



St Benedict's Parish

AUTUMN BULLETIN 2026



September marks the beginning of the New School Year at St Benedict's RC School in Midsomer Norton.

Please remember the pupils and staff of our parish Catholic school in your prayers. Pray for the peace of God, which passes all understanding, to reign in the hearts of the teachers and those in their care. May the Holy Spirit inspire and encourage these young people to live lives of service to one another and to those less fortunate. May each day in the school be filled with the joy, love and peace of Christ.

**Glastonbury
Pilgrimage 2026
SUNDAY 6th
SEPTEMBER**

Season of Creation

1st September – 4th October

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

(1182–1226)

800TH ANNIVERSARY

Shrine of Our Lady of Glastonbury

11.00am: Rosary.

11.30am: Adoration and Confessions

2.30pm: Benediction.

Abbey Grounds

11.00am – 12.30pm: Youth Procession to the top of the Tor

11.30am – 2.30pm: Prayer Ministry in Chapel of Healing (tent)

1.45pm: Rosary Procession from the Abbey, through Glastonbury Town

3.15pm: Mass in the Abbey celebrated by Bishop Bosco

In his letter to mark the occasion of the opening of the eighth centenary of the death of St Francis, Pope Leo writes:

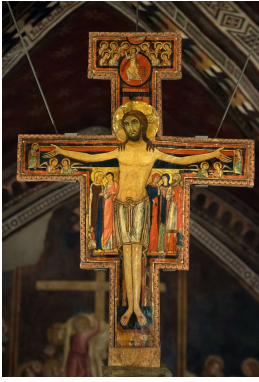
'At the beginning of his evangelical life, Francis heard a call: "The Lord revealed to me that we should say this greeting: "May the Lord give you peace". With these essential words, he conveys to his friars and to every believer the inner wonder that the Gospel had brought into his life: peace is the sum of all God's gifts, a gift that comes from above. What an illusion it would be to think that it can be built by human efforts alone! And yet it is an active gift, to be welcomed and lived every day.

It is the same greeting that, on the evening of Easter, the Risen Lord addresses to his disciples, afraid and locked in the Upper Room: "Peace be with you". It is not a formula of courtesy, but the certain proclamation of Christ's victory over death. In this age, marked by so many seemingly interminable wars, by internal and social divisions that create mistrust and fear, he continues to speak. Not because he offers technical solutions, but because his life points to the authentic source of peace.

The Franciscan vision of peace is not limited to the relations between human beings, but also embraces the whole of creation. Francis, who calls the sun "brother" and the moon "sister", who recognizes in every creature a reflection of divine beauty, reminds us that peace must be extended to the entire family of Creation. This insight resonates with particular urgency in our time, when our common home is threatened and cries out under exploitation. Peace with God, peace among human beings and with creation are inseparable dimensions of a single call to universal reconciliation.

Dear brothers and sisters, may the example and spiritual legacy of this Saint, strong in faith, steadfast in hope and ardent in active charity towards his neighbour, inspire in everyone the importance of trusting in the Lord, of living a life faithful to the Gospel, and of accepting and illuminating every circumstance and action of life with faith and prayer.'

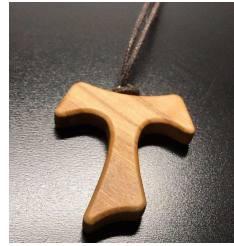
St Francis – A Tale of Two Crosses



The San Damiano Cross is an icon crucifix painted by an unknown Umbrian artist in the twelfth century and hung in the small church of San Damiano near Assisi. There, in 1205, the young Francis heard Christ tell him to repair his house. After the saint's death the Poor Clares kept the cross, and it is now preserved in the Basilica of Saint Clare in Assisi. The cross shows Christ alive and triumphant, his eyes open and his body at peace, surrounded by the witnesses of the Crucifixion and the angels of the Resurrection. It is meant to hold death and victory together in one image, presenting Christ as both the suffering Saviour and the risen Lord who reigns from the cross.

Tau is the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet and is thought to be the symbol with which Ezekiel marked those chosen by God (Ez 9:4). St. Francis of Assisi eventually signed his letters not with his name but with this symbol. Many Franciscans wear such a cross on a piece of leather. It represents a journey never completed this side of heaven. The Tau reminds us of St. Francis' saying, "Let us begin again."

Both the Tau cross and the San Damiano cross are deeply Franciscan, but one is a bare symbol and the other a rich devotional image.



Patron Saint of animals, ecologists, families, lacemakers, merchants, needleworkers, peace, and zoos. Invoked against dying alone and fire.

Canonized by Pope Gregory IX on July 16, 1228

POPE LEO'S PRAYER for the Year of St Francis

*Saint Francis, our brother,
you who eight hundred years ago
went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace,
intercede for us before the Lord.
You recognized true peace
in the Crucifix of San Damiano,
teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation
that breaks down every wall.
You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war
and misunderstanding,
give us the courage to build bridges
where the world raises up boundaries.
In this time afflicted by conflict and division,
intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers:
unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that
comes from Christ.
Amen*



Brother Sun and Sister Moon

Prayer and Praise for the Season of Creation

Friday 18th September

6pm

St Benedict's



Lower Basilica of St Francis, in Assisi.

CARE OF CREATION MASSES

Friday 18th September

9.30am in Holy Ghost

Saturday 26th September

9.30am in St Benedict's



TWO DIOCESAN EVENTS

In the Footsteps of Francis – what the saint from Assisi can teach us today about how to live in harmony with the earth and with each other.

A talk given by **Eddie Gilmore**, taking place at St Francis, Nailsea, on Friday 2 October at 7pm (refreshments from 6.30pm).

