



Over a few weeks, 14 practical ways to love others like Jesus will be shared on the news sheet. Here are the next two, more in next week's news sheet.....

12. Pack and deliver boxes of food and presents on Christmas Eve to families in the community that are less fortunate. Just give them the presents.

13. Volunteer to help feed the poor and homeless in your area. Bring crafts to do with the children.

14. Buy food for a homeless person on the street, and then sit and talk with them while they eat (if they don't mind). Hug them!

The bottom line is that simple (not big and glorious) acts of kindness are effective ways of loving others like Jesus. None of these are glamorous. None of them will get you recognized in church. None of them will get you interviewed on television, BUT they don't cost an arm and a leg and they won't burn you out either. They are just simple ways to be kind every day to friends and strangers so that we can offer light and love and hope to the people around us.

******CREATIVE WAYS TO LOVE OTHERS. SIMPLE, RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS******

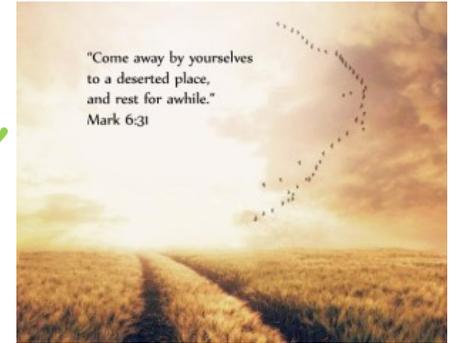
NEXT WEEK SUNDAY 25TH JULY

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

"I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS" This is the first World Day for Grandparents and the elderly. This is an initiative of Pope Francis. You will be able to read his letter on that Sunday. We will be thinking of and thanking them for all that they do and have done for us. Also especially praying for all those who have died in the pandemic.

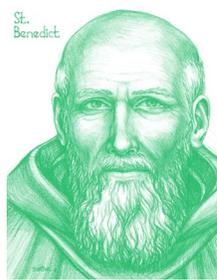
Covid 19 and July 19th. At this stage, it is important for us all to remember that although legislation is being relaxed, the pandemic is not yet over and there continues to be a duty of care for all who use our churches and other facilities. The guidance therefore seeks to ensure that, where opportunity permits, there is some degree of relaxation but there remains a cautious approach that encourages the continuation of social distancing, mask wearing and daily cleaning where these help to minimise risk and provide comfort and confidence to our people. What is important is that the emphasis is now on the corporate endeavour of all involved in our church life to maintain the exemplary good practice that has been exhibited over the past 15 months in our churches whilst moving into a freer expression of our church life, worship and mission.

**16th. Sunday of Ordinary Time
SATURDAY 17th JULY
Vigil Mass 4 pm
Sunday 18th JULY
Mass 9.30 am**



Saturday	17th	Vigil Mass 4 pm	Parishioners
Sunday	18th	16th Sunday of Ordinary Time 9.30 am	Those who suffer racial abuse
Monday	19th	Feria NO MASS	
Tuesday	20th	Feria Mass 10 am	Margaret Smith
Wednesday	21st	Feria Mass 10 am	Robert Tomkins RIP
Thursday	22nd	Feast of St Mary Magdalene Mass 10 am	Victims of domestic abuse
Friday	23rd	Feast of St Bridget	Mass 10 am Maureen Prowse
Saturday	24th	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)	
		Vigil Mass 4 pm	Parishioners

**Next Week : Saturday 24th July 2021
Vigil Mass 4 pm THE 17TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME (YR B)
Sunday 25th July 2021 Mass at**



**The LITTLE GEM OF ATHERSTONE
ST. BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Owen Street, Atherstone
Warwickshire, CV9 1DG
Parish Priest: Fr. Paul R. Lomas
E mail: Stbenedict.atherstone@rcaob.org.uk
Tel No: 01827 736286
WEBSITE www.saintbenedictscatherstone.com**

Archdiocese of Birmingham is a Registered Charity 234216

Reflection Rest for a While

We see here once more the balance in Jesus' life. He was so available to all those in need, the poor, the sick, the outcasts, but there was a limit to his availability. He knew when he needed to get away, to re-new contact with his Father, to recharge his batteries .

So, Jesus and his disciples take off in a boat to a solitary place where they will be left to themselves. Or, that is what they thought, but the people saw them leaving and had a good idea where they were headed. While Jesus and his disciples crossed the lake in a boat, the people hurried along the lake shore. When Jesus stepped out of the boat, he was faced by a huge crowd.

Jesus quickly decides that this is a time for availability. He is deeply moved by the people's need, they were like lost sheep in need of a shepherd's guidance. The people coming out to a deserted place echoes the people of Israel in their wanderings. Here Jesus is the Shepherd of the New Israel. So he begins to teach them. Their first hunger was spiritual. They needed to understand what Jesus stood for and why he did the things he did. There is a eucharistic connection here and in what follows (the multiplication of loaves) and the teaching corresponds to what we now call the Liturgy of the Word during the Eucharist.

The story illustrates well the balance in Jesus' life. As he did himself, he urges his disciples to retire and reflect on the meaning of what they are doing. Otherwise they may become active for activity's sake or for other less worthy motives. At the same time, in this particular situation, Jesus sees that a response is called for. The day of reflection is abandoned and the people, in their great need, are served. Let us learn, through careful discernment, to do likewise. To do the right thing at the right time.



Tel No:
01827 736286
Locked down,
need a chat,
phone me!



Following the Holy Father's acceptance of Bishop William Kenney's resignation from office as Auxiliary Bishop, Archbishop Bernard has appointed Canon Paul Fitzpatrick as Episcopal Vicar for the Pastoral Area of Coventry, Warwickshire and Oxfordshire, with effect from 1 September 2021. alongside his current duties as Parish Priest of Henley-on-Thames, Dean of the Oxford South Deanery and Chairman of the Care of the Clergy Committee. I know that you will keep him in your prayers and support him in his new rôle,



**St. Benedict's the
LITTLE GEM OF
ATHERSTONE.**

Following the announcement that step 4 of the Government's Covid-19 response roadmap will come into effect on Monday 19th July, I have received the latest guidance from the Bishops' Conference. The guidance is accompanied by the statement *Sunday – it is our Day* which says, "It is our continuing judgement, therefore, that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God. It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that **of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021.** In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church."

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION : Fr. Paul will hear confessions ONLY BY APPOINTMENT TO MAKE SURE SOCIAL DISTANCING IS POSSIBLE.
Please arrange by text, phone or e mail.