

Feast of All Saints - 2nd 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

All Saints Every few years, when the Solemnity of All Saints falls on a Sunday, we are especially reminded of how our belief in the Communion of the Saints rests upon our Resurrection faith: the Revelation of St John (first reading) proclaims the Kingship of Jesus - *firstborn from the dead* - as well as (in today's passage) the different roles of Angels and Saints in the Kingdom announced by our Lord during his life on earth. And then the other New Testament readings show us how the Saints actually live among us. We can commemorate their lives in different ways (on All Souls' Day for example) but today let's aspire to share their glory – their share in the life of the Resurrection: *'To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever, Amen'* (Rev 1,5-6).

All Souls' / November devotions The extra Masses we can celebrate on All Souls' Day (Monday November 3rd this year), in Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, are an opportunity for remembering those aspects of faithful lives, lived in celebration of our Lord's own Passover from earth to heaven, which will always help us in our prayers for release from Purgatory – whether in this life or in the next. The month of November is a special time for one of the Works of Mercy – praying for the dead – in response to St Paul's encouraging call in his first letter to the Thessalonians: 'We want you to be quite certain about those who have died – for those who have died in Jesus, God will bring them with Him' (I Th 4,13-14): envelopes for Mass intentions are available in church and parishioners are invited to write the names of those whom they wish to be remembered and hand to Fr Martin.

The Notre Dame Cafe The cafe will operate on a monthly basis this year. Next open day is **Weds 5th November**.

Weekday Masses

Monday 3rd November - All Souls Day	8.00 am 9.30 am 6.30 pm	Abbey Holy Ghost St Benedict's
Tuesday 4th November	9.30 am	Holy Ghost
Thursday 6th November Rosary	6.30pm 7.00 pm	St Benedict's
Friday 7th November	9.30 am	Holy Ghost
Saturday 8th November	09.30 am	St Benedict's

Remembrance Sunday: November 9th On the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (Nov 9th) it's worth remembering how the Communion of Saints includes many who 'went before' our Lord (the Lateran dedication is to St John the Baptist). As it's also Remembrance Sunday, we shall also be thinking of those who have died in some of the worst conditions of all. Sunday Mass will begin later than usual – between 11.10 and 11.15 – so we can attend the ceremony at the War Memorial in the middle of the village, which is also an opportunity to pray for peace. The Remembrance Prayers will also be said inside St Benedict's at 11 am – with those unable to stand for too long out-of-doors in autumn or winter.

Remembrance Day (Nov 11th) / Divine Mercy Mass will be celebrated for those who have given their lives in the world wars and in more recent conflicts on **Tuesday 11th November**, at the usual time of **9.30 am** in Holy Ghost Church, Midsomer Norton, and also at **6.00 pm** in St Benedict's. For the evening Mass in St Benedict's we shall be joined by Fr Peter Prusakiewicz (Congregation of St Michael the Archangel), former Chaplain to the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland, where the Divine Mercy devotion was first revealed to St Faustina. Fr Peter, who has promoted devotion to the Divine Mercy throughout the world, will be introduced to us by Denise Vallancey, and he will give us a short talk after Mass, when we shall be able to venerate a relic of St Faustina. We shall be grateful for his visit, and to Denise for organising this special occasion.

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 don't hesitate to call 07887 366324. Hope to see you all there to help raise funds for this very worthy cause.

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 come up from the East, holding the seal of the living God. He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were given power to damage the land and the sea, saying, ‘Do harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.’ I heard the number of those who had been marked with the seal, one hundred and forty-four thousand marked from every tribe of the children of Israel.

After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice: ‘Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne and from the Lamb.’

All the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They prostrated themselves before the throne, worshiped God, and exclaimed: ‘Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honour, power, and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen.’

Then one of the elders spoke up and said to me, ‘Who are these wearing white robes, and where did they come from?’ I said to him, ‘My lord, you are the one who knows.’ He said to me, ‘These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb.’
The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm—Ps 24(23): 1-2. 3-4b. 5-6 R. 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

Who shall go up to 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 God who saves him. Such are the people who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Second Reading -

A reading of the first letter of Saint 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 shall 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.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation - Mt. 11:28

Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

Alleluia.

Gospel - Matthew 5:1-12

‘Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven’

At that time: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went onto the mountains, and when he was sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for uprightness: 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 in 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.’

The Gospel of the Lord

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

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