

It has been one of those curious weeks when life seemed determined to remind me of Jerry Lee. It began quite innocently when I came across a stylised cartoon cat, it was nothing more than a few bold lines, oversized whiskers and an expression that suggested complete confidence in the universe. Yet, in an instant, there he was again, Jerry Lee padding quietly back into my thoughts as though he had merely wandered into the next room and decided to return for a visit. Jerry Lee had a remarkable gift for reminding me that the world does not belong to us alone. He regarded every bird as worthy of observation, every butterfly as an object of fascination, every warm patch of sunlight as a sacred place of contemplation, and every human being as a potential servant whose primary purpose was to open doors on demand.

Cats possess a wonderful theology, they seem utterly convinced that the whole of creation exists in perfect harmony, provided someone remembers to fill the food bowl on time. It made me wonder whether God occasionally smiles at us in much the same way. We spend enormous amounts of energy worrying about grand plans while overlooking the quiet miracles all around us: the birds singing before dawn, the bee patiently visiting flowers, the hedgehog shuffling through the undergrowth, or even an elderly ginger cat teaching us that an afternoon nap can be a profound spiritual discipline. Creation is not simply a backdrop for human life; it is our shared home. Every creature has its own place, its own purpose and its own quiet praise of the Creator. When we care for one another, protect the vulnerable, plant a tree, rescue an injured bird, or simply leave a little space for wildlife to flourish, we participate in God's continuing work of Grace.

Perhaps that is why Jerry Lee keeps returning to my thoughts. He reminds me that compassion is never selective, the kindness we offer to a neighbour, the patience we show to a stranger and the care we extend to the smallest living creature all spring from the same generous heart. Love cannot be divided into neat compartments; it simply overflows.

So, the next time you see a cartoon cat grinning mysteriously from a greeting card or a social media post, don't dismiss it too quickly. It may just be God's gentle reminder that we are all connected in this extraordinary family called creation and that every member, whether they have two legs, four legs, wings or whiskers, deserves our care.

As Jerry Lee might have observed with his customary dignity: "If you wish to improve the world, begin by being kind and while you're doing that, don't forget my supper."



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THIS WEEK

Sat 18 th July	VIGIL, Feria in ordinary Time	4.00pm
Sun 19 th July	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.30am
Mon 20 th July	Feria in Ordinary Time	10.00am
Wed 22 nd July	Feast of St. Mary Magdalene	10.00am
Fri 24 th July	Feria in Ordinary Time	10.00am
Sat 25 th July	VIGIL, Feast of St, James , Apostle	4.00 pm
Sun 26 th July	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	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

"Come early, prepare your heart, and meet the Lord in prayer."

- "The Mass begins before the first hymn—with quiet prayer and preparation."
- "Arrive a few minutes early and give God the first moments of your day."
- "The greatest Guest is already waiting for you."
- "A few minutes of silence before Mass can be a precious gift."

Deacon Gerry O'Reilly of Christ the King parish, Coventry died on Saturday 11th July. May he rest in peace.

Church cleaners

If anyone is interested in volunteering to help clean the Church on a weekly basis, would they please leave a note written on the Cleaning Rota which is on the noticeboard at back of Church.



International Mass and Brunch

The friends of St, Benedict's would like to thank everybody who helped prepare for, contributed food and helped clear up after Sunday's International Mass and Brunch. It was a gathering full of love and friendship and we're sure it will be repeated.
A good time was had by all!



Please pray for those whose anniversaries fall at this time;

Peter Kirkbridge, Stella Carroll, Bessie Ford, Jean Conolly, Mary (Pat) Jones, Tom O'Donnell, Rene Smith.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord...

This weekend's 2nd Collection will be for the 'Apostleship of the Sea'.

We Believe Festival (content for all ages and stages of the faith journey) 24th -27th July
at Oscott College, B73 5AA.
Further information on <https://www.oscott.org>

Chinthowa Development Trust



There are 30 children looking for sponsorship.

Would you Sponsor a Child for just £10 per month?

Could You Help Rufina Davison?

Rufina Davison is aged 8

Rufina lives in Chinthowa Village in Malawi. She lives with her mother, her father died while working in Zambia. She is in Standard 3 in Chinthowa School and she has a brother David.

With your help, Rufina can receive nutritious food, clothing & healthcare when needed and help towards schooling.

Giving £10 a month, you can make a lasting difference to one little girl's future. Every penny goes directly to supporting children and families in Chinthowa through the Chinthowa Development Trust.

Could you be the person who gives Rufina the chance of a brighter tomorrow

If interested please see Margaret or Brian Ingram

Collections

1st Collection	£ 140.73
2nd Collection	£ 106.43
Candles	£ 22.06
TOTAL	£ 269.22