

Jerry Lee the cat would often sit quietly beneath the old apple tree, watching the seasons unfold. He noticed things that many humans seemed too busy to see. He watched the first swallow arrive in spring. He listened for the blackbirds who sang before dawn. He watched the bees wander from flower to flower, never asking for applause, simply doing what they had always done. He noticed the hedgehogs becoming fewer, the summers growing hotter, the winters less certain. Even the old oak tree seemed to sigh more deeply each year.

One afternoon Jasper asked him, “Why do humans spend so much time arguing about climate change?”

“They argue because they imagine they stand outside creation, looking in. But they are not outside it. They are part of it, just as we are.” He stretched lazily before continuing. “When one thread is pulled, the whole tapestry feels the strain.”

Pope Francis expresses this beautifully in Laudato Si’. He reminds us that the Earth is not simply a collection of resources waiting to be consumed, but **our common home**, a gift entrusted to every generation. Creation is not property; it is relationship. Mountains, rivers, forests, insects, birds, animals and humanity all belong to one great family woven together by the Creator’s love.

Jerry Lee approved of that. “You cannot poison the river,” he purred, “and expect the fish to remain joyful. You cannot silence the forests and expect your own hearts to remain full of song.” The old ginger philosopher believed ‘Laudato Si’ should be compulsory reading in every school. Not because it is merely about climate or politics, but because it teaches something far more important. **It teaches wonder.**

Children instinctively understand wonder. They delight in butterflies, puddles, worms, stars and trees. Somewhere along the journey to adulthood many lose that gift, replacing wonder with ownership, gratitude with consumption, and relationship with control. Jerry Lee considered this one of humanity’s greatest tragedies. Fortunately, there is encouraging news from the feline world.

The distinguished cats of Thicket Priory have unanimously declared Laudato Si’ to **be essential reading** for any cat wishing to join their contemplative community. Applicants are expected to demonstrate a proper appreciation for birds (without excessive enthusiasm), respect for ancient trees, kindness towards elderly hedgehogs, and the ability to sit in silent contemplation beneath the moon for no less than twenty minutes—longer if a moth happens to drift by. The Prior of the cats is said to have remarked, **“A cat who cannot marvel at creation has much to learn before claiming to understand its Creator.”** Jerry Lee entirely agreed. Perhaps the greatest lesson of Laudato Si’ is not that the planet needs saving. **Rather, it’s that our hearts need awakening.**



ST, BENEDICT’S CATHOLIC CHURCH
OWEN STREET
ATHERSTONE
WARWICKSHIRE CV9 1DG
Priest: 07891 822770
Office: 07502 320487
website: stbenedictsatherstone.org
email: office@stbenedictsatherstone.org

THIS WEEK

Sat 1 st Aug	VIGIL, Memorial of Alphonsus Mary de’ Liguori, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	4.00pm
Sun 2 nd Aug	EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Sean Loma RIP	9.30am
Mon 3 rd Aug	Feria in Ordinary Time	10.00am
Wed 5 th Aug	Feria in Ordinary Time	10.00am
Fri 7 th Aug	Feria in Ordinary Time	10.00am
Sat 8 th Aug	VIGIL, Memorial of St. Dominic, Priest	4.00 pm
Sun 2 nd Aug	NINETEENTH 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

"When we arrive early, we give ourselves time to leave the world behind and enter God's presence."

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

Please pray for those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

Molly Lynskey, Rosamund Smith, Frances Menzies, Sean Fritz Loma, Brigid Feeley, William Prescott, Josie Leszczyk.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord...

**Happy 80th Birthday
Father John
Wishing you a
wonderful day
From all your
friends
at St. Benedict's. x**



**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.

Dates for Your Diary

Friday 18th September Taizé Evening Exultation of the Cross

Friday 23rd October Sung Evening Prayer

Friday 18th December Taizé Evening for Advent

Collections

1st Collection	£228.44
2nd Collection	£103.02

TOTAL £331.46