

Catholic Parish of Our Lady and St George

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**Canon Niall Harrington; Fr Michael Barwick  
Fr Joseph Mukkatt (Syro-Malabar Chaplain);  
Deacon Joseph Baffour-Awuah**

Our Lady and St George's Primary School:

Lower Site 8520 8500. Upper Site: 8520 3552

Holy Family Catholic College: 8520 0482/8520 3587

**Charity Number: 234092**

### **The Baptism of the Lord (09/01/2022)**

Dear Parishioners,

There is something astonishing about the Baptism of Jesus. We are meant to be astonished (literally 'astounded or 'awe-struck') as we reflect on the Son of God undergoing a Baptism of Repentance. It looks like a strange inversion of the way things should be ordered. An ancient antiphon sums it up: 'The soldier baptizes the king, the slave his Lord, John baptizes his Saviour. The waters of the Jordan are astonished...'. Even the water of the Jordan river are shocked at what is happening.

Why should Jesus, at the age of thirty or so (the age at which Jewish Rabbis usually began to preach), submit to baptism at the hands of his cousin, John the Baptist, who announces and offers 'a baptism of repentance'? Jesus, being sinless, surely does not need to repent.

Today's Gospel does not tell us the reason, but we get the answer from Matthew's Gospel where, in answer to the Baptist's protestations, Jesus insists, saying that 'it is fitting that we should fulfil all righteousness' (Mt 3:14). In other words, Jesus wants to identify with humankind in the fullest possible way, humbly joining the queue waiting for John's baptism of repentance. All Gospel accounts place more emphasis on what happens after the event than on the baptism itself. Luke stresses that the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus while he is at prayer. A voice from heaven proclaims that he is the beloved Son of God. He is anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power. His identity is confirmed.

This Feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the official end of the Christmas season, the transition to Ordinary Time. The focus today is not meant to be on our own baptism (which is for celebrating during the Easter Triduum), but on

Jesus revealed as the Promised One, the humble Servant foretold by the prophet Isaiah, the beloved Son with whom the Father is well pleased.

Have a Blessed Week.

*Canon Miall*

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**MARRIAGES:** By appointment. At least six months' notice is required. Please speak to the priests for more information.

**Baptism Ceremonies:** Second and Third Sunday of each month at 1.15pm. The next Baptism preparation course begins on Monday 31 January 2022 at 6:30pm in the Church for session one . Session 2 will be on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 6.30pm.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available after all Masses (Weekdays and Sundays).

Thank you to the choir, the flower arrangers, the greeters, the sacristans for their great work and support over the Christmas and New Year.

A big thankyou to the lady (who wishes to remain anonymous) who donated all the flowers, Christmas tree and the two Christmas wreaths for the church door. To all who decorated the church in preparation for Christmas.

To all parishioners, thank you for all your many Christmas gifts, cards and Christmas offerings to all the priests

To the families who look after the altar linen, thank you for the all year round care.

To the church cleaners too for your all the year round care of the church.

A happy birthday to Fr. Joseph. We wish Fr Joseph, the Syro-Malabar chaplain a safe journey to India and a happy time with his family.

On 29/30th of January a member of the Missionary Society of Saint Columban will come and make a Mission Appeal in the parish.

**Parish Preparation course for the sacrament of Baptism:** From January 2022, the preparation course for parents will consist of two sessions. Both sessions (the first session on the last Monday of the month at 6:30 PM in the church and the second session on the next Monday). Both sessions are part of the preparation course. The next preparation course begins (session one) on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

**Brentwood Catholic Youth Service (BCYS) and Walsingham House at Abbotswick** offer retreats, pilgrimages and many other events for many thousands of young people every year; most of the work is led by volunteers, trained as young leaders in the Church. The BCYS also supports our catechists and school lay chaplains. Today a speaker will tell us more about the BCYS and there will be a collection for their vital work, or you can donate online at [www.bcys.net/donate](http://www.bcys.net/donate).