To register for the evening, please use the Eventbrite link: <https://footstepsoffrancis.eventbrite.co.uk>

Eddie is a dedicated pilgrimage walker, a writer, a musician and regularly contributes to BBC Radio 2's 'Pause for Thought'. Copies of Eddie's books will be on sale at the event.

Join the walking pilgrimage to celebrate the Year of St Francis of Assisi on 3rd October 2026!

Saturday 3rd October 2026 is exactly 800 years since St Francis died, and the day before his feast day. To mark this a walking pilgrimage is planned in the Diocese of Clifton with two legs:

- The *Bristol leg* will start at Clifton Cathedral at 10.30am (9 miles)
- The *Clevedon leg* will start at the Franciscan church of the Immaculate Conception in Clevedon at 1pm (6.4 miles)

The two legs will convene at around 4.30pm at the Church of St Francis of Assisi, Nailsea for refreshments and prayer. Those who wish can stay for the 6pm Saturday evening Vigil Mass for the Feast of St Francis. For more details and to register see: <https://www.pilgrimways.org.uk/a-franciscan-pilgrimage-in-the-diocese-of-clifton>

How to Receive an Indulgence During the Franciscan Jubilee Year

1. Visit in the form of a pilgrimage any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship named after St. Francis or connected to him for any reason.
2. Spend time in meditation and prayer, focusing on the example of St. Francis, his love for all and his zeal for peace among people.
3. Pray the following: a. Our Father b. Nicene Creed c. Invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Francis of Assisi, St Clare and saints of the Franciscan Family d. The intentions of Pope Leo XIV
4. Detach yourself from all sin, even venial.
5. Participate in sacramental confession.
6. Receive Holy Communion.

For suggestions for Family Prayer and other activities including mini-pilgrimages to celebrate St Francis look on the CAFOD website:

www.cafod.org.uk/pray/year-of-st-francis

St Francis in a nutshell

***Poverty and Humility:**
live simply, relying on God*

***Love for Creation:**
praise God in all things*

***Peace and Reconciliation:**
understanding others*

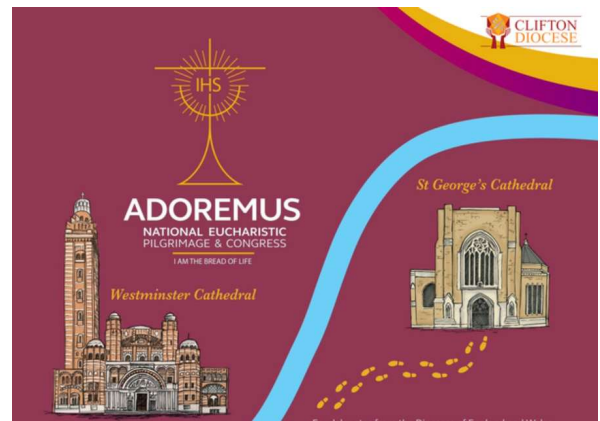
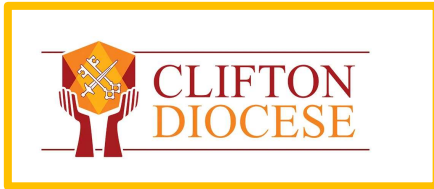
***Living the Gospel:**
the primacy of CHRIST*

**HARVEST MASS
11 AM SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER
ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH**



NATIONAL EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Saturday 10th October 2026



A Call for Pilgrims: Adoremus is a national celebration of the Eucharist, bringing together Catholics from across England and Wales for prayer, worship, catechesis, and public witness. **Our Diocese has been allocated 45 places**, and we are inviting parishioners from across our pastoral areas and parishes to participate in this important event. For fairness **we are limiting tickets for each parish** - name, email and parish details are required for each attendee.

Programme Highlights: the day will begin at **St George's Cathedral, Southwark, at 10:30am**, followed by **Mass at noon** and a keynote **address by Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe OP**. In the afternoon, participants will join a **Eucharistic Procession from Southwark Cathedral to Westminster Cathedral, concluding with Benediction**. There will also be additional opportunities for prayer, including Holy Hours led by youth ministry teams and an overnight vigil. Further details and booking at www.westminstercathedral.org.uk/adoremus/

In order to attend you must be aged 18 or over, be able to make your own way by car or train to St George's Cathedral, Southwark, for 10:30am on Saturday 10 October, be physically able to participate in the Eucharistic Procession (approximately 1.7 miles / 2.7 km). To help prepare for the event, all pilgrims are invited to **Clifton Cathedral on Saturday 12 September 2026** for Mass (12noon) and **orientation preparation session**. This will provide an opportunity to meet fellow participants, coordinate travel arrangements, and receive event tickets and information.

Register Your Interest: if you would like to represent your parish or pastoral area at Adoremus 2026, please register your interest through Eventbrite: <https://adoremusclifton2026.eventbrite.co.uk>

Places are limited and will be determined in order of registration. Thank you for considering this opportunity to be part of this significant national gathering of faith and devotion.

There are two main strands to the *Adoremus* National Eucharistic Congress in 2026.

In London, there will be a representative gathering of the Church with bishops, priests, and people. No less important is **how Adoremus is marked in our parishes** throughout England and Wales. Local Masses, **processions of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hours** will unite these local events with the national gathering. Footage from the London event will be made available to enable remote participation.

Why not make a special effort to come to Holy Hour at St Benedict's at 3pm on Fridays?

(Over the last year, this has become a regular event including Divine Mercy Devotions, unless both Father and Extraordinary Ministers are away.)

HALLOWE'EN PRAYERS



After 5pm Mass on Saturday
31st October, prayers and
candles in St Benedict's