

17th and 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

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

28th July and 4th August 2024

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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 (revised timetable – Fr Martin on holiday)

Friday 2 nd August - 17 th week in OT	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Saturday 3 rd August – 17 th week in OT	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Thursday 8 th August – St Dominic, Religious and Priest	6.30pm	St Benedict's
Friday 9 th August – St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Saturday 10 th August – St Laurence, Deacon and Martyr	9.30am	St Benedict's

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.

17th and 18th Sundays - The Gospel of the 18th Sunday concludes with one of the climactic sayings of Jesus from St John's Gospel: I am the Bread of Life. Our Lord is moved to make this statement about himself when he's reminded, by his auditors in the synagogue, of the miracle in which Moses 'gave them bread from heaven' .. and points out, for those who are listening, that the Bread was indeed from Heaven, rather than from Moses himself. As so often, it's surprisingly easy to miss the real point of Our Lord's teaching .. and of his signs or miracles, as experienced by his hearers: after the Feeding of the Five Thousand, in the Gospel of the 17th Sunday, the crowds hail Jesus as a prophet and are then inclined to 'take him by force and make him king' – prefiguring a forthcoming Passover for which Jesus would be arraigned in front of Pontius Pilate. Words bear fruit in actions .. as Jesus will show in his own life on earth and, after his Resurrection, through the lives of his followers. At the beginning of St Matthew chapter 5, Jesus climbs the hill with his disciples for the Sermon on the Mount; St John chapter 6 begins with Jesus climbing the hill with his disciples for the Feeding of Five Thousand: the ensuing Bread of Life Discourse, in the synagogue at Capernaum (Jn 6,32-58), has formed the lives of believers for nearly 2,000 years, pointing to the origin and purpose of the Bread from Heaven and inspiring us with faith in the One who is Sent

Holidays - There's a warm welcome for Fr Michael Clothier on two weekends of July and August while Fr Martin is away. We regret the shortage of weekday Masses; but Fr Michael intends to offer Mass on both Friday and Saturday mornings at Holy Ghost Church, Midsomer Norton, while he's here. Fr Martin will be back in time for the Baptism of Clara Bridges on the morning of Thursday August 8th

Fourth World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly: Sunday July 28th The Holy Father has announced a Plenary Indulgence, for this special day, to be granted to those who go to Confession, receive Communion and pray for his intentions 'motivated by a true spirit of penance and charity': "Do not cast me off in my old age" (Ps 71,9). 'The Court of Mercy also grants the Plenary Indulgence, on this same day, to the faithful who devote adequate time to actually or virtually visiting their elderly brothers and sisters in need or in difficulty' and to 'the elderly sick and all those who, unable to leave their homes for a serious reason, will unite themselves spiritually to the sacred functions of the World Day'

Baptism, Please pray for Clara Bridges, who will be baptised in St Benedict's at 10 am on Thursday August 8th. We pray also of course for all of her family - for Helen, Jonnie and 'big sister' Edith – including at the same time her future godparents and all members of the 'extended family' of the Baptised represented here

Parish Barbecue ** Date Change** – The date for the parish barbecue has been changed to Sunday 1st September after 11.00am Mass. There was a clash with other local events so the decision was made to change the date.

Catholic Social Teaching - The Diocese of Clifton is offering a five-part video series on this and related topics, in which several parishioners showed their interest during the run-up to the recent Election. Do visit the diocesan website (cliftondiocese.com) to find out more; details are also available on the hand-outs at the back of church. Catholic Social Teaching – a book available now through Redemptorist Publications – was written by a former Head of St Gregory's College in Bath

Pastoral Ministry (Monday July 29th) The following is a message from Clifton about the forthcoming Pastoral Ministry Formation course which begins this autumn – 'for ANY parishioner who seeks to develop their capacity to serve the parish, any way in which they believe the Lord is calling them. If you are a catechist – this course is for you. If you are a minister in any form – this course is for you. If you are not involved in any way – but would like to be – this course is for you!

We will also talk about the Certificate in Catechesis which will form part of our Diploma Course. If you are interested or intrigued to find out more, then do join us for an online information session taking **place on Monday 29 July at 7pm (Microsoft Teams)**. The information session will outline the purpose of the courses and provide the opportunity for asking questions and gaining sufficient information about how to apply. You can sign up via the Eventbrite link (<https://pastoralministryinfo.eventbrite.co.uk>). We would **advise downloading the Microsoft Teams app** beforehand onto your computer. After you have received your order confirmation via Eventbrite, which is sent to your email address, just click on 'go to ticket' – 'view link' – 'join now' to access the Microsoft Teams link just **before 7pm on Monday 29 July**

Year of Prayer ▶ Year of Jubilee We are being reminded by our Bishops and many others that the year 2025, which begins in the Church on 1st December (1st Sunday of Advent), has been announced by Pope Francis as a Jubilee Year, marked by particular celebrations of our Faith for which we're called to prepare during the current Year of Prayer. During the recent Diocesan Day in Keynsham on July 6th, our new Bishop outlined a ten-point approach to the prayer – linked with ten particular areas of Christian and Catholic activity – to encourage us to prepare for the Jubilee in various ways (see handouts at the back of church). The 'Downside Holy Door' is being transferred to Glastonbury for 2025 and of course there will also be a Holy Door in the Cathedral at Clifton. Many other aspects of this year of celebration, forthcoming, will of course be up to ourselves...

