

Jesus, the Good Shepherd

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, once said that he has other flocks too, other people and that one day, all will be gathered together as one in him. It's a beautiful idea. But if we're honest, we humans haven't quite managed it yet. From a young age, we seem to sort people into groups. Even on the playground, children decide who's "in" and who's "out." As we grow older, we don't always leave that habit behind. Throughout history, people have built walls, sometimes real ones, sometimes invisible ones to keep out those they see as different or "not one of us."

Back in the time of Jesus, there were strict rules about what food people could eat and who they could share meals with. Some people were considered "unclean," especially outsiders like Gentiles.

But Jesus didn't follow those rules in the way people expected. He spent time with everyone, outsiders, sinners, and those others tried to avoid. That caused quite a bit of trouble for him.

Now, if Jerry Lee the cat were to share his thoughts, he might say something like:

"Well, this all seems a bit odd. I never worried about who was in my group. If you fed me, stroked me, or gave me a warm place to sleep, you were clearly my kind of human. Simple! You humans make things more complicated than you need to."

So during this Easter season, it might be worth thinking about who we see as "outsiders." And just as importantly, who might see us that way too. Then, perhaps, we can begin to soften those boundaries, one small step at a time and pray for the unity that Jesus spoke of, that all people may truly become one.



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THIS WEEK

Sat 25 th April	Feast of St, Mark, Evangelist	4.00pm
Sun 26 th April	Fourth Sunday of Easter	9.30am
Mon 27 th April	Easter Feria	10.0am.
Wed 29 th April	Feast of St Catherine of Siena, Virgin ,Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe.	10;00am
Thur 30 th April	'The Taizé Group Vespers' In Church,	7.00pm
Fri 1 st May	Easter Feria	10.0am
Sat 2 nd May	Memorial of St, Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	4.00pm
Sun 3 rd May	Fifth Sunday of Easter	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

jo.currie@stbenedict.atherstone@rcaob.org.uk

For Your Diary
Milestone events in 2026 in our parish

Taizé Group Vespers Thursday 30th April at 7pm

First Holy Communion Saturday 6th June at 10.30am

Confirmation Tuesday 30th June at 6.00pm.

The Friends of St, Benedict's are organising
PARISH
SUNDAY LUNCH

Sunday 3rd May 2026, at 12.30pm,

Venue

THE BLUE BOAR, MANCETTER.

We have booked a table for 30, open to all, but it's
first come, first served.



Please speak to Annie Turvey or call 07703 569423 to reserve a place.
We hope you can join us for some good food and company.

**Volunteers Needed – Tea & Coffee Rota after
our services.**

**If you're willing to help , please add your name to the sign-up
sheet at the back of church or speak to a member of the
Welcome Team.**



Please pray for those whose anniversaries fall at this time;

*Elizabeth Blythe, Pat Storer, Colin Gilks, Jan Jurolek, Antonio Antunes,
John Lowbridge, Ted Rendchen, Jim Devine, Catherine Baird, Ben
Machin, Joanna Peckham.*

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord...

Thursday 30th April 2026 at 7:00pm
The Taizé Group
“Vespers”

The beauty and peace of Evening Prayer
St. Benedict's Church
Owen Street, Atherstone
All Welcome

As the light of day begins to fade and the world gently turns to Prayer of the Church. For centuries, men and women in monasteries a quiet places have paused at this hour, allowing the noise of the to fall away, while lifting their hearts to God in thanks giving and trust.

This is a sacred threshold moment, between labour and rest, between daylight and darkness. Here, we bring all that has been: our work, our weariness, our joys and our failures, our spoken words and silent thoughts. Nothing is hidden; all is offered.

In the softening light, we remember that God has been present in every moment of this day, in what we noticed, and in what we missed. We give thanks for graces received, and we entrust to mercy all that was incomplete or broken.

As the evening deepens, so too does our listening. In psalms, in silence, and in prayer, we become attentive to the quiet voice of God, who does not depart with the setting sun, but draws nearer still.

We enter this time, not in haste, but with reverence. Let our hearts be steady, our minds at peace, and our spirits open, ready to rest in the presence of the One who watches through the night and holds all things in love.

Collections

1st Collection = £153.75

2nd Collection = £68.37

TOTAL = £222.12