



parish newsletter

The Baptism of the Lord (Year B) | 10 January 2021



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."
- Mk 1:7-8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LH

Reflecting on the Gospel

The Baptism of the Lord
We need history. We need it in order to understand ourselves, personally and collectively. The pieces of our histories may not have always been the most positive, honest, exemplary, dignified, proud and best moments of our lives, but they are ours. We have to acknowledge, remember,

accept, and often heal them. We cannot forget them or pretend that they never existed. As horrible as the atrocities of events like Auschwitz, brutal injustices committed throughout the human journey, or personal painful experiences in our own stories, we need to remember. These times

when humanity in general or people in particular have lost their way are times that need to be reconciled and redeemed. If we lose the memories, we will make the same mistakes again. The human soul needs a strong sense of affirmation, direction, and clear purpose. Without these essentials,

Live the Liturgy

Inspiration for the Week

We carry a greater depth of self-confidence and chance of succeeding when we have affirmation, a sense of direction and clear purpose in life. Each of these serve to provide our lives with meaning, allowing us to clearly establish priorities and goals. They also are necessary for integrity, which is the conviction and single mindedness that keeps us grounded in the truth of who we are. "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Jesus' baptism provides him with exactly what he needs to get about the business of his mission as the Son of God. He is given what he needs to be successful in fulfilling the purpose for which he was sent. Our baptisms give us these same gifts. We receive the affirmation we need from God, knowing that we are one of his beloved daughters and sons. We are gifted with the direction and clear purpose we need in order to be productive stewards and faithful Christians. Are we ready and willing to answer the call?

*You are my Son, the Beloved;
my favour rests on you.*

Everyday Stewardship

Tracey Earl Welliver, MTS

"You don't need to shout. My hearing works just fine."

Are you a parent that has used that one on your kids? I'm not sure at what age they realise that the volume of their voice doesn't correlate to the likelihood of receiving a favourable reply—it might be sometime in the teenage years, when the talking slows down altogether.

But I've got to admit, it would be nice if God always gave us a loud and dramatic sign when He wanted something—the booming voice and the torn-open heavens ("This is my beloved Son!") really get the message across. Sometimes I find myself envious of the Apostles, who were able to witness such things in person.



The fact of the matter is, in the year 2021, God is more likely to speak in a whisper than in a shout. The

we will easily run amok and repeat the sins of our past. God's voice throughout history has spoken precisely about this! We are reminded through the voices and example of many prophets and witnesses not to make the same mistakes again, come back to centre, discover the purpose given to us by God, maintain a sense of proper direction, seek healing for wounds and be reconciled to our Creator.

Baptism is so incredibly important for the salvation of humankind, not only eternally but here and now. Our existence depends upon it. It gives us the affirmation we need from God by gifting us with the same intimate relationship Jesus had with the Father. We are blessed with the direction and clear purpose we need in order to be productive stewards and faithful Christians. Baptism calls us to remember, accept, and deal with the sins and inequities of our past regardless of how hurtful

and serious. We consciously choose to turn away from them and put on the new life of Christ. To do this well, we must look hard and long at our sins and failings, listen to what they are saying and learn from them. If we ignore the past, collectively or personally, or pretend that it never happened, we will never grow. We will surely die.

People need to hear the message, lived and spoken, delivered by the baptised members of the Body of Christ. It is an essential message of hope that is layered with visions of justice, peace, reconciliation, redemption, blessing, and healing. It is a message that helps us remember what has gone before, the graces and the sins, and bring ourselves by God's help where we need to be. We are called to do much more than sit home behind our closed doors. We have a message to deliver. Are we ready to do so?



Readings

First Reading

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; Let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving (Is 55:6-7)

Psalm

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation (Is 12)

Second Reading

This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood. (1 Jn 5:6)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said: "This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."
Alleluia!

Gospel

And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."
(Mk 1:11)



prophet Isaiah forewarns that Christ himself will not be a noisemaker—for all his preaching, he will not cry out or shout to bring forth justice to the nations. His way is altogether different than that.

We are not the Apostles, and we do not have the privilege of seeing the Holy Spirit descend on Christ like a dove. But here's the good news: God doesn't need to shout. Our spiritual hearing works just fine. We just have to be listening.

