

"Every day, as long as this 'today' lasts,
keep encouraging one another" (Heb 3:13)

**Sunday 8th January 2023
Baptism of the Lord**

Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7

God's chosen servant brings true justice to the nations.

Acts 10:34-38

With the Spirit of God within him, Jesus went about bringing healing and hope to those who were in need.

St. Matthew 3:13-17

The Holy Spirit descends on Jesus at his baptism to show his special relationship with God.

"This is my
Son, the
Beloved;
my favour
rests on
him."



**Today's Psalm,
Psalm 28**

The celebration of the baptism of Jesus might be called Epiphany Part 2. It is the day of the revelation of Jesus as the Beloved Son of the Father. This is recognised when we reflect on it as one of the five Luminous mysteries in the rosary.

The psalm chosen for this feast arises from the revelation of God's awesome power in a terrific storm. Heaving seas and thunderous roars express the mighty power of God. This God of glory is to be adored. Three times the psalm mentions the voice of the Lord ... *resounding on the waters, full of power, full of splendour*. These lines attained a new, Christological application at the baptism of Jesus, when the voice of the Father was heard over the shallow waters of the Jordan.

In his preaching, John the Baptist said that he was baptised with water but that the one coming after him would baptise with the Holy Spirit. The Christian sacrament of baptism is administered not only with water but with words which invoke the name of, that is the power of, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Once again, it is the voice of the Lord over the water, full of power, full of splendour.

At the Jordan, the voice of the Father proclaimed Jesus as his Beloved Son. The presence and the power of God in the water of the sacrament invites all who are baptised to grow in the intimate relationship of being children of God.
Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap

John the Baptist was driven by one mission: to point people to Jesus, to prepare the way for Jesus. Yet John is uneasy in this account of Jesus' Baptism. The moment has arrived but he is standing before someone much greater than himself and is being asked to minister. John feels unqualified, unworthy of such a task. After some persuasion 'John gave in to him' and accepted his responsibility. This is a lesson to all of us, not to let feelings of inadequacy stop us from carrying out our various missions and vocations in our lives. Jesus explains to John that this is necessary as a sign for the beginning of his ministry, a public statement of identity.

Pope Francis recently set us some homework: to find out the date of our baptism. He added: 'We are all part of the Church. If you say you believe in God, and if you say you believe in God but not in the Church, you're saying you don't believe in yourself, and that's a contradiction. We all are the Church, all of us. From that little child recently Baptised to the bishops and Pope, all of us'. He is reminding us to think deeply about what our baptism means for us, that moment when we were sent out to be part of God's mission in this world, in our local communities and sent out to minister to those around us, even if we feel unworthy of such a task. Take example from John the Baptist today and don't forget your homework!
Jane Mellett

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton - Tel: (01257) 262665

Mass Intentions for w/c Sunday January 7 2023

Sun: Baptism of the Lord

8.30.am. Parishioners

10.30.am. Philip Purcell and Philip Barnes

Mon: Weekday

9.30.am. World Peace

Tues: Weekday

9.30.am. Pope Benedict

Wed: Weekday

9.30.am. CI

Thurs: Weekday

9.30.am.: Bishop Patrick Kelly

Friday: Weekday

7.00.pm: Private Intention

Sun: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.30.am. Parishioners

10.30.am. Peter and Patricia Byrne

0771 942 7926 (only for emergency use)

[email: stmary.euxton@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:stmary.euxton@rcaol.org.uk)

Confessions

At your request

On Admittance to Hospital or Nursing Home

Staff need to be made aware by you: that you, or the member of your family, or the person you accompany, are Catholic, and require the services of the Catholic Chaplaincy.

Mass Intentions received upto 7/1/2023: Fr. Kevin

Snape 7/2; Fr. Fr. Dan Cadogan 11/2;

Fr. Tom Cheetham 14/3; Veana & Harold Fish;

Sam, Catherine and Anthony Worthington;

John and Mary Fishwick;

Our prayers and sympathies go to the family and friends of **Desmond Gorman; who has died.**
May he rest in peace.

**We pray for the Sick, especially the sick of the parish Ryan Troop; JC;
Catherine Thompson; Maureen Beardsworth; Thomas Halligan.**

Refreshments in the Parish Hall after 10.30.am, all are welcome

Today we have the annual appeal for the **Society for the protection of unborn children.** Please use the wooden boxes for your donations.

Today we are glad to have a speaker for the **Alpha Course** in Chorley.

Church Action on Poverty 2023 No matter how hard we tried to spend sensibly over Christmas, there is no doubt that the pressure of Christmas makes most of spend more than intended.

For many, January is a very difficult month with parents wondering how to feed their children or buy bitsof school uniform, and the elderly wondering how they will afford their heating bills.

We can help with a list of local 'warm and cosy hubs' like ours with dates and opening times to pass on to those who can't afford to heat their homes.

Donate used school uniform to your school uniform shop or the local charity shop.

Don't forget to add something to the food banks every time you visit the supermarket. The foodbanks are struggling to stay stocked up.

Challenge misconceptions around poverty. We are ALL struggling more than we were.

Donate online to Church Action on Poverty at www.church-poverty.org.uk/

Dry January Many people around the world choose to observe 'Dry January' for health reasons, to manage their drinking habits, reset their drinking, and feel more in control of their alcohol intake. As Christians we can take this further and pledge to control our drinking if it is presenting a barrier to God's plans. If we have a plan to make the world a better place, but are always too tired and brain-fogged to make those plans a reality, it is time to take a good long look at how we can remove the barriers that are preventing us from reaching the potential God wants for us. **AA** meets every Wednesday in the Parish Hall 10.30.am

Christmas will have been hard for those who have lost a loved one. It's important to think of ways to remember that person and to mark their life. It's a lovely idea to plant a tree in your garden and design a plaque for it in memory. If you don't have a garden you can dedicate a single tree or an acre of woodland with a personalised bench, your dedication will provide a long-lasting tribute that can be visited time after time – and support local wildlife too. To find out more visit www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/give/dedications/

"There is no need to reach high for the stars. They are already within you — just reach deep into yourself!"

Terri Guillemets