Prayer Corner – Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. *John 14:27*



Mary's Meals In providing school meals for children in many of the poorest regions of the world, Mary's Meals emphasises that their work is potentially for all children (male and female). But only 49% of countries across the world have 'an even gender split' in education: worldwide, it is estimated that 129 million girls are out of school – hence a new campaign from Mary's Meals promoting school meals for girls as well as for boys: Empowering Girls through Education.

Mantasha, from India, has two older sisters who are both working in garment factories to support the family and she has had a difficult childhood. Her mother sadly died of tuberculosis when Mantasha was just six years old and her father was left disabled and unable to work after he also contracted the same disease.

Sometimes, Mantasha worries that she, like her sisters and many other girls in her community, will have to drop out of school to work, but the provision of Mary's Meals makes it much more likely that she can stay on in school, because her family knows that her meal is covered.

Marybell announces that soup lunches in aid of Mary's Meals will resume in St Benedict's after the summer

Macmillan Cancer Support on the Jurassic Coast Sharn Pepperell (Trinity Methodist Church Westfield) has announced a Mighty Hike along the Jurassic Coast in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support later this summer – a half or full marathon will be taking place during September. If you are able to support Sharn in raising funds for Macmillan, you can find plenty of info as well as much encouragement together with details of how to donate, at the following link:

[SHARN PEPPERELL is fundraising for Macmillan Cancer Support \(justgiving.com\)](http://justgiving.com)

Foodbank Needs – The items needed:

Fruit Juice (long life), Milk Powder, Fruit (tinned)
Puddings (Sponges, Jellies), Mac Cheese (Tinned), Meat
Soup, Corned Beef (tinned), Ketchup

Kitchen Sponges, Toilet Cleaner, Tampons,
Surface Cleaner

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

17th Sunday OT

First reading - 2 Kings 4:42-44 They will eat, and have some left over

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. 'Give it to the people to eat', Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over."' He served them; they ate and had some left over, as the Lord had said.

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 144(145):10-11,15-18 You open wide your hand, O Lord, and grant our desires.

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God.

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.

The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live.

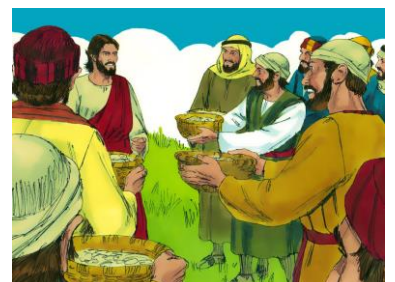
Second reading -Ephesians 4:1-6 One Body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all.

Gospel - John 6:1-15 The feeding of the five thousand

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all



who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

18th Sunday OT

First reading - Exodus 16:2-4,12-15 **The Lord sends manna from heaven**

The whole community of the sons of Israel began to complain against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness and said to them, 'Why did we not die at the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we were able to sit down to pans of meat and could eat bread to our heart's content! As it is, you have brought us to this wilderness to starve this whole company to death!'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Now I will rain down bread for you from the heavens. Each day the people are to go out and gather the day's portion; I propose to test them in this way to see whether they will follow my law or not. 'I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel. Say this to them, "Between the two evenings you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have bread to your heart's content. Then you will learn that I, the Lord, am your God." And so it came about: quails flew up in the evening, and they covered the camp; in the morning there was a coating of dew all round the camp. When the coating of dew lifted, there on the surface of the desert was a thing delicate, powdery, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground. When they saw this, the sons of Israel said to one another, 'What is that?' not knowing what it was. 'That' said Moses to them 'is the bread the Lord gives you to eat.'

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 77(78):3-4,23-25,54

The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

The things we have heard and understood,
the things our fathers have told us,
these we will not hide from their children
but will tell them to the next generation:

the glories of the Lord and his might
and the marvellous deeds he has done,
Yet he commanded the clouds above
and opened the gates of heaven.
He rained down manna for their food,
and gave them bread from heaven.

Mere men ate the bread of angels. He sent them abundance of food; So he brought them to his holy land, to the mountain which his right hand had won.
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Second reading - Ephesians 4:17,20-24 **Put aside your old self and put on the new**

I want to urge you in the name of the Lord, not to go on living the aimless kind of life that pagans live. Now that is hardly the way you have learnt from Christ, unless you failed to hear him properly when you were taught what the truth is in Jesus. You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth.

Gospel - John 6:24-35

It is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven; I am the bread of life

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered:

'I tell you most solemnly, you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat. Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life, the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.'

Then they said to him, 'What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?' Jesus gave them this answer, 'This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.' So they said, 'What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: *He gave them bread from heaven to eat.*' Jesus answered:

'I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'

'Sir,' they said 'give us that bread always.' Jesus answered:

'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.'



Memorial Acclamation (both weeks)

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