

Waiting with Care for Our Common Home

In this final week of Advent, we stand very close to Christmas. The waiting is almost over. The world feels busy and noisy, yet Advent invites us to slow down and to notice what really matters. Pope Francis often reminded us that caring for our planet is not an extra task, it's part of our faith. The earth is our common home, given to us by God as a gift. Like any gift, it is meant to be loved, protected, and shared.

In the Gospel this week, we see Mary preparing to welcome Jesus. She does not rush. She listens. She trusts. She makes space in her life for God to grow. Mary teaches us how to wait with hope and care. She shows us that love begins with attention.

Advent asks us a similar question: What kind of home are we preparing for Christ today? Not only in our hearts, but in the world around us. Our planet is the place where God chose to be born. The Son of God entered creation, becoming part of the earth, the air, the water, and human life itself. Caring for our planet is a way of caring for Jesus. When we protect nature, reduce waste, and think about the poorest who suffer most from climate change, we are living the message of Advent. We are making room for love, justice, and peace.

As Christmas draws near, let us choose simple acts of care: turning off what we do not need, sharing what we have, and treating creation with respect. These small actions become signs of hope.

This week, let's wait like Mary, quietly, lovingly, and with trust, so that when Christ comes, he finds not only open hearts, but our beautiful world being gently cared for.



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THIS WEEK

Sat 20th Dec	Advent Feria	4.00pm
Sun 21st Dec	Fourth Sunday of Advent	9.30am
Mon 22nd Dec	Father Paul Lomas (Anniversary)	7.00pm
Wed 24th Dec	Christmas Eve - Advent Feria	4pm & 7pm
Thur 25th Dec	Christmas Day - Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord.	10.00am
Fri 26th Dec	Feast of St Stephen	10.00am
Sat 27th Dec	Feast of St, John	4.00pm
Sun 28th Dec	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	9.30am

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

Wishing you all a Christmas filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit and the love of Christ.



'The Prince of Peace'

is on sale today.

This delightful little book has been produced by two members of our parish.

Brian Ingram has written the text and Rosa Brown has illustrated the book beautifully.

An ideal Christmas present for young children!

£5.99

Please pray for those whose anniversaries fall at this time;

Arthur Barnes, James Doherty, Alfred Batterton, Win Furlong, Father Paul Lomas, Zelie Jones, Jim Turner, Bridie O'Hare, Terry Furlong, Canon William Flint. Eleanor Francis, Ian John Morre, Val Dickens, Dorothy Shorthouse & Barbara Baines

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord...

Away from the madding crowd: preparation for Christmas.

Next Monday evening, the church will be open from 5.30 until 7.30. Father John invites you to come and spend time with the Lord. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.30 until Mass for Father Paul at 7 o'clock. Father John will be available should you wish for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Holy Spirit MAC Collection last weekend.

£400 was raised by the parish over last weekend for the Christmas MAC Food Bank Appeal. The strength of Catholic Social Action and solidarity.

Again, our parishioners are always so generous. Mrs. Parker head teacher at St. Benedict's Primary School, has asked to pass on her sincere thanks on behalf of the MAC.

The Bible Time-line

7:00pm

Every Monday Evening

St. Benedict's Community Hall

