

There are moments in life when something we have heard a thousand times suddenly ceases to be merely an idea and becomes a living reality. It's as though a familiar window is quietly opened, and the light that has always been there pours in for the very first time.

That happened to me this week during the Confirmation Mass.

As the bishop prayed that the Holy Spirit would come upon those being confirmed, a simple but overwhelming truth settled in my heart: the Holy Spirit of God dwells in me. Not just around me, not only in our churches or sacred places, but within me. The Creator of all things chooses to make His home in the ordinary human heart.

How easily we take such a mystery for granted. We speak of the Holy Spirit so often that the words can lose their wonder. Yet every breath, every prayer, every quiet act of love is touched by the unseen presence of God living within us. We are never truly alone, for the Spirit accompanies us in silence, strengthens us in weakness, and gently draws us towards the likeness of Christ.

Perhaps the greatest spiritual awakening is not discovering something new, but seeing with fresh eyes what we have always known to be true.

**Jerry Lee the Cat** looked up, twitched his whiskers thoughtfully and purred, "*Humans spend a lifetime searching for God in distant places... while all along He has been patiently waiting in the changing room of their own hearts.*"



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### THIS WEEK

|                           |                                                             |         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> July  | VIGIL, Feria in Ordinary Time                               | 4.00pm  |
| Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> July  | FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN<br>ORDINARY TIME followed by A BAPTISM | 9.30am  |
| Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> July  | Feria in Ordinary Time                                      | 10.00am |
| Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> July  | Feria in Ordinary Time                                      | 10.00am |
| Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> July | Feria in Ordinary Time                                      | 10.00am |
| Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> July | VIGIL, Feast of St Benedict, Abbot,<br>Patron of Europe     | 4.00 pm |
| Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> July | FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN<br>ORDINARY TIME & INTERNATIONAL MASS   | 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](mailto:sg.stbenedict.atherstone@rcaob.org.uk)



***Confirmation was held at St Benedict's Church on  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026***

**Friends of St Benedict's International Mass  
Sunday 12th July 2026**

It is so good to see that the clipboard at the back of church for  
pastry and cake contributions for the International Mass is  
gradually filling up.

**Please could you label all of the ingredients in each  
item for allergy purposes.**

There is still space on the list for more contributions if anyone  
else is interested!

Please feel free to wear National Dress on the day.

**On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> please leave your cakes or pastries in  
the hall before Mass**

*Please pray for those whose anniversaries fall at this time;*

*Raymond Baines, Jackie O'Connor, Percy Wilkinson, Charles Barnes,  
Teresa Gaylor, Maureen Burke, Martin Guilfoyle, Jack Bates, Ivy May  
Mansfield, Ann Reid, Tony Costello, Thomas Joseph Breen.*

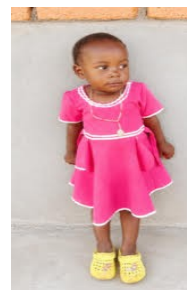
***Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord...***

"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."

**Chinthowa Development Trust**

**Sponsor a Child – Could You Help Lonely Chikalipo?**



Lonely Chikalipo was born in 2023 and is now 2 years old.

Lonely lives in Chinthowa Village in Malawi with her grandmother after a heartbreaking tragedy. In May 2026, her mother died while giving birth, and the newborn baby also sadly died. Since then, her grandmother has lovingly taken on the responsibility of caring for Lonely, despite having very few resources.

With your help, Lonely can receive nutritious food, clothing, healthcare when needed, and the opportunity to attend school as she grows older.

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 Lonely the chance of a brighter tomorrow

**Please see Margaret or Brian Ingram**

**Collections**

|                                  |                 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>1st Collection</b>            | <b>£ 161.11</b> |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection</b> | <b>£ 118.78</b> |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     | <b>£ 279.89</b> |