

# Divine Mercy Sunday (2nd Sunday Easter) — 12th April 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>

**Second Sunday of Easter or of Divine Mercy** On the eighth day of Easter we are invited to fortify our faith in union with St Thomas, who recognised his Lord and God as He appeared to his brethren on the day of the Resurrection itself. St Thomas has been seen as the patron of those who doubt, and therefore of those who delay – meaning, in all probability, every one of us! The first eight days of Easter allow plenty of time, as is needful, for us to recognise some of the scope of the mercy of God which we also celebrate today: hear the opening words of the Collect and of the second reading from the beginning of St Peter's first epistle. What were the disciples doing during those first eight days? Today's first reading gives us a sense of what their daily lives might have been – except that their 'teaching and fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers' all belong to the time after Pentecost; today's Gospel reminds us that, in the Upper Room during the days immediately following the Resurrection, the disciples were living behind locked doors 'for fear of the Jews'. As we know, their lives - like our own - were full of paradox: in due time, they would recognise the Spirit breathed out by Jesus on the Cross, as the author of the first reading (St Luke?) is ready to tell us: 'All who believed were together and had all things in common'

**EASTER MESSAGE** For our Bishop's Easter Message, please go to <https://cliftondiocese.com/news/bishop-boscoc-easter-message-2026/>

**Pro-Life notices** In Bath we are called to **Stand Together for Life** on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April** between 11 am and 1 pm: to join in this Pro-Life Silent Witness, please contact Gail Mills on 07851 311 910 for further information. On the same day, Birmingham Christian College offers a Men's Pro-Life Conference to support Christian vocations in 'humility, courage and integrity': <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/commissioned-pro-life-mens-conference/> or [info@marchforlife.co.uk](mailto:info@marchforlife.co.uk)

**Parish Safeguarding— Parish Representative** — Hettie McDermott is the Parish safeguarding representative and she can be contacted on

[mcdermotthj@outlook.com](mailto:mcdermotthj@outlook.com)

### Weekday Masses

Tuesday 14th April — 2nd week of Eastertide	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Thursday 16th April — 2nd week of Eastertide	6.00pm	St Benedict's
Rosary	6.30pm	
Friday 17th April - 2nd week of Eastertide	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Saturday 18th April —2nd week of Eastertide	9.30am	St Benedict's

**Retreat Day with Dom Leo & Dom Michael – Sunday 26th April 2026**—Join us for a peaceful and spiritually enriching Retreat Day at Downside on Sunday 26th April. Open to individuals and families, the day will include reflections, prayer, and quiet time in beautiful surroundings. Cost (including lunch): £25. For details and booking: [www.downside.co.uk/retreat-day-at-downside-sunday](http://www.downside.co.uk/retreat-day-at-downside-sunday)

**Divine Mercy Sunday** As last year, we shall celebrate the Divine Mercy with an hour of Prayer and Praise in St Benedict's at **3 pm on Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup>**, including Adoration and Benediction, and followed by tea in the Parish Hall. All are most welcome to attend and to bring their guests

**Glastonbury Talk by Rev Richard Mills** Our diocesan pilgrimage to Glastonbury takes place every year on the nearest Sunday to September 8<sup>th</sup> (feast of Our Lady's Birthday). Deacon Richard Mills, who organised last year's Jubilee pilgrimage walk from Downside to Glastonbury and now proposes a similar event to coincide with the Glastonbury Pilgrimage being planned for **5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> September** this year, will give an introductory talk in St Benedict's Parish Hall on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April** (on the Walk; the History of the Abbey; and Glastonbury today): meet in the hall at **7 pm** for refreshments

**Weddings** We are asked to pray for Laura and Mitch who were married in St Benedict's during Easter week. Prayers are also needed for all those preparing for Marriage this year, and for fruitful lives for all married couples, whatever the difficulties they may encounter

**Parish Pastoral Council** will meet Wednesday 15th April at 7pm in the church hall. The meetings are open to anyone who wishes to come along and observe the meeting. If you wish to join the PPC then please speak to Fr Martin

**First reading—Acts 2:42-47**

**‘All who believed were together and had all things in common.’**

The believers devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the Apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the Temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they shared their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

**Responsorial Psalm—Ps 118(117):2-4. 13-15b. 22-24. R1**

***Give praise to the LORD, for he is good,  
his mercy endures for ever.***

Let the house of Israel say,  
‘His mercy endures for ever.’

Let the house of Aaron say,  
‘His mercy endures for ever.’

Let those who fear the LORD say,  
‘His mercy endures for ever.’

They pushed me, pushed me hard to knock me down,  
but the LORD was my helper.

The LORD is my strength and my song;  
he was my saviour.

There are shouts of joy and salvation  
in the tents of the righteous.

The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done,  
a marvel in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice in it and be glad.

**Gospel Acclamation—John 20:29**

Alleluia, alleluia.

You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord.

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.  
Alleluia.

**Second reading—1 Peter 1:3-9**

**‘He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.’**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**Gospel—John 20:19-31**

**Eight days later, Jesus came.**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.’ And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.’ Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord’. But he said to them, ‘Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.’

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**Memorial Acclamation**

**Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross  
and Resurrection you have set us free**