

MASS TIMES: Bourton (B) Stow (S)

SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Saturday evening 26th Sept: **Vigil Mass 6 pm (B)**. INTENTION: A private intention (MB)

Sunday morning 27th September. **9 am Mass (S)**. INTENTION: Private intention (R)

Monday 28th Sept. St. Wenceslas. **9 am Mass (S)** INTENTION:

Tuesday 29th Sept. **Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels. 10 am Mass (B)** INTENTION: All those in physical danger.

Wednesday 30th Sept. St. Jerome. **9 am Mass (S)** INTENTION:

Thursday 1st October. St Therese of the Child Jesus. **10 am Mass (B)** INTENTION: The Carmelite Order

Friday 2nd Oct. The Guardian Angels **9 am Mass (S)** INTENTION: Thanksgiving for our Guardian Angel.

No Mass, as usual, on Saturday morning.

Confessions after any Mass or by arrangement.

ANGELS: We may be assured that angels exist. Both Sacred Scripture and Tradition confirms this. They are mentioned at least 250 times throughout both the Old and New Testaments.

In the book of **Genesis**, angels appear in the lives of Abraham and Jacob. In **28.12** we recall Jacob's vision of the angels ascending and descending a stairway to heaven, They are mentioned in the **Job 4.18** (Unreliable angels!) and **38.7** where Job who speaks of angels (lit. 'Sons of God'), present at the Creation of the world.

They are spoken of in the **Psalms** many times: e.g **Ps.91:** 'Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell. For you he has commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. Also: **Ps. 103.20:** 'Bless the Lord, O you his angels'; **Ps 148.2** 'Praise him all his angels. In **Daniel 10**, Daniel is visited by an angel and the Archangel Michael is sent to confront the Kings of Persia.

In the **NT** an angel announces the conception of St John the Baptist to Zechariah: **Luke 1.11** All the major events of Our Lord's life have an angelic presence: the Annunciation and the Shepherds at Bethlehem, **Lk1.36, 2.9**, the conclusion of OL's temptations, **Mt. 4.11**; The agony in the garden, **Lk.22.43** and as they are cited as witnesses to the Resurrection in both Matthew and John's Gospel: **Mt.28. 2-8; Jn 20.12**

Luke speaks of them being present at The Ascension **Acts 1.10** St Paul teaches us that 'Angels were created through Him (Christ) and for Him': **Colossians 1.16**

Hebrews 1.14, (speaking of angels) the author says: 'Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?' In the Book of **Revelation**, there is constant mention of angels including in **Ch.12.7** where we are told that 'War broke out in heaven, when Michael with his angels attacked the dragon. The dragon fought back with his angels, but they were defeated and driven out of heaven'.

There is a moving section in Cardinal Newman's 1865 poem **The Dream of Gerontius**, (later set to music by Edward Elgar), where there is a dialogue between the departed soul and his Guardian angel who exclaims:

'My work is done: my task is o'er, And so I come, taking it home, for the crown is won, Alleluia, for evermore.

My Father gave in charge to me this child of earth, e'en from its birth, to serve and save, Alleuia, And saved he is.

This child of clay to me was given, to rear and train by sorrow and pain in the narrow way. Alleluia, from earth to heaven.'

Then follows a dialogue between the Soul and his Guardian as the soul is prepared for judgement.

In the classic work **Summa Theologica** St. Thomas Aquinas, (1225-1274), devotes 15 chapters to a detailed discussion of who and what angels are.

The Annunciation



NOTICES

*Please bring any remaining MISSIO red boxes to either Church as soon as possible.

*Country Life (Cotswold edition) September 23rd, there is an article about how 5 local 'businesses' have survived lockdown. The worship at Our Lady and St. Kenelm is one of the five: see page 69.

*It has been reported to me that the 'donate' button on the home page of our website is not working. I have reported this to the Diocese.

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