Let's wake up each morning ready to hear God's whispers throughout the day. Let's make a conscious effort to invite those whispers into our hearts, where they can become a catalyst for grace in this world.

MASSES this Week

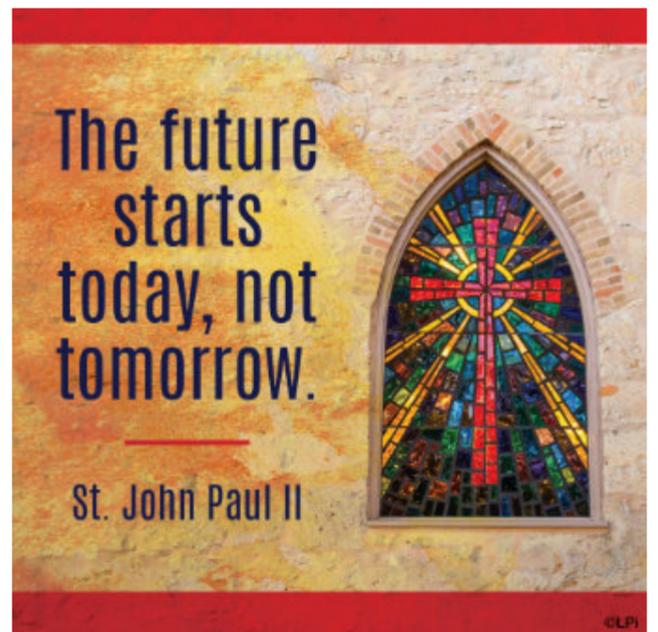
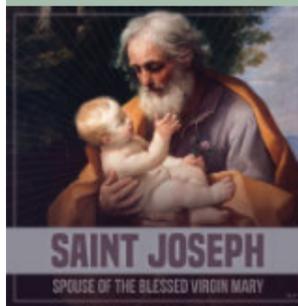
- 10 **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD** Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11
 10.30 **Mass** St Mary's
 People of the Parish
 17.00 **Mass** St Mary's
 Holy Souls
- ORDINARY TIME BEGINS
- 11 **Monday** Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9 [cf. 7c]/Mk 1:14-20
 Aelred of Rievalux
 12.05 **Mass** St Mary's
 John & Catherine Havelock (RIP)
- 12 **Benedict Biscop** Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 7]/Mk 1:21-28
 12.05 **Mass** St Mary's
 Mr & Mrs James Barnes (RIP)
- 13 **Wednesday** Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Mk 1:29-39
 12.05 **Mass** St Mary's
 Deceased Members of the Barnes Family (RIP)
- 14 **Thursday** Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11 [8]/Mk 1:40-45
 12.05 **Mass** St Mary's
 Intentions of Sr Mary Dominica
- 15 **Friday** Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8 [cf. 7b]/Mk 2:1-12
 12.05 **Mass** St Mary's
 Intentions of Ann & Bill Markham
- 16 **Saturday** Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [cf. Jn 6:63c]/Mk 2:13-17
 11.00 **Mass** St Mary's
 Intentions of Mandy & Paul Binney
 18:00 **Vigil Mass** St Cecilia's
 Intentions of Canon Barrass
- 17 **SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME** 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42
 10.30 **Mass** St Mary's
 In thanksgiving Hojlla Family
 17.00 **Mass** St Mary's
 People of the Parish

Parish Prayer for the Year of Saint Joseph

Almighty God, you have chosen Saint Joseph to be the mainstay of Jesus and Mary, the wise and faithful servant in whom they could trust.

We pray that he may be the guardian of our Parish and our families; that he may inspire with confidence those who seek his protection; that he may give security to those who work in the vineyard of your Son; and finally, that he may be a source of strength to us, who wish like him, to dedicate ourselves ever more fully to Christ's service, now and in times to come.

Amen.



'Vaccine for all. 20 points for a fairer and healthier world'

This is the title, or rather vehement exhortation, of a joint document published by both the Vatican's COVID-19 Commission and the Pontifical Academy for Life.

The text, published by the Holy See Press Office and accompanied by a press release, "reiterates the critical role of vaccines to defeat the pandemic, not just for individual personal health but to protect the health of all."

"The Vatican Commission and the Pontifical Academy of Life remind world leaders that vaccines must be provided to all fairly and equitably, prioritising those most in need," it says.

