

BAPTISM

I sometimes feel a quiet sadness when I think about my Baptism. It happened when I was a baby, before memory, before choice. I didn't feel the water, didn't hear the words, didn't know what was being given to me. It can feel distant, like something done to me rather than something done for me.

And yet, as I grow and change, I begin to see baptism less as a moment in the past and more as something still unfolding. Like all life, it is evolutionary, it grows slowly, through awareness, through experience, through the way I choose to live now. The Spirit spoken of in Baptism is not a one-time event, but a quiet presence learning to breathe through me as I learn to breathe with the world. That presence draws me toward care. Care for the Earth first of all, this living, fragile planet that holds us all. The soil, the oceans, the trees, the animals are not resources to use up, but relatives in the long story of life. If the Spirit lives in me, then it also lives in the Earth that formed me. To harm the planet is to wound something we belong to, to protect it is an act of love.

The same care extends to people. Baptism, however unseen it felt, ties me to every other human being. It reminds me that compassion has no borders. Race, nationality, belief these are stories we tell, but beneath them we share the same breath, the same vulnerability, the same hope to be loved and protected. I am still learning to live this truth, to soften rather than harden, to listen rather than judge. Perhaps my baptism did not begin with my own awareness, but it does not end there either. It continues each time I choose kindness, each time I care for the Earth, each time I recognise myself in another. In this way, baptism becomes real not as a memory I lost, but as a life I am still growing into.



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THIS WEEK

Sat 10 th Jan	Christmas Feria	4,00pm
Sun 11 th Jan	Feast of the Baptism of The Lord	9.30am
Mon 12 th Jan	Memorial of St. Aelred of Rievaubc, Abbot.	10.00am
Wed 14 th Jan	Feria in Ordinary Time	10.00am
Thur 15 th Jan	Mass in St Benedict's School	9.30 am
Fri 16 th Jan	Feria in Ordinary Time	10.00am
Sat 17 th Jan	Memorial of St Anthony, Abbot	4.00pm
Sun 18 th Jan	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Mass Intention - Anthony Wood RIP	9.30am

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



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

**We wish to thank you
for buying our Christmas cards for the Feeding
Programme at Chinthowa School, Malawi.
The total made was £1,030.
This will supply the children at school with a meal of
maize porridge each day for a month.**



Thank you!



**Reminder
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**

Please pray for those whose anniversaries fall at this time;

*Francis Cummins, Dennis Beeson, Annie O'Brien, Thomas Joseph
McLoughlin, Helen (Betty) Joynes, Mary A. Rowlands, Ita Hanlon,
Jimmy Gallagher, Daniel O'Grady, Anthony Wood, Florence Wall.*

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord...



Alpha

Why Am I Here?



**Do you want to know if there is
more to life?**

Are you looking for connection?

**Would you like to know more about the plan that
God has for your life?**

Come and see at our Alpha Course!

Started Friday January 9th (10 weeks in total)

Friday, 7pm – 9pm (*food will be included)

**Our Lady of the Angels Church Hall,
Coton Road, Nuneaton CV11 5UA**

For Your Diary

Milestone events in 2026 in our parish

Taizé in church Friday 27th February at 7pm.

First Holy Communion Saturday 16th May at 10.30am

Confirmation Tuesday 30th June at 6.00

Commitment Mass for those who wish to receive these
Sacraments Sunday 1st February

Walk with Jesus through Lent.

7pm Friday 27th Feb, 2026

St, Benedict's Church, Owen St, Atherstone
A path of love, of self-giving and of compassion
**An evening with hymns, readings, Taizé chants,
psalms & silence**

Collections

1st Collection	£ 120.30
2nd Collection	£ 99.62
Candles	£ 78.30
TOTAL	£ 298.22