

People spend much of their lives searching. They search for success, for possessions, for recognition, for the next thing that will finally make them content. Yet I have noticed, from my favourite spot in the warmest patch of sunlight, that the greatest treasures are often the ones that cannot be bought.

Now, as a cat of some considerable wisdom, I understand this very well, a truly precious thing is worth giving yourself to completely, a quiet moment beside someone who loves you, a gentle hand resting on your fur, the sound of a familiar voice calling your name or the peace of knowing you belong. These are treasures that can't be placed in a box, counted, or stored away, they are gifts hidden in ordinary moments, waiting to be discovered by a heart that is awake.

The treasure Jesus speaks of is not something distant, hidden away in some far-off place, 'The Kingdom of God' is already among us, in kindness offered without reward, in forgiveness freely given, in love that asks for nothing in return. The pearl of great price is the discovery that God doesn't measure our worth by what we own, what we achieve, or how others see us, we are precious because we are loved, I think humans sometimes overlook these treasures because they are too busy looking for something bigger.

Cats, of course, have a natural advantage here, we know the importance of resting, noticing and appreciating the small wonders of life, a patch of sunlight on the floor can become a place of meditation, a bowl of food can become a moment of thanksgiving, a cardboard box can become a palace, although I must say humans rarely understand the greatness of cardboard architecture.

Perhaps Jesus is inviting us to become like those who discover treasure, not because we have found something new, but because we have finally learned to see what has always been there, 'The Kingdom of Heaven' is not merely something we hope to find one day, it's a treasure hidden in the ordinary, waiting for us to open our eyes, still our hearts, and recognise the presence of love.

And so, as I curl up for my afternoon contemplation, I shall continue my search for the deeper mysteries of existence...Although, between you and me, I suspect the greatest mystery of all is why humans spend so much money buying expensive cat beds when the empty box they came in is clearly the superior choice.

Jerry Lee 🐾



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THIS WEEK

Sat 25 th July	VIGIL, Feast of St, James , Apostle	4.00pm
Sun 26 th July	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.30am
Mon 27 th July	Feria in Ordinary Time	10.00am
Wed 29 nd July	Memorial of Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus	10.00am
Fri 31 st July	Memorial of St, Ignatius of Loyola, Priest	10.00am
Sat 1 st Aug	VIGIL, Memorial of Alphonsus Mary de' Liguori, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	4.00 pm
Sun 2 nd Aug	EIGHTEENTH 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."



ON SALE NOW
2 new books for Children by
Brian and Rosa

"The Long Path"

"The Miracle of the Roses"

£6.99 each with all profit going to Charity.

**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:

Cecelia Goodwin, John (Jackie) Short, Henry Walter Ferugia, Ellen J. Morgan, Jean O'Donnell, Dorothy Hall, Patrick Joseph Purcell, John Boyd, Sheila Ahearne, Brendan Michael Duignan, Veronica Welford, Mary Margaret Dingley.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord...

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

Chinhowa 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 Chinhowa Village in Malawi. She lives with her mother , her father died while working in Zambia. She is in Standard 3 in Chinhowa 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 Chinhowa through the Chinhowa 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	£ 220.61
2nd Collection	£ 138.40

TOTAL £359.01