

Catholic Parish of Our Lady and St George

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Canon Niall Harrington; Fr Michael Barwick

Deacon Joseph Baffour-Awuah

Our Lady and St George's Primary School:

Lower Site 8520 8500. Upper Site: 8520 3552

Holy Family Catholic School: 8520 0482/8520 3587

Charity Number: 234092

The Baptism of the Lord (08/01/2023)

Dear Parishioners,

Today's celebration of the Baptism of Jesus brings the Christmas season to a close. Liturgically, the focus is on continuing Epiphany-manifestation of the identity of Jesus as Son of God, beloved of the Father. An ancient antiphon speaks of the waters of the Jordan being 'astonished' at the Baptism of Jesus. It does, indeed, seem strange to us that Jesus, Son of God, should request baptism of repentance at the hands of his cousin, John the Baptist. When John protests, Jesus insists, 'Let it be for now ... so that I can fulfil all righteousness.' He will humbly join the human procession of those awaiting to be baptised by John. Astonishing indeed!

Today's gospel, however, draws attention to what happens after the baptism. The Spirit of God descends on Jesus and a voice from Heaven proclaims, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. My favour rests on him'. This is a solemn declaration and manifestation of the divine identity of Jesus, who is soon to begin his public ministry.

Liturgically, today is not a day for focusing on our own baptism, important as that is. The Easter Vigil will magnificently celebrate that. Today's readings would have us dwell on the Baptism of Jesus as a turning point, the closure of a life hidden in Nazareth and the beginning

of a public life announcing the Reign of God. It is fitting, therefore, that there is a divine Commissioning, a public proclamation by the Father of Jesus as beloved Son, together with a visible outpouring of the Holy Spirit. At this moment of transition from hidden life to public life, Jesus is being divinely authorised and divinely vindicated.

What has this Feast of the Baptism of Jesus have to say to us today? Perhaps an invitation to consider significant moments of transition in our life: emigrating, marrying, changing residence or downsizing, parting with loved ones or dealing with unexpected medical diagnosis. For us, as for Jesus, transition can be challenging, but also graced. We, too, are beloved of the Father and anointed with the Spirit. This makes all the difference as we negotiate transitions in life.

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Canon Miall

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

The **next parish Baptism preparation programme** will be on Monday 30th January at 6:30p.m. Session 1 and Session 2 on the first Monday 6th of February. 6:30p.m.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is available after every parish Mass. Simply ask a priest.

Divine Mercy Service will resume this Sunday 8th January, 2023.

To all who helped in any way with preparing the church and who participated in the Christmas liturgies.....thank you.

We welcome Harriet Rose Wright-Hughes into the Community of Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday at 1:15p.m. Every Blessing to the family.

From the clergy: **Thank you** all for your Christmas cards and gifts and generous Christmas offerings.

We thank God for all nurses and nursing staff that they may get the just salary they so worthily deserve. If my mathematics are correct....many footballers earn £300,000 a WEEK while nurses are paid in the region of £30,000 a Year.....so 10 years for a nurse to earn what a footballer earns in a week.....all nurses want is a just and honourable salary.

STUDY DAY ON THE APOSTLE PAUL

The next Gidea Park Study Day will be on Saturday 21st January 2023 from 11 am until 1.30 pm at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park. The speaker is Dr Sean Michael Ryan, chair of the Catholic Biblical Association of Great Britain, and research associate at the Margaret Beaufort Institute in Cambridge. Dr Ryan will speak about 'The Gospel according to St Paul'. The event is either in-person or live-stream. Coffee will be available for those attending in-person from 10.30 am. Please bring a packed lunch. Gidea Park Station (Elizabeth Line) is five minutes from the church. For those attending via live-stream simply go to www.whatgoodnews.org on the day. Recording of the talks will be made available after the event on the same website.

The **Parish Holy Communion preparation programme** continues on Saturday 14th of January. Session 7 in the parish hall at 11.30-12.30.

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

We pray for the happy repose of Betty Ramsay a long time parishioner here in Saint George's. A devout and charitable lady. Our condolences to Patrick and the family. May she Rest in Peace Amen. The funeral arrangements for Betty Ramsay, Rest in Peace are as follows: Requiem Mass at Our Lady and Saint George on Wednesday 25th of January at 11a.m.

Blessings to Sister Scholastica on her 40th anniversary of her profession.

Birthday blessings to Brenda and Gloria on their birthday.

Happy New Year 2023 to all parishioners.

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George

06:00pm	Kelly Moss (Rest in Peace) (Family)
Sun 08 January	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
08:30 am	Christiana Nantwi (Thanksgiving) (Christina)
10:00am	John Moore (Rest in Peace) (Margaret)
12noon	Peter Raffo (Rest in Peace) (Amal)
Mon 9 January	FERIA
09:15am	Sheila Dobbyn (Rest in Peace) (Bennadette)
06:00pm	Sean and Joan Hayden (Betty)
Tue 10 January	FERIA
09:15am	John McDermott (Rest in Peace) (Maloney)
6:00pm	Peter James O'Rourke (Rest in Peace) (Nigel)
Wed 11 January	FERIA
09:15am	Anne Marie Smythe (Rest in Peace) (Reade)
06:00 pm	Miles and Joan Walshe's Intentions (Betty)
Thu 12 January	FERIA
09:15am	Intentions (Fletcher)
06:00pm	Nigel's Intentions
Fri 13 January	FERIA
09:15 am	Angela Christine Supple (Rest in Peace) (Maloney)
06:00pm	Intentions (Fletcher)
Sat 14 January	FERIA
10:00am	Louis Cremin (Rest in Peace) (Geraldine)
06:00pm	Moss and Nagle Families (Rest in Peace) (Family)
Sun 15 January	Second Sunday in ordinary Time
08:30 am	Paul Yamson's Intentions (Family)
10:00am	Victoria and William Wyndham (Rest in Peace) (Family)
12noon	Shun- Choi (Ping)

Prayer List

Richard and Christine Martin, Michael Gaffney, Hilda Collett (Chris) Brid O Halloran, Josephine Walsh (Paul), Alma Willox, Liberee, Maria Green, Anne (Christina), Grace, Bridie Curley, Sharon Baker, Bridgit Morris, Mavis Hacker, Marjorie Singh, Pietro and Maria Marrai, Peggy McManus, Rosie Ebreo, Kathleen Lloyd, Johanna Whitley, Linda Campbell, Fr. Francis Coveney, Bridie Cronin, Baby Jimmy, Sierra Smucker-Halls (Carol), Maureen Newland (Carol), Anna (Gawlik), Theresa (Curley), Terry Wheeler, Pdraig Maloney, Pauline Brookman, Damon, Fatimata, Peter Norman