

## THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX COLLECTOR

Two men went up to pray, one thought God was lucky to have him, the other could hardly look up at all. The Pharisee stood tall and polished, full of confidence. He prayed loudly, not so much to God as to anyone within earshot: "Thank you, Lord, that I'm not like other people." He listed his fasting, his tithing, and his good behaviour as though God might be taking notes for some heavenly awards ceremony.

The tax collector, meanwhile, stayed at the back, eyes down, heart heavy. No fancy words, no list of achievements just a simple, painful truth: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." That was all he had, and it was enough. And here's the twist, Jesus says it was he, not the Pharisee, who went home right with God.

It's a gentle but slightly uncomfortable reminder that God isn't impressed by spiritual showing off. He's not keeping a scoreboard, and He certainly doesn't need us to tell Him how good we are. What touches His heart is honesty, the kind that admits we don't always get it right, but still dares to stand before Him and ask for mercy.

So perhaps when we pray, we can leave our spiritual trophies on the shelf and come just as we are. God already knows who's good at what and He seems to prefer the ones who don't make a fuss about it.



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### THIS WEEK

|      |         |             |         |
|------|---------|-------------|---------|
| Sat. | 25th    | VIGIL MASS  | 4:00pm  |
| Sun  | 26th    | 30th Sunday | 09:30am |
| Mon  | 27th    | MASS        | 10:00am |
| Wed  | 29th    | MASS        | 10:00am |
| Fri  | 31st    | MASS        | 10:00am |
| Sat  | 1st Nov | VIGIL MASS  | 4:00pm  |
| Sun  | 2nd     | ALL SAINTS  | 09:30am |

**Safeguarding:** The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the national and Archdiocese policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is  
**Mrs. Jo Currie who can be contacted at**  
[sg.stbenedict.atherstone@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stbenedict.atherstone@rcaob.org.uk)

Chinthowa Development Trust  
Coffee Morning  
Wednesday 29th October 2025  
Nuneaton Methodist Church  
at 9:30 until 12:00 noon  
Lovely Cakes etc...  
Gift Stall

Saturday 1st November 2025  
Reception into Church  
Dean Lloyd  
4:00pm MASS

Sunday 2nd November 2025  
11:30am  
Blessing of The Graves  
Atherstone Cemetery

*Please pray for those whose anniversaries fall at this time; Frank Roundtree, Elizabeth Underhill, Thomas McElligott, James O'Donoghue, Nancy Erskine and Rosa Wood.*

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord...*

## 'Taize'

A Candlelit Evening of Prayer, Chant and Song  
Friday 21st November 2025  
Celebrating the Church in Atherstone!  
St. Benedict's Church, Owen Street  
Atherstone  
Everyone Welcome

*The Bible Time-line*  
7:00pm  
Every Monday Evening  
St. Benedict's Community Hall

| 05/10/2025 |                |
|------------|----------------|
| 1st Coll   | £132.89        |
| 2nd Coll   | £ 74.31        |
| Candles    | £ 75.49        |
| S/O        | <u>£312.00</u> |
|            | £594.69        |
| Overheads  | £586.00 Avg    |