Moreover, the document explores the issues and priorities arising at the various stages of vaccine journey, from research and development to patents and commercial exploitation, including approval, distribution and administration.

Echoing Pope Francis' recent *Urbi et Orbi* Christmas Message, "it calls on world leaders to resist the temptation to participate in "vaccine nationalism", urging nations and companies to cooperate—not compete—with each other."

Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Cardinal Peter Turkson, who also leads the specialised Commission expressed his gratitude to the scientific community for developing the vaccine in record time.

"It is now up to us," the Vatican prefect underscores, "to ensure that it is available to all, especially the most vulnerable. It is a matter of justice. This is the time to show we are one human family."

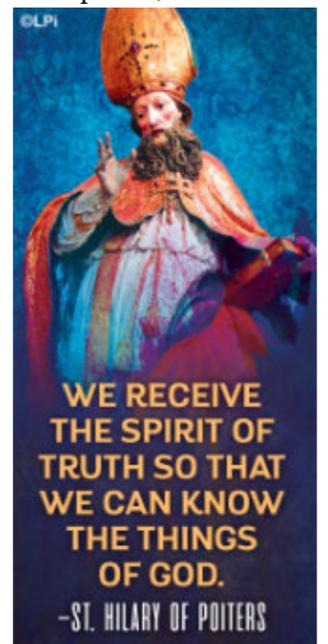
Similarly, President of the Pontifical Academy for Life, Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, stresses "The interconnectedness that binds humanity has been revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic."

"Together with the Commission," he highlights, "we are working with many partners to point out lessons the human family can learn and to develop an ethics of risk and solidarity to protect the most vulnerable in society."

Moreover, the Secretary of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Mons. Bruno Marie Duffé, points out: "We are at a turning point in the COVID-19 pandemic and have an opportunity to start to define the world we want to see post-pandemic."

Father Augusto Zampini, Adjunct Secretary of the same dicastery with an important role on the Commission also observes: "The way in which vaccines are deployed—where, to whom, and for how much—is the first step for global leaders to take in committing to fairness and justice as the principles for building a better post-COVID world."

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News & Announcements Questions for the Week

Public Worship is Still Allowed

We are grateful that we are still able to open our churches for Mass. However, please observe the government guidelines especially if you are vulnerable and shielding. There is no obligation to attend Mass at the moment and you can follow the 10.30 Sunday Mass as normal on the parish Facebook Page.

Email Newsletter

Sign up on our Facebook page to get the newsletter emailed to you every week. Alternatively, you can download it and read back issued on the parish website at sunderlandcatholic.com.

Baptism

Congratulations and welcome to Ugwu Chimadalu Isabel on the occasion of her Baptism.

First Reading: Isaiah was called to be a prophet to bring justice and freedom to those suffering, to be a "light for the nations." How do see yourself serving others in need in your life?

Second Reading: John teaches his community that God Himself has "testified on behalf of His Son." In what way does this divine assurance help strengthen your faith?

Gospel: The preaching of John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus is the opening scene in the Gospel of Mark. In Jesus' baptism, the Father, Son, and Spirit were fully present. As a baptised Christian, can you think of a time when you experienced God's presence?

Flock Notes

This weekend at our Masses we are launching the Year of St Joseph. In announcing a year dedicated to this great saint, Pope Francis wanted to focus our attention once again on the Protector of the Universal Church.

As the effects of COVID-19 continue to affect our daily lives and as we watch with sadness and concern the daily, rising death toll and worry about the ability of the NHS and its staff to cope, it can seem rather

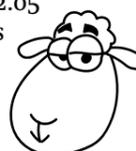
overwhelming. The light, of course, is the roll-out of vaccines, but how long will that take, and what will we have to endure until then? On that note, it is worth reading what the Vatican said recently about the need to make sure vaccines don't just become the preserve of rich countries.

In the midst of all this our need for a protector is greater than ever. God chose and trusted Saint Joseph to care for those most precious to him: his dearly-beloved Son and his blessed Mother. That care, love and protection St Joseph gives to them,

he also extends to anyone who invokes it.

We've written a parish prayer to St Joseph that we're going to use throughout this year: it's printed above and is on prayer cards. Take one and pray it as part of your morning and evening prayers. We'll be praying it after the Angelus every weekday, before the 12.05 Mass.

Sometimes things can seem a little frightening. St Joseph reminds us we are never alone.



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