

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

St Benedict's Parish Newsletter Stratton-on-the-Fosse

14th January 2024

parish@downsideabbey.co.uk - Tel: 01761 880167



Sunday Masses

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

* Confessions are available before
5.00pm and 11.00am Masses

Weekday Masses

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| Monday 15 th Jan – <i>SS Maurus & Placidus, monks and disciples of St Benedict</i> | Midday | St Benedict's |
| Tuesday 16 th Jan – Tuesday wk 2 in OT | 9.30am | Holy Ghost |
| Wednesday 17 th - <i>St Antony of Egypt</i> | | No Mass |
| Thursday 18 th Jan – Thursday wk 2 in OT | 6.30pm | St Benedict's |
| Friday 19 th Jan - <i>St Wulstan, Bishop, Religious</i> | 9.30am | Abbey Crypt Chapel |
| Saturday 20 th Jan – <i>SS Fabian and Sebastian, Martyrs</i> | 9.30am | Holy Ghost |

Tea and Coffee will be served after the 11.00am Mass on Sunday

Please add your name to the list if you are able to help

Epiphany Party – Thank you to everyone who came and brought food and drink to share. We had a delicious feast and a fun time was had by all – especially the children!

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

2nd Sunday (Year B) - When the young Samuel hears his name being called in the middle of the night, he imagines that his master Eli has need of him. But it isn't Eli who's calling: there could be room for confusion in the sanctuary at Shiloh, where Samuel sleeps in the presence of the Ark of the Covenant. Fortunately old Eli is able to see how privileged Samuel really is; he teaches the boy how to reply to the Call – 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening' – and we can hear the many fruits of Eli's wise advice in all that follows (1 Sam 3 et seq): Samuel graduates from his position as Eli's attendant, eventually to become the Prophet who will anoint the first King of Israel. There is an analogy in today's Gospel, in which St John the Baptist indicates to his own disciples the moment in which they are being called to follow Jesus. No particular aspect of the Lord's Person, or of His (here unspoken) Call to the two disciples, is mentioned by the Evangelist, who does no more than demonstrate the role of the Baptist while illustrating for us the wonderful freedom of men in the real presence of God. The allegiance of the new disciples is entirely open-ended within God's providence which, from now on, is going to enter human life in an entirely new way

Year of Prayer - Pope Francis proposes 2024 as a Year of Prayer in readiness for the Jubilee of 2025 titled **Pilgrims of Hope**. A series of monthly talks on the art of prayer is being advertised at St John's in Bath (full details are shown on the notice in St Benedict's porch or at the back of the Abbey Church): the first talk (given by Fr Tom Dubois) will be on **Tuesday 23rd January at 7 pm**. Other ways of kicking-off a Year of Prayer, specifically proposed for our diocese (cliftondiocese.com), include: *join in* an online formation session (webinar) entitled *Kingship of Christ – Responding to the Cry of the Earth* (to be held on Wednesday January 24th between 7.30 and 8.45 pm); *sign up* for an online session about the Jubilee, *Pilgrims of Hope*, to be held on 1st February between 7.30 and 8.45 pm – to look at the history of the Jubilee and the different ways of preparing for it; and / or *register* for a big new series (being held at St Mary's in Stroud from **17th January**) consisting of 12 'live' sessions between now and May, titled *Invite*, and designed to explore a range of questions relating to Catholic Teaching. For any or all of these, we're invited to visit cliftondiocese.com

Christians Together Radstock and Westfield – A United Service will be held at St Nicholas Church Radstock Sunday 21st January at 6pm for the week of Christian Unity. Tea will be served at 5pm and everyone is welcome.

Soup Lunch Wednesday 24th January – A soup lunch will be held 12 – 2pm in St Benedict's Church Hall. There will be a raffle and any donations for raffle prizes can be left in the Sacristy. All the money raised will be donated to Mary's Meals.

Candlemas 2nd February – On the feast of Candlemas we will have a candle light procession and Mass followed by hot dogs in the church hall. The procession will start at 6pm and will be outside (weather dependent). All are welcome.

Prayer Corner – Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His Name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100 4-5



Parish Collections - The parish collection from all three Sunday Masses last weekend was £312.59

St Benedict's Church Hall – The cooker in the kitchen is broken and needs to be replaced. If anyone has a cooker that can be used then please contact John McGarvey on mm.plc.consulting@googlemail.com

White Flower Appeal 2024 - Often held in the weeks following Christmas, the White Flower Appeal is a Pro-Life appeal in support of unborn children and their mothers – for the work of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) and for the prayer of the Church against the institution of abortion. SPUC also campaigns on other pro-life issues. The Appeal will be held in St Benedict's at the end of Mass on the weekend of **20th-21st January**: thank you for your support

Double the Love – This 'offer' has been extended until the end of January 2024, donations made to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1 million. This means your kindness will go even further at this critical time. In a world devastated by conflict, food insecurity and the cost of living crisis, bringing new hope to desperately hungry children with life-changing school meals has never been more important. It costs just £19.15 to feed a child with Mary's Meals every day for a school year. Until January 31st, a donation of £19.15 will feed two children. <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/campaigns/double-the-love>

Oblate Meeting – the Oblates will meet on 10th February at St Benedict's. If you would like to find out more about being an Oblate then you are welcome to attend. If you would like more information please speak to Fr Martin.

Foodbank Needs – The items needed January 2024 are as follows: 80 pack Tea Bags (smaller packs are better please), Fruit Juice, Ketchup, Brown Sauce, Savoury Rice. Non-food items –Conditioner, Shower Gel and Shaving Gel. Thank you!

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

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 1 Samuel 3:3-10,19
'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening'

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord, where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am.' Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.' Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 39(40):2,4,7-10

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I.

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.

My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart.

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed;

you know it, O Lord.

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

Second reading 1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20
Do not sin against your own body

The body is not meant for fornication: it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too. You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; do you think I can take parts of Christ's body and join them to the body of a prostitute? Never! But anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

Gospel John 1:35-42
'We have found the Messiah'

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour. One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.



Memorial Acclamation 2

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.