

32nd Sunday Ordinary Time – Year A

St Benedict's Parish Newsletter Stratton-on-the-Fosse
12th November 2023

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Sunday Masses

Saturday	5.00pm *	St Benedict's
Sunday	10.00am	Abbey Church
Sunday	11.00am *	St Benedict's

Weekday Masses

Monday	Midday	St Benedict's
Thursday	6.30pm	St Benedict's
Friday	9.30am	Abbey Crypt Chapel
Saturday	9.30am	Holy Ghost

* Confessions are available before 5.00pm and 11.00am Masses

Rosary Thursday at 7pm – the Rosary is prayed in St Benedict's every Thursday evening at 7pm (after Mass). All welcome.

Tea and Coffee will be served after 11.00am Mass this Sunday in St Benedict's Parish Hall. All welcome!

Remembrance Sunday - Our poppies call to mind the fields of Flanders where so many lives were given and our prayer, with them, for an end to human warfare. It can be said that the world today is a more dangerous habitat than it was in Biblical times, and this is one reason why the closing words of today's Gospel – 'You do not know either the day or the hour' – are always topical. One of the prayers of the Requiem Mass affirm that, in our meetings with God, life is never ended but rather changed: St Paul develops this theme in today's second reading while the Gospel, exhorting us to 'stand ready' for meeting with the Lord, helps us to focus upon the real purposes of our lives. This teaching of Jesus illustrates themes from the Old Testament wisdom literature: 'Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim'

War Memorial at 11 am (and in Chilcompton at 3 pm) - This Sunday we shall begin Mass at 11.15 so that those attending at the War Memorial in the centre of Stratton-on-the-Fosse can stay for the entirety of the ceremony and keep the two minutes' silence (which will be observed in St Benedict's at the same time). There will also be a gathering at the War Memorial in Chilcompton to observe a two-minute silence at 3 pm the same day

Deanery (Tuesday November 14th) - Our local Deanery (or 'Pastoral Area') is larger than it used to be, with meetings held at Trowbridge as well as in Bath (and sometimes Stratton-on-the-Fosse!) The meetings occur on Tuesday mornings every other month, the next one being **on November 14th: we regret that there'll be no Mass at Midsomer Norton on that day**

Parish Advent Carol Service 3rd December 3pm in St Benedict's – This will have an Advent theme and will be an excellent way to start the preparations spiritually for Christmas. Tea will follow in the church hall. If you would like to be involved as a musician or reader, please contact Cathy Wolf cathy@wolfarch.com

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal - Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those

most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

Safeguarding Sunday: Sunday 19th November - is national Safeguarding Sunday, reminding us that we are called to maintain a safe environment for Christ's ministry towards children, young people and vulnerable adults. Jesus offers a special privilege to his 'little ones' and warns of retribution for those who seek to harm the vulnerable (Mark 10: 14; Matthew 18: 5-6). Safeguarding is an essential part in the life and ministry of the Church – hence our gratitude to Hugh and Andy whose details are published in nearly every Newsletter. Do get in touch with them if you have any concerns about safeguarding in our parish

First Holy Communion - Catholic Children in the upper half of Primary School (aged eight or over as of next Easter) are encouraged to join a First Communion course if they haven't already done so. St Benedict's Primary School will be running occasional classes after school (approximately 3.30-4.15 pm on a weekday – probably Tuesday or Thursday) and in the parish we shall have classes 'in parallel' with the School, for parents and children simultaneously, held at 10.00 am on occasional Sunday mornings leading up to First Holy Communion in May or June of next year. Parents of children who are interested are invited to obtain enrolment forms from Fr Martin

Sacrament of Confirmation - Bishop Declan visits Downside School to confer the sacrament of Confirmation every spring – usually during May – for teenagers who'll have reached the age of thirteen around Easter time. Looking ahead to the Bishop's visit, Confirmation classes for young people will begin in the parish shortly after Christmas. This Sacrament is of course available to practising Catholics of all ages: please contact Fr Martin for enrolment forms so we can look ahead, advancing in our knowledge of what Jesus holds out to us: those already Confirmed who'd like refresher courses are most welcome too!

Don't Forget the Holy Spirit! - Some of us may have read Fr Matt Anscombe's new book on the Holy Spirit, which is being studied by a group of parishioners of St Mary's, Bath. Fr Matt will at **St Mary's (Julian Rd, Bath BA1 2SQ)** on the **evening of Friday 24th November, 7.00-9.00 pm**, to celebrate Mass followed by a time of testimony, teaching, discussion and prayer. All are most welcome to attend

Prayer Corner – Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen



Parish Collections - The parish collections from both Masses last weekend was £333.35 and the collection for Missio was £371.16

Mary's Meals - £32.70 has been sent to Mary's meals. These are the donations received at Sunday morning coffee.

Foodbank Needs – The items needed for November are as follows: Milk Powder, Biscuits, Mac Cheese, Sponge and other puddings, Coffee, Custard, Fruit Juice, Tinned Fruit, Corned Beef, Jam and Pasta Sauce . Non-food items – Kitchen Rolls, Household Cleaner, Toilet Cleaner, Shampoo, Deodorant and Adult Toothbrushes. Thank you!

Registered Charity Number: 1154122 | Registered in England and Wales.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist needed - to help with Adoration. If you would like to help with Adoration please speak to Fr Martin. We are looking to start Adoration at set times in Advent.

St Benedict's Church Hall – The church hall is available to hire for private functions. The terms and conditions can be found on the parish section of the Downside website.

Parish Safeguarding – The Parish safeguarding representative is Hugh Walters and can be contacted on hughwalters64@gmail.com or 07552 467240. The safeguarding co-ordinator is Andy Kings and he can be contacted on 01364 645577 and 07881 754121

Newsletter Items – If you have any items for the newsletter, please email them to Julie Justin and Fr Martin by Wednesday evening - juliejustin1@gmail.com and parish@downsideabbey.co.uk

First reading Wisdom 6:12-16
Wisdom is found by those who look for her

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 62(63):2-8

For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water.

For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.

For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

Second reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Do not grieve about those who have died in Jesus

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them; to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

Gospel Matthew 25:1-13
The wise and foolish virgins

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps.



The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all

those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

Memorial Acclamation 3 - Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.