

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Reading Cycle C
Page 118 in the New Mass Book
Psalter Week 3
Sunday 12TH JANUARY 2025
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MASSES AND SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

SAT	11 TH JAN	BAPTISM OF THE LORD	6.30pm	Olwen Hall R.I.P
SUN	12 TH JAN		10.00am	Brunon Klos R.I.P
MON		NO MASS		
TUES	14 TH JAN	Weekday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm	People of the Parish
WED	15 TH JAN	Weekday in Ordinary Time	10.00am	Holy Souls
THURS	16 TH JAN	Weekday in Ordinary Time	10.00am	Sick of the Parish
FRI	17 TH JAN	Memorial of St Anthony, Abbot	10.00am	Margaret Jilks R.I.P
SAT	18 TH JAN	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	6.30pm	Albert Hall R.I.P
SUN	19 TH JAN		10.00am	Con Callaghan R.I.P

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, ANNIVERSARIES AND THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED:

We pray for those in our families or in our Parish Community who may be sick, housebound, worried or in need. We ask that the love of the Lord be with them during the coming week. To all our parishioners who are indisposed we ask that they may receive every grace and blessing.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Margaret Jilks and Michael Beer. May they rest in peace

We also pray for Margaret Spriggs, Fr Andrew Maggs, Olwen Hall, John Collins, Joan Daly, Joseph Malfatti, Rosemary Healey, Mary Fitzgerald, Thomas Coutanche, Robert Mills, Eileen Fairney, Catherine Norman, Patrick Greene, Barbara Murray, Denis Cook, Dorothy Rendell, Joseph Doyle, Millonia Ackroyd, Giovanni Buhagiar, Miguel Felices, Kathleen McCarthy, John Lopategui, Elizabeth Courey, Stephen Houlihan, Maria Collins, Phyllis Doolan, Horce Wood and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

CANDLES You can buy a 7 day candle (£5.00) which will be left at the Sacred Heart or Our Lady's Altar for the duration of a week. **This week's candles will be lit for the Staff and Children of the School**

PIETY STALL SALE: Large Boxes of Christmas Cards reduced to £1.99 and small boxes/packs 99p. Stock up for next Christmas.

VISIT TO ROME: 10 children in Year 6 in St Patrick's School have been offered an exciting opportunity to visit Rome in March. The school would like to raise £1000 towards their fares. To help them with this, today we will have a retiring collection. There are also 3 other schools in the Diocese also going on the trip.

STABLE SCENE: This year we will be following the ancient tradition of leaving the Crib Scene until February 2nd which is the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus and the Purification of Mary in the Temple. This Feast is also known as Candlemas and we will have the blessing of candles.

NEW WINESKINS COMMUNITY Prayer, Praise & Healing meeting, Saturday 18th Jan 2024 10am - 12noon St. Dyfrigs RC Church Broadway, Treforest. Pontypridd CF37 1DB The morning includes - Prayer / Praise / Talk Break Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Invitation to Individual prayer ministry. All are welcome.

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON'S 'THE MASS' videos well worth watching. Links are on the Parish Website.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES: Candidates please meet after Mass by the Our Lady Altar so you can have your attendance sheet signed. If you have any queries please e-mail Chris German Cge7618946@aol.com or through the Parish Website

OLD SPECTACLES/ GLASSES: THE KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA are collecting any old prescription spectacles/glasses (no cases) to be sent overseas to Third World Countries. There is a box at the back of the Church to put your old items in. Also the Knights are going to be meeting on the fourth Sunday of every month. Please see Patrick McCarthy for more information. This is an all male organisation and they are looking for new members. The next meeting will be in January.

MASS INTENTIONS At the back of the Church there are envelopes for you to put your donation and the details of when you would like a Mass and for whom. Please indicate if the person is deceased. Please put your envelope in the Offertory Bag or the Brown Box at the back of the Church.

NEW TO THE PARISH? If you have been coming to St Patricks for some weeks and would like to be listed as a new Parishioner please complete the proforma at the back of the Church and give it to one of the priests.

SAFEGUARDING: Helplines and Information on the Parish Website Homepage. A First Aid Box is kept in the Sacristy.

GOING INTO HOSPITAL? Please let the Hospital know that you are a Catholic and would like a visit from the Chaplain. If you are a relative and would like the Catholic Hospital Chaplain to make a visit please leave the name of the person you want them to see and the Ward details if possible. When you ring the Chaplaincy 02921 843230 please leave your contact details so that they can contact you.

HOUSEBOUND COMMUNIONS: If you know of a parishioner wishing to receive Holy Communion please contact Frs Valentine

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: 4th/5th JANUARY £502. 57

WEEKLY MESSAGE

The chances are that some of us made New Year Resolutions, promises, maybe to do more exercise, to stop smoking, to be on time,..... the list could be endless.

This Sunday we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord and is a chance to renew promises made at our own Baptism and if we were Baptised as infants, probably made on our behalf. Has anyone ever explained what those promises were all about? Probably not.

When God made our beautiful world He gave people very special gifts : the ability to know and love Him and the ability to choose... to make decisions.

We know what happened, Adam and Eve made the wrong choice and went against the wishes of God, committing the Original Sin. As a consequence, darkness entered the lives of people and remained. God chose many many messengers to help people to follow the right path to His Eternal Home and we hear from these people in the Old Testament in the Bible. At last, God decided to become a person Himself and deliver the message of salvation Himself. We celebrated that amazing event at Christmas when God came to us as a baby, Jesus, and we hear all about the life and message of Jesus in the New Testament in the Bible.

Today we have moved on to the moment when Jesus Himself shows us how to be redeemed and how to step on the right path. And that moment is when Jesus is Baptised in the River Jordan by John. He had no need to be Baptised himself but He is the Way and He wants to show us this Way.

So what does Baptism do? It makes us part of God's Family, and that darkness which entered so long ago is banished forever and in its place symbolised by the Paschal Candle lit at every Baptism, is the Light of Jesus which will guide us right through our lives, if we let it. At our Baptism we say that we will reject sin and the temptation of evil. We say that we will live a life that serves others and is guided by love for God. We say that we believe in God the Father, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Catholic Church and we promise that we will do what God wants us to do.

The water that is poured on our heads is a sign of washing, a cleansing, and all wrong doings are washed away. Does that mean we won't mess up or chose the wrong path again? Sadly not, but the Light of Jesus is always there to guide us back to the right path.

Even though we have all broken our Baptismal Promises to follow Jesus and imitate Him in word and deed, He does NOT look upon us as failures or losers. In spite of all our failings and mis-steps He is always with us waiting for us to turn to Him, acknowledge our wrong doings and ask Him to set us on the right path again.

"This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased."

These words were "Heard" at the Jordan from the Father of the Son when the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus. That dignity given to Jesus is given to us, that Power given to Jesus is given to us and as Jesus was sent, commissioned to live Gospel values so it is with us.

When Pope Francis was asked "What was the most important day of your life . . . Becoming Pope? . Becoming a Cardinal? . . .

What was it? And his reply? "The day of my Baptism for then I became part of the Church, brothers and sisters of Jesus and children of the Father. A co-worker with the Lord"

