



# St Benedict's Parish

## JUBILEE 2025 BULLETIN

(SEASON of CREATION EDITION)



"Now is the time to follow words with deeds. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience. By working with love and perseverance, we can sow many seeds of justice and thus contribute to the growth of peace and the renewal of hope. It may well take years for this plant to bear its first fruits, years that, for their part, involve an entire ecosystem made up of continuity, fidelity, cooperation and love, most especially if that love mirrors the Lord's own self-sacrificing Love"

*(Message from Pope Leo XIV for the 10<sup>th</sup> World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025)*



**SEASON OF CREATION:**  
**1<sup>st</sup> September – 4<sup>th</sup> October**



As the new school year begins, harvest festivals are on the horizon to inspire gratitude for the fruits of the earth – and for the skills available to us in making the best possible use of them. Ten years ago, Pope Francis instituted a Season of Creation, to be celebrated annually through September and early October, with the publication of his encyclical *Laudato Si'* – his plea for an 'integral ecology': the theme of Care for Creation, based upon God's own love as expressed in the Canticum of the Creatures by St Francis of Assisi, has inspired nearly all Christian denominations in recent years, beginning with the declaration by Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople for an annual Day of Prayer for Creation from 1<sup>st</sup> September 1989. The Season of Creation comes to an end on the feast day of St Francis – close to the Harvest Festivals traditionally held on the first weekend in October. Those who support the work of CAFOD will remember that the first Friday of October is set aside as Family Fast Day, encouraging us to pray and to raise funds for harvesters who work in adverse conditions in many parts of the world (the CAFOD autumn collections are held this year on October 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>; Family Fast Day is October 3<sup>rd</sup>).

**Glastonbury**  
**Pilgrimage 2025**  
**SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**SEPTEMBER**

### Shrine of Our Lady of Glastonbury

11.00am: Rosary.

11.30am: Adoration and Confessions 2.30pm: Benediction.

### Abbey Grounds

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

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

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

3.00pm: Mass in the Abbey celebrated by Bishop Bosco

DETAILS at <https://cliftondiocese.com/pilgrimage/glastonbury-pilgrimage/>

### **Feast of St Gregory the Great September 3rd**

Whereas, in Downside Abbey, the patronal Feast of St Gregory is still held on 12<sup>th</sup> March (following an older calendar), the Roman calendar of 1969 established the September date, which is the anniversary of St Gregory's consecration as Bishop of Rome in the year 590. His papacy lasted thirteen-and-a-half years, until his death on 12<sup>th</sup> March 604: during this time, he originated the papal title 'Servant of the servants of God', winning the hearts of those who took refuge in the city of Rome following the Lombard invasions; another title - 'Apostle of the English' - is ascribed to him because he sent St Augustine and his fellow-Benedictines on their mission to our land (597 AD). The first Life of St Gregory was written at Whitby early in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. We can celebrate the lasting success of his English Mission at Mass on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.



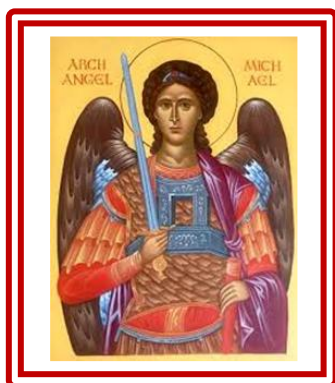
Feast Day of St Gregory the Great

**Wednesday  
September 3<sup>rd</sup>  
11.30am**

Holy Mass with  
Fr Robert Corrigan and the  
parishioners of St Joseph's,  
Peasedown

in  
**Holy Ghost Church  
Midsomer Norton**

**If the weather is fine, please bring a picnic as we hope to  
gather in the Garden of Friendship adjoining Holy Ghost  
Church after Mass.**



## **MICHAELMAS CELEBRATIONS**

**Bring and share PARISH LUNCH  
After Mass on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September  
in the church hall**

*Blessed Michael,  
archangel,  
defend us in the day of  
battle.  
Be our safeguard against  
the wickedness and snares  
of the devil.  
May God rebuke him, we  
humbly pray,  
and do thou, O Prince of  
the heavenly host,  
by the power of God thrust  
down to hell Satan  
and all wicked spirits  
who wander through the  
world for the ruin of souls.  
Amen.*

St Michael the Archangel, celebrated together with SS Gabriel and Raphael on September 29<sup>th</sup>, has a place in secular as well as sacred calendars: Michaelmas denotes seasons towards the end of the year associated with education, accounting, farming and different aspects of the law. Angels are rarely named in the Old Testament, but St Michael has a place of honour in the New (Revelation 12). Regularly invoked at the end of Mass against evil incursions into Christian life, St Michael is celebrated as Protector of the Church as well as being Patron Saint of Police and Military personnel. His patronage is also traditionally honoured by members of our parish from the Philippines.

**Jubilee Prayer Group  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September  
6pm**

A presentation on St Michael the Archangel and some of the different locations with which he has been associated around the world over many centuries.

All welcome

HARVEST MASS  
11 AM SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER  
ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH

*Feast of St Francis of Assisi  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October*

*Prayer and Praise  
from 3.30 in the Church  
Blessing of Animals  
4pm in the Car Park*



## Clifton Diocese Pilgrimage to Rome

with Bishop Bosco and Canon  
Christopher Whitehead  
Saturday 27th September –  
Thursday 2nd October 2025

This Pilgrimage is now full **but**  
**please pray for all those attending,**  
**for our diocese and for Bishop**  
**Bosco's intentions.**



## Children's Liturgy Training

Saturday 6 September, 9am-12noon.