**GIDEA PARK STUDY DAY: THE EVOLUTION OF THE MASS** On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Professor John Morrill will lead a Study Day on 'The Evolution of the Mass', tracing the development of the Eucharistic liturgy from the earliest centuries to the present day. He will explore in particular the teaching of Trent and Vatican II, and the latest papal instructions on the celebration of Mass. To access this free live stream event simply go to [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) The event begins at 11.00 GMT and ends by 13.30. No prior registration is needed. To be added to our mailing list simply follow the instructions on the home page of the website.

**Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis and Youth Ministry:** The Bishop's Certificate is designed to be an entry level qualification to help in the ongoing formation of adults involved in sacramental preparation or youth ministry in the Diocese of Brentwood. It includes both the development of practical skills & the deepening of theological knowledge. The course is online and taught through engaging, short videos with expert interviews. The course will begin on the evening of 24th February, with an introduction and welcome evening, held at Walsingham House at Abbotswick. For more information please see our website: <https://bcys.net/bishops-cert/> or email your expression of interest to [bishopscertificate@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:bishopscertificate@dioceseofbrentwood.org) by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

**Mary Mayo, Rest in Peace** We pray for the happy repose of the soul of Mary Mayo Rest in Peace. Mary was a long time house keeper in the presbytery some years back. May God comfort the grieving family.

We pray for the happy repose of the soul of Tony, husband of Tina who died suddenly this week. May God comfort you Tina.

### Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George

<b>06:00 pm</b>	Kelly Moss (Rest in Peace) (Family)
<b>Sun 9 Jan</b>	<b>The Baptism Of The Lord</b>
<b>08:30am</b>	John and Josephine Hayden (Rest in Peace) (Betty)
<b>10:00am</b>	David Brickley (De Souza)
<b>12noon</b>	Ellen Cassell (Rest in Peace) (Crawley)
<b>Mon 10 Jan</b>	<b>FERIA</b>
<b>09:15 am</b>	Peter James O'Rourke (Rest in Peace) (Nigel)
<b>06:00 pm</b>	Ellen Cassell (Rest in Peace) (Crawley)
<b>Tue 11 Jan</b>	<b>FERIA</b>
<b>09:15am</b>	Louis Cremin (Rest in Peace) (Geraldine)
<b>06:00pm</b>	Miyah Kelly (Carmody Family)
<b>Wed 12 Jan</b>	<b>FERIA</b>
<b>09:15am</b>	Carol Phillips (Rest in Peace) (Linda)
<b>06:00 pm</b>	Noel Callinan (Rest in Peace) (Carmody)
<b>Thu 13 Jan</b>	<b>FERIA</b>
<b>09:15am</b>	Noel Callinan (Rest in Peace) (O'Gorman)
<b>06:00pm</b>	Cathy Nicholl's Intentions (Betty)
<b>Fri 14 Jan</b>	<b>FERIA</b>
<b>09:15 am</b>	Miyah Kelly (O'Gorman)
<b>06:00pm</b>	Evelyn Wright (Rest in Peace) (Angela)
<b>Sat 15 Jan</b>	<b>FERIA</b>
<b>10:00am</b>	Paddy, Roseanne and Family Intentions (Mary O'Connor)
<b>06:00pm</b>	Moss and Nagle Family (Rest in Peace) (Family)
<b>Sun 16 Jan</b>	<b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
<b>08:30</b>	Clergy and Parishioners of our Parish (Jane)
<b>10:00am</b>	Sheehan Family Intentions (Mary O'Sullivan)
<b>12noon</b>	Shun-Choi Kwan (Ping)

### Prayer List

Jenny Richmond, Betty Ramsey, Richard and Christine Martin, Michael Gaffney, Hilda Collett (Chris) Brid O Halloran, Josephine Walsh (Paul), Alma Willox, William Wyndham, Liberee, Maria Green, Anne (Christina), Agnes Fadina, Grace, Bridie Curley, Sharon Baker, Bridgit Morris and Mavis Hacker, Marjorie Singh, Pietro and Maria Marrai, Peggy McManus, Rosie Ebreo, Kathleen Lloyd, Johanna Whitley.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions:** Every Saturday after 10.00 a.m. Mass until 11:15 am. **Repository Opening Times:** Sundays: 9.15 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. to 12.15 a.m. Nelly and Rosie look after the Repository.