

## 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

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

*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](mailto: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 9<sup>th</sup> (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 27<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm.

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

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

**Walk with Jesus through Lent.**

7pm Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	£ 99.62
Candles	£ 78.30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 298.22</b>