

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

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

28<sup>th</sup> January 2024

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## Sunday Masses

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

Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan – <i>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Wk OT</i>	Midday	St Benedict's
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan – <i>Tuesday of 4<sup>th</sup> Wk OT</i>	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan – <i>St John Bosco, Priest</i>		<b>No Mass</b>
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb – <i>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Wk OT</i>	6.30pm	St Benedict's
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb – <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	9.30am	<b>Holy Ghost</b> - see below
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb – <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	6.00pm	St Benedict's
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb – <i>St Blaise, Bishop, Martyr</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*

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

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Year B)** - In these weeks after Epiphany, we are not simply 'hanging around' until Lent. In this period, we truly absorb what we have heard and seen at Christmas and Epiphany, as we prepare to walk yet again, with the newly discovered, and ever-young Christ, up his mountain.

The first battle he has on that journey is with Satan himself in the desert, in which we will join him in a few weeks. But today, the Lord reminds us of his absolute authority to lead us on this journey into the interior twists and turns of spiritual combat.

We must always remember a basic principle as Christians: Love is the opposite of power. Real love is unassuming and self-emptying. The Lord Jesus is the source and destination of all grace, and of moral and spiritual conversion; the God who made us. He looks upon his creature and does not condemn, but loves. There isn't a discontinuity between angry Jesus and happy Jesus; all of Jesus is loving and the correct expression of love. The man possessed, of course, in time is now dead; the common fate of us all. The liberation of Christ is not a fraudulent one telling lies that everything will be jolly in this life. The liberation which Christ offers does not come by wrapping us in soft blankets.

True love will bring conflict. But faced with reality, God does what he has to do. Today he expels a demon, thus causing convulsions. He does what he has to do to love the man in question, and to act upon it in a way which was likely unwanted, unexpected by those around him, but also importantly in a hidden way. The Divine is always disguised in material things, and that's how we see him. We see him in suffering, we see him in generosity. We see him, most of all, disguised as bread and wine; our Lord of love and Prince of eternal happiness.

**Mass on Fridays** - Unfortunately the heating in the Abbey Crypt has broken down so we need to find an alternative venue for Friday Mass (information will be added to the newsletter). From 2nd February, Fr Michael Clothier will be visiting us and he will celebrate the 9.30 Friday Mass in the Church of the Holy Ghost, Midsomer Norton, on that day (the evening celebration of Candlemas in St Benedict's being led by Fr Martin).

**Candlemas 2<sup>nd</sup> 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** - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. *Psalm 119:105*



**Parish Collections** - The parish collection from all three Sunday Masses last weekend was £306.95 White Flower £177.36

**St Patrick's Party 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024** – The St Patrick's Party will be held again this year and will start 6.15pm (after the 5.00pm Mass). There'll be food, drink and traditional music (with an opportunity to singalong!). Tickets are £5.00 per adult (under 16s free). Please add your name to the list at the back of the church for catering numbers. If you are able to help with food or would like to help with the music, please contact Julie Justin ([juliejustin1@gmail.com](mailto:juliejustin1@gmail.com) 07930062552).

**Catholic Mothers Somerset** We're expanding! We now have a branch in Weston, and one opening soon near Trowbridge. If you're looking for other Catholic families, do get in touch or come along to one of our Coffee and Cake mornings. We have families who are expecting their first child, all the way through to those with adult children - everyone is invited! Corpus Christi, BS23 1XW, 9:30am - 22/2, 21/3, 18/4 and St Michael's, BA4 5BP, 10am - 8/2, 14/3, 11/4 For more info, email Helen at: [catholicmotherssomeset@gmail.com](mailto:catholicmotherssomeset@gmail.com)

**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 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:juliejustin1@gmail.com) and [parish@downsideabbey.co.uk](mailto:parish@downsideabbey.co.uk)

### **First reading Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

#### **I will raise up a prophet and put my words into his mouth**

Moses said to the people: 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'"

### **Responsorial Psalm 94(95):1-2,6-9**

***O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'***

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord.

***O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'***

Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us:  
for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand.

***O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'***

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

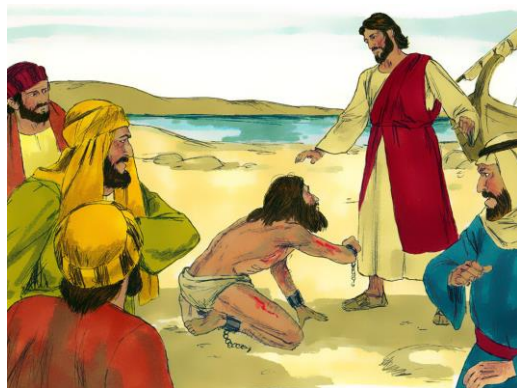
***O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'***

### **Second reading 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 Give your undivided attention to the Lord**

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord

### **Gospel Mark 1:21-28 Unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority**

Jesus and his disciples went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came he went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority. In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.



**Memorial Acclamation**  
**We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection**  
**until you come again.**