

# 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

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

14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July 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

Tuesday 16th July – 15th week in OT	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Thursday 18th July – 15th week in OT	6.30pm	St Benedict's
Friday 19th July – 15th week in OT	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Saturday 20th July – St Apollinaris, Bishop, Martyr	9.30am	St Benedict's
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July – St Bridget of Sweden, Patroness of Europe	9.30am	Holy Ghost
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> July – St James, Apostle	6.30pm	St Benedict's
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> July – St Joachim and St Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.30am	Holy Ghost
<b>Saturday 27th July – No Mass</b>		

**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.

**15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Sundays** - In his Gospel for the 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, St Mark introduces us to the Apostles, who are referred to on the 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday as the Twelve, called together by Jesus – already – for mission. We met Peter, Andrew, James, John and Matthew, among the Twelve Disciples, a bit earlier on: their vocation to lifelong discipleship is ours as well; all Christians are natural 'disciples' thanks to our access to the grace of the Holy Spirit who teaches, counsels and encourages us in the life of faith. The lives of the Twelve Disciples who were to become Apostles, meanwhile, bring us to the very heart of the New Testament. Strictly speaking, their mission didn't begin until after the Resurrection; but Jesus gives them a 'practice-run' in the Gospel, illustrating for all time the signal privilege that was accorded to those few who actually learned from Our Lord in his human person. The ardour of the apostolic life is already illustrated by the prophet Amos (1<sup>st</sup> reading, 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday); but the message of Jesus – conveyed less in words than in his Presence among his disciples as Son of God – allows for something new: a restful martyrdom offering God's own reconciliation for those ready to recognise the 'true King' who is introduced to us in a special way through the readings of the 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday: the King is a humble shepherd with an eternal message of mercy, peace and goodwill, especially for those who experience suffering during the course of the present life. The opening of the letter to the Ephesians (2<sup>nd</sup> reading, 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday) celebrates the infinitude of blessing which He makes available for his people

**Growing Seeds of Hope** - Growing Seeds of Hope This is the title of a course being held in different locations around the Diocese, exploring how we form people in the Faith. A few of those attending are already catechists, providing formation for people of all ages within their parish; this, however, is a course mainly for those who may not yet be catechists but who care about the Christian and Catholic formation of children, young people and adults. Evening sessions are also provided as opportunities for finding out more about the diocesan Pastoral Ministry Formation Course which begins during the autumn of this year. In our vicinity, 'Seeds of Hope' has already been held as a Day Course at St John's, Trowbridge; it will similarly be offered free of charge **at St Mary's in Glastonbury** (Our Lady, Parish Hall, Magdalene Street, BA6 9EJ) on the evening **of Monday July 15<sup>th</sup> between 7.00 and 8.30 pm** – no need to book; just turn up on the evening

**Prayer Corner** – Father, teach us to be peacemakers and to walk in a manner that reflects the wondrous peace given through Your Spirit in Christ. May we bring understanding, compassion, and unity among all peoples.



**Sea Sunday (July 14th)** - 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me' (Mt 25,35). In this Sunday's Gospel, the Apostles are urged to 'travel light' so as to derive extra benefit from the offering of hospitality as they spread the Good News – through a Faith embodied in their dependency upon their hosts. On Sea Sunday we remember those who work – often in conditions of deprivation that may also be lonely and dangerous – on board ship and in the ports around our coasts: 'these brave men and women are the unseen backbone of our global economy, working tirelessly to bring us goods and resources that we need'. We are asked to pray for those who pass through the Red and Black Seas under threat of war, as well as for the chaplaincy teams in the coastal districts of England and Wales, for whom we can raise funds through our contributions to today's second collection (Stella Maris / Apostleship of the Sea)

**PPC Meeting** – The PPC will meet on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm in the Church Hall. Parishioners are welcome to come and observe the meeting. Maintenance and future events will be among the items being discussed.

**Parish Barbecue** – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September after 6pm Mass – please put the date in your diary.

