Kingdom which we're able to celebrate today in communion with multitudes such as those envisioned by St John – 'from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages'. Despite its presence in every corner of the earth, human suffering is not lasting for those who accept the good news of Jesus. The chances and changes ('ups' and 'downs') of our existence, depicted in the Beatitudes, are transcended through the love enshrined through Jesus in St John's first epistle, where all faithful people are reminded of our identity as children of God: 'we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared'. Meanwhile, the abundant promises represented in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are enabling us to pray with all the Saints for the 'abundance of reconciliation' which Jesus makes available

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.

Dates for your diary. There will be a **social evening** with music and supper **on Saturday 21st November** and a **soup lunch** on **Wednesday 25th November.**

Your Parish Needs You! We need people to help with church cleaning, coffee after the 11.00am Mass and readers for the 5pm and 11.00 am Masses. If you can help please put your name on the list at the back of the church. Thank you!

Weekday Masses

Monday 2nd November – Holy Souls	9.30am 6.30pm	Holy Ghost St Benedict's
Tuesday 3rd November – Week 31 in OT	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Thursday 5th November – Deceased Relatives and Benefactors of the English Benedictine Congregation Rosary	6.30pm 7.00pm	St Benedict's
Friday 6th November – Week 31 in OT	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Saturday 7th November – Week 31 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 -Times of the Masses to be held on All Souls' day (**2nd November**) are indicated above. Holy Hour for the month of November will be held in St Benedict's at **4.30 pm** on **Wednesday November 11th**

This month's **Notre Dame Cafe** will be in the Parish Hall from 4 - 5 pm on **Wednesday 4th November**. All welcome.

Remembrance Sunday: November 8th We are encouraged to join in the short Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial in the village – please gather on foot in time for **11 am**. Fr Martin will also lead prayers inside St Benedict's at 11 am and Mass will begin about 10 minutes later than usual

Holy Saints, Holy Souls and Catholic History Fr Michael Patey will give a seasonal talk, inviting us to a place in Catholic History, in the Parish Hall at **7 pm** on **Wednesday November 4th**. There will be refreshments from 6.30 and the talk will last about an hour: it is part of a short course designed for adults who are preparing for reception into the Church (including Baptism and / or Confirmation) next Easter and all are most welcome to attend and meet some of our future parishioners

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

First reading - Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14
'Behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages.'

I, John, saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, saying, 'Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.' And I heard the number of the sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel.

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels were standing round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?' I said to him, 'Sir, you know.' And he said to me, 'These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 24(23):1-2. 3-4b. 5-6. ℟ cf. 6
Such are the people who seek your face, O Lord.

The LORD'S is the earth and its fullness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the rivers he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the LORD?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The clean of hands and pure of heart,
whose soul is not set on vain things.

Blessings from the LORD shall he receive,
and right reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the people who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Gospel Acclamation - Matthew 11:28

Alleluia, alleluia.
Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, says the Lord,
and I will give you rest.
Alleluia.

Memorial Acclamation

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

Second reading - 1 John 3:1-3
'We shall see God as he is.'

Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Gospel - Matthew 5:1-12a
'Blessed are the poor in spirit.'

At that time: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.'

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**)

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.