

## UNDER AFRICAN SKIES

Sometimes we forget to look up. But when we do, the night sky can stop us in our tracks. The stars shine quietly, far beyond our worries, yet they feel close. I remember the first time I looked up at the African night sky. It was unbelievably beautiful, wide, deep, and full of light, in that moment, it felt clear that creation is much bigger than us, yet amazingly we belong within it. We are not separate from the world around us. We are made from the same earth, under the same sky, breathing the same air as every living thing. The stars, the soil, the animals, the oceans, all are part of one great story, and we are woven into it. This reminds me, we are not masters standing above creation, but guardians living within it.

To be a guardian means to care, not to control. It means to protect what has been given, knowing it does not belong to us alone. The beauty of the night sky calls us to humility. It teaches us to listen, to slow down, and to act with respect. When we harm the earth, we harm something we are part of.

Looking up at the stars can change how we live. It can help us choose kindness over greed, care over waste, and responsibility over indifference. Each small action matters, because it all belongs together. **As guardians of this shared home, our task is simple but serious: to love, protect, and pass on a world that still invites others to look up in wonder.**



ST, BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
OWEN STREET  
ATHERSTONE  
WARWICKSHIRE CV9 1DG  
Priest: 07891 822770  
Office: 07502 320487  
website: [stbenedictsatherstone.org](http://stbenedictsatherstone.org)  
email: [office@stbenedictsatherstone.org](mailto:office@stbenedictsatherstone.org)

### THIS WEEK

Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Christmas Feria	4.00pm
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2nd Sunday After The Nativity	9.30am
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Vigil Mass of the Epiphany	7.00pm
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord	10.00am
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Christmas Feria	10.00am
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Christmas Feria	10.00am
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Christmas Feria	4.00pm
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Feast of the Baptism of The Lord	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](mailto:sg.stbenedict.atherstone@rcaob.org.uk)

Please bring in your  
Old Unwanted Christmas Cards



**Please would it be possible for you bring into church your old unwanted Christmas cards and leave them on the table in the porch, as in previous years.  
Thank You**

*Love your neighbour – it's the simplest way to change the world.*

*BI*

*Please pray for those whose anniversaries fall at this time;*

*Catherine Young, Edith Quillinan, Mary-Ann Heyden  
John Chapman, Tim Chiverton, Aidan McInerney, Mary Smith,  
Jim Killian, Martin Bown, Win Holmes & Dick Charnell*

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

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



**For Your Diary  
Milestone events in 2026 in our parish**

**First Holy Communion** Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am  
**Confirmation** Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 6.00pm

**Commitment Mass** for those who wish to receive these Sacraments Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February

**'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 present for  
young children!**

**£5.99**

**Collections**

**1st Collection      £ 64.13**

**2nd Collection      £ 87.79**