**Glastonbury Pilgrimage** - It turns out that our Clifton Diocesan Pilgrimage to Glastonbury takes place during the afternoon of 'Sea Sunday', reminding us perhaps of the legend of St Joseph of Arimathea, who would have reached Glastonbury by sea. He'd have seen the Tor – the local 'high place' – from a distance, as a future Holy City: monasteries were often founded on mountains although there were many who clearly favoured the watery levels as providing one of the most famous monastic sites in our islands, located on rising ground! Those who climb the Tor to St Michael's Chapel will remember the martyrdom of the Last Abbot of Glastonbury, together with two members of his community (commemorated on November 15<sup>th</sup> each year), while today's shrine church in Magdalene Street, opposite to the Abbey ruins, is frequently open during the week (for Mass times, see [www.glastonburyshrine.co.uk](http://www.glastonburyshrine.co.uk)). For those hoping to travel to Glastonbury for the pilgrimage on the afternoon of July 14<sup>th</sup>, we are hoping that a few 'lifts' can be made available after Sunday Mass at St Benedict's (either soon after midday or a bit later, 'after lunch' – announcements will be made at the end of Mass)

**End of Term** Those who attend Mass in the Abbey Church will be aware that the Downside term has ended already, but elsewhere a slightly longer term enables us to celebrate St Benedict's Day (July 11<sup>th</sup>) in advance of end of term celebrations occurring later in the month. The Leavers' Mass at St Benedict's Catholic Primary School in Midsomer Norton is being held at 1.30 pm on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July in the school hall. It might be advisable to contact the school in advance, if you'd like to attend, given the relative shortage of space

**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](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)

## 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday OT

### First reading - Amos 7:12-15

#### 'Go, shepherd, and prophesy to my people Israel'

Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, said to Amos, 'Go away, seer;' get back to the land of Judah; earn your bread there, do your prophesying there. We want no more prophesying in Bethel; this is the royal sanctuary, the national temple.' 'I was no prophet, neither did I belong to any of the brotherhoods of prophets,' Amos replied to Amaziah 'I was a shepherd, and looked after sycamores: but it was the Lord who took me from herding the flock, and the Lord who said, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."' "

### Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 84(85):9-14

#### Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace,  
peace for his people.  
His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps.

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### Second reading - Ephesians 1:3-14

#### God chose us in Christ before the world was made

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved, in whom, through his blood, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins. Such is the richness of the grace which he has showered on us in all wisdom and insight. He has let us know the mystery of his purpose, the hidden plan he so kindly made in Christ from the beginning to act upon when the times had run their course to the end: that he would bring everything together under Christ, as head, everything in the heavens and everything on earth. And it is in him that we were claimed as God's own, chosen from the beginning, under the predetermined plan of the one who guides all things as he decides by his own will; chosen to be, for his greater glory, the people who would put their hopes in Christ before he came. Now you too, in him, have heard the message of the truth and the good news of your salvation, and have believed it; and you too have been stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the Promise, the pledge of our inheritance which brings freedom for those whom God has taken for his own, to make his glory praised.

### Gospel - Mark 6:7-13

#### 'Take nothing with you'

Jesus made a tour round the villages, teaching. Then he summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. They were to wear sandals but, he added, 'Do not take a spare tunic.' And he said to them, 'If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them.' So they set off to  
and anointed many sick people with  
preach repentance; and they cast out many devils,  
oil and cured them.



## 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday OT

### First reading - Jeremiah 23:1-6

#### **I will gather together the remnant of my flock and raise up shepherds for them**

'Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered – it is the Lord who speaks! This, therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds in charge of my people: You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them.

Right, I will take care of you for your misdeeds – it is the Lord who speaks! But the remnant of my flock I myself will gather from all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds to look after them and pasture them; no fear, no terror for them any more; not one shall be lost – it is the Lord who speaks! 'See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David, who will reign as true king and be wise, practising honesty and integrity in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel dwell in confidence. And this is the name he will be called: The-Lord-our-integrity.'

### Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 22(23)

#### ***The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.***

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow  
me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever.

### Second reading - Ephesians 2:13-18

#### **Christ Jesus is the peace between us**

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far apart from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law. This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two of them and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body and reconcile them with God: in his own person he killed the hostility. Later he came to bring the good news of peace, *peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand*. Through him, both of us have in the one Spirit our way to come to the Father.

### Gospel - Mark 6:30-34

#### **They were like sheep without a shepherd**

The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, 'You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while'; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.

### Memorial Acclamation

**Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free**