Clifton Diocese in partnership with 'Light of Truth' are  
offering Children's Liturgy Training.

This is an **online morning workshop** for everyone  
involved in Children's Liturgy, looking at the principles  
and practical tools and resources we can use to help  
children participate in the Liturgy of the Word at  
Mass.

Sign up on the Diocesan website or  
<https://www.lightoftruth.uk/join>

## Indulgence for the Jubilee

To help us during the Year, a plenary indulgence can be gained not only by making a pilgrimage to a Jubilee church, but also by  
devotedly performing one of the acts prescribed by the Church.

### MAKING A PILGRIMAGE OR VISIT

1. To Rome - the four Papal Basilicas and their Holy Doors
2. Elsewhere in the World - Jubilee Shrines in Italy and the Holy Land
3. Within our Diocese - Cathedral Church of SS Peter & Paul, Clifton, or **Our Lady St Mary of Glastonbury**

### PERFORMING WORKS OF MERCY, FORMATION AND PENANCE

4. Extraordinary Works of Mercy - Visiting prisoners, the sick, lonely or elderly. Helping those who are in need. Giving a generous gift of your time or money
5. Diocesan or Parish Formation - Participating in spiritual exercises. Formation activities on the documents of the Second Vatican Council or Catechism
6. Fasting from Futile Distractions - Abstaining for at least one day a week from social media, video games, apps or TV

## WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Be detached from all sin
2. Receive Holy Communion
3. Make a Sacramental Confession
4. Pray for the Pope's intentions.

What if I can't do those things due to sickness or other serious reasons?

United in spirit with the faithful taking part in person, one may recite the Our Father, Apostles Creed and Jubilee Prayer, offering  
their sufferings or hardships of their lives.



## NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY OF ST GREGORY

*(The following is a shortened version of an article by Dom Anselm, soon to appear in 'The Raven':)*

The big news from St Gregory's is the new move to Belmont Abbey (July 2025). The move to Southgate House in the grounds of Buckfast Abbey (2022) was always temporary and we are grateful to Abbot David and the Community at Buckfast (Devonshire) for making the house available to us. Following discussions, we are now at Belmont Abbey near Hereford, where we are living as one community with the monks of Belmont (although still two independent communities in terms of canon law); the idea is to experiment and seek ultimately to join together in some way to make a larger and stronger community that, we hope, will be a force for good in the Church for the spread of the Gospel and attractive to new members. The Belmont Community, like us, run parishes and retreats. We are currently 22 members in residence at Belmont and there are other monks from both communities living in parishes, mostly within about a 40-minute drive.



On arrival at Belmont in the middle of July, we were given a warm welcome from Abbot Brendan and the community. DD James and John were already in the vicinity, running the parish of St Francis Xavier in the middle of Hereford where there are plenty of activities during the week: Dom Anselm was invited to spend a Saturday morning with the parish musicians, looking at some of the principles of liturgical singing and of Gregorian Chant, much of which is very singable and highly suited to parish liturgy. While Dom John finishes his dissertation for Sant'Anselmo, Dom James (Oblate Master) continues to organise regular days for the Oblates of St Gregory at Downside; he also led the recent Jubilee pilgrimage walk from Downside to Glastonbury for members of the local Deanery (Pastoral Area of St Oliver Plunkett).

Those with new Hodder & Stoughton Sunday Missals might have seen the name of Dom Leo (as one of the editors) on the title page! With co-editorial enthusiasm, he enlisted a number of people from many walks of life to write introductions to the readings for the various Sundays and Feasts of the Church's year. While staying in touch with Downside alumni, Dom Leo also collaborates, in the carpentry shop, with Dom Michael, whose work may be seen in several of the churches in our Pastoral Area and many other places around the country. Dom Michael also leads the monthly on-line prayers for healing (usually at 2 pm on First Saturdays with Instagram Live): links to these and other on-line activities of St Gregory's can be found on the Downside Abbey website.

Among the 'non-resident' brethren (aside from Dom Martin), Dom Boniface is much appreciated as Chaplain to the Benedictine nuns of Kylemore Abbey, County Galway in Ireland; Dom Richard (without mentioning his journeys as a former Abbot President) is novice and junior master in Belmont Abbey's priory outside Lima in Peru; and Dom David, Choir Master at the Benedictine College of Sant'Anselmo in Rome (where he also teaches Latin and Greek), received a pilgrimage visit from Dom James and the Oblates of St Gregory earlier this year.

One of our number (with a long memory) recently pointed out that 'the first Abbot of Belmont was a monk of Downside and our current Abbot is a monk of Belmont'. Abbot Nicholas's duties are too numerous and perhaps complex to be listed here but (speaking from Stratton-on-the-Fosse) his visits to Downside (where he has the role of Parish Priest of St Benedict's) are always most welcome!

The article concludes with an appeal for prayers and a reminder that the monks are able to celebrate Mass for your intention: payment of stipends can be arranged via Dom Martin and / or send an email to [monks@stgregorys.org](mailto:monks@stgregorys.org) (or of course [parish@downsideabbey.co.uk](mailto:parish@downsideabbey.co.uk))

*St Michael (Patron of Belmont Abbey)*

