

---

# NEWSLETTER

---

ALL SAINTS, SCRAPTOFT & NETHERHALL - JULY 2018

---

## Rest awhile...

I don't think there's much doubt that we are living in an age of extreme change and frenetic lifestyle. There are more options for most of us with what to do with our leisure time, we might have literally hundreds of TV channels to choose from at home, we can stream movies direct to our screens without having to go to the cinema or video shop, and for those who can't remember pre-1994, there is no longer a 'day of rest'. Sunday has become, pretty much, just like any other day.

Also in the headlines is our massive use of plastics and the damage they are doing to wildlife and the environment; we hear more and more of the decline of bird life, species of bees and butterflies (our chief pollinators); a hot summer like the one we're experiencing reminds us of the predictions about global warming. And on top of that, politicians around the world look increasingly dodgy and our own progress towards Brexit shambolic.

Then there is the new existence we have as those governed by screens - phones, tablets, laptops, desktops, and of course, good old TV. Our minds are having to cope with an influx of information of all sorts for which they just weren't created. We keep hearing about a struggling NHS and the rise of those suffering with anxiety and depression.

Oh dear - not a good scenario, is it?

Perhaps we need to take a few tips from our roadmap for life - the Bible - and try to take back a bit of control ourselves. Genesis tells us that "God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation", which indicates that rest is important, even for God. It's also about enjoyment: "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good." So being made in God's image should include a pattern of work and rest, in which we enjoy the good things of God's creation and do those things which bring us genuine pleasure and restore our energy. Jesus also took time out from the crowds and withdrew to do just that.

During these warmer months the world can be the most beautiful place, if we take the time to look and listen and appreciate what is there. Such time is going to be more and more valuable and important as we learn to live in a 24-hour-connected-society. Maybe we need to switch stuff off for a while to be able to listen to what God is saying to us.

With every blessing



## Calendar - July

- 4th **St Elizabeth of Portugal**  
7.30pm No Eucharist  
7.30pm Deanery Synod - *Beaumont Leys*
- 5th 6.30pm Wedding Rehearsal
- 7th 1.30pm Wedding: Ward & Garner
- 8th **TRINITY 6**  
10.00am Sung Eucharist  
4.00pm 50th Anniversary Songs & Praises  
*St Chad, Leicester*
- 11th **St Benedict**  
7.30pm Eucharist
- 12th 6.30pm Wedding Rehearsal
- 14th 2.00pm Wedding: Bonsall & Pryor
- 15th **TRINITY 7**  
10.00am Sung Eucharist
- 18th 7.30pm No Eucharist
- 19th 6.30pm Wedding Rehearsal
- 21st 10.00am Coffee Stop  
3.00pm Wedding: Barr & Joyce
- 22nd **TRINITY 8**  
10.00am Sung Eucharist
- 25th 7.30pm No Eucharist
- 28th 10.00am Flower Group
- 29th **TRINITY 9**  
10.00am Sung Eucharist
- 31st **St Ignatius**  
12.00 Eucharist

## Daily Inspirational Bible Readings

- 1st Romans 12:3  
2nd Jeremiah 17:9-10  
3rd Proverbs 14:34  
4th Psalm 33:12  
5th Isaiah 12:4  
6th Matthew 24:35  
7th Psalm 18:30  
8th Psalm 138:2  
9th Ephesians 3:20-21  
10th Philippians 1:6  
11th Jeremiah 32:17  
12th Matthew 4:4  
13th Philippians 2:9-11  
14th John 15:10  
15th James 1:21  
16th Colossians 2:9-10  
17th Romans 1:16  
18th Psalm 119:7  
19th Isaiah 41:10  
20th 1 John 1:7  
21st Psalm 119:30  
22nd Matthew 16:15-16  
23rd Matthew 19:14  
24th Psalm 112:5  
25th Psalm 119:60  
26th Hebrews 11:1  
27th Hebrews 12:1  
28th Philippians 3:14  
29th Psalm 119:93  
30th Matthew 5:14  
31st John 1:12-13

### A Prayer by Saint Benedict for Seekers of Faith

*Gracious and Holy Father,  
give us the wisdom to discover You,  
the intelligence to understand You,  
the diligence to seek after You,  
the patience to wait for You,  
eyes to behold You,  
a heart to meditate upon You,  
and a life to proclaim You,  
through the power of the Spirit of Jesus,  
our Lord. Amen.*



*"To live is to change,  
and to be perfect is to  
have changed often"*

*Cardinal John Henry Newman*