

From a sermon by St Leo the Great
The Son of God who was in the beginning with God, through whom all things were made, without whom nothing was made, became man to free him from eternal death. He stooped down to take up our lowliness without loss to his own glory. He remained what he was; he took up what he was not. He wanted to join the very nature of a servant to that nature in which he is equal to God the Father. He wanted to unite both natures in an alliance so wonderful that the glory of the greater would not annihilate the lesser, nor the taking up of the lower diminish the greatness of the higher. What belongs to each nature is preserved intact and meets the other in one person: lowliness is taken up by greatness, weakness by power, mortality by eternity. To pay the debt of our human condition, a nature incapable of suffering is united to a nature capable of suffering, and true God and true man are forged into the unity that is the Lord. This was done to make possible the kind of remedy that fitted our human need: one and the same mediator between God and men able to die because of one nature, able to rise again because of the other. And so, at the birth of our Lord, the angels sing in joy: Glory to God in the highest, and they proclaim peace to his people on earth as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from all the nations of the world. If the angels on high are so exultant at this marvellous work of God's goodness, what joy should it not bring to the lowly hearts of men?

St Benedict: Feast Day of 11th July
St. Benedict, father of Western monasticism, pray for us and help us to live a balanced life of prayer and work.



Sunday 12th July 2026
Trinity 6 / 15th Ordinary
Gospel: Matt 13: 1 - 23



Our Lord taught in parables, designed to catch the imagination and challenge us. Sometimes Jesus gave further teaching to the Twelve, (Matthew 13: 37) but parables can defy analysis. Even detailed examination does not always offer a full explanation. Jesus invites listeners to 'grasp', not analyse, these parables, which often do not have just one meaning. Jesus said He was communicating truths kept secret from the foundation of the world, (Matt 13: 3) but He warns us to be careful not to confuse the good with the bad. History shows many thought they understood Him but were wrong. (Matt 13:29). The Faith must be taught, and this might take a lifetime, but few of us understand today in exactly the same way we did ten or twenty or thirty years ago. We need to hear Jesus's teachings continually – and reflect carefully on them – to grow in our understanding and devotions.