

The Catholic Parish of Carpenders Park & South Oxhey
St Joseph's Church, Oxhey Drive, Watford WD19 7SW
carpenderspark@rcdow.org.uk
www.carpenderspark.org.uk



The Baptism of the Lord (Year A) 8 January 2023

Fr John Warnaby	Parish Priest	Tel: 0208 428 0088
Linda Grimes	Parish Administrator	Tel: 0208 428 0088
Office hours: Tuesday & Friday 9am-3pm		

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 7th January	Vigil: Baptism of the Lord	6.00pm People of the Parish
Sunday 8th January	The Baptism of the Lord	8.30am Margaret Griffin
		10.30am Primitivo & Lucia Arano, Candido Baisac
Tuesday 10th January	Feria	7.00pm Eileen Wade RIP
Wednesday 11th January	Feria	9.15am Paddy O'Brien RIP
Thursday 12th January	Feria	9.15am Billy Murphy RIP
Friday 13th January	Feria	9.15am Fintan O'Brian
Saturday 14th January	Vigil: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.00pm Phil Carey

CONFESSIONS Saturday 5.30pm or see Fr John

Mass Intentions: Please leave plenty of time if you want a special date

Liturgy of the Word: 8th January 2023

Entrance Antiphon: After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded:
'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'
Alleluia!

Next week's Readings: Isaiah 49: 3,5-6 , Psalm 39, I Corinthians 1:1-3, John 1:29-34

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the end of our celebration of Christmas. We reflect on the Gospel story of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus at the beginning of his public ministry and a voice from heaven proclaiming him as a beloved Son. As we begin Ordinary Time, we do so knowing that, through our own Baptism, God has named us beloved sons and daughters. Like Jesus, all that we undertake must flow from who we are—God's beloved. We are called to follow in the footsteps of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. This means that we, like Jesus, must submit ourselves to God's wise and loving plan for our lives. God, in turn, anoints us with the Holy Spirit that we may be clothed with His power and grace.

In Christ's Baptism we can find a reflection of the way the Sacrament of Baptism affects us. In it the mystery of the Blessed Trinity was revealed, and each one of us, on receiving Baptism, are consecrated by the invocation of and by the power of the Blessed Trinity. At Jesus' baptism the heavens opened, signifying that the power of this Sacrament comes from above, from God, and that the baptized have the road to Heaven opened up for them. After his Baptism, Jesus was led out into the wilderness for a time of prayer and temptation. This teaches us that when we pray, the power of the Lord is there to assist us in our trials, and enables us to overcome sinfulness in our lives.

Each time we dip our hand into the Holy Water font in a church to bless ourselves, is a reminder and a renewal of our Baptism. Just like Jesus at the Jordan, every baptized believer is formed and called by God, empowered with the presence of the Spirit and consecrated as a beloved child of God on whom His favour rests.

First Holy Communion 2023

****There will be a meeting for parents/guardians *only* on Thursday 19th January at 7pm in the parish hall****

Registration has now opened for those children in Year 3 and above who would like to make their First Holy Communion next Spring-May 2023. The course will commence in January 2023. Please collect a registration form from our catechist Donna, or Fr John after Mass.

Confirmation 2023

****There will be a meeting for parents/guardians *and* candidates on Thursday 26th January at 7pm in the parish hall**.**

Registration has also opened for students in Year 9 and above who would like to make their Confirmation next Summer- 2023. The course will commence in January 2023. Please would Candidates collect in person, a registration form from our catechist Donna, or Fr John after Mass.

The most important preparation for both Sacraments is attendance at Mass. By applying for these courses it is expected that those participating express their commitment by joining the Parish community as we pray together at Mass.

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy re-starts at the 6pm Mass- for all children from Reception up to Year 3 (who have not yet received their First Holy Communion).



Assisted Suicide

The House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee has launched an inquiry into assisted suicide and is inviting individual members of the public and interested organisations to comment, and also to suggest what actions might be helpful for the debate. The Catholic Church is clear that *we can never assist in taking the life of another, even if they request it*. All life is sacred from conception until natural death, and we reiterate our call for investment in high quality palliative care. Our call is one for assistance in living and not assistance in committing suicide.

There is a short online submission you can complete to make your views known at

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/M66AML/>

Deadline is Friday 20th January.

See letter at the back of the church for further information, or visit bioethics.org.uk

OPALS (Older Persons Activity Learning and Safety)

Free event offering safety information, help and advice for the older person.

Friday 27 January 10am-2pm at South Oxhey Baptist Church.

All event guests will be seated and served refreshments and a free hot meal. Reps from a variety of agencies will move from table to table to give advice. It will be a social event and a great opportunity to meet other local, elderly residents. **To book contact Terry Morris on 07740 670 642 or email terry.morris@hertfordshire.gov.uk**

School Places for September 2023 - St Joseph's School

Nursery-Now offering full time provision (9am-3pm). Applications for admission has opened for children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020. Apply to the school. Deadline for applications is 24 February 2023.

Reception- Applications for admission is through your Local Authority, for children born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019. Deadline to apply for a school place is 15 January 2023.

Further info can be found on the school website www.stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk under *Statutory Information > Admissions*. Alternatively, call the school office on 0208 428 5371 or email admin@stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk

Please remember all our sick parishioners in your prayers, especially Helen Birch, Bebe Ryan, Bernadette Cruickshank and Alice Sheppard.

Offertory for Sunday 25th December

Envelopes £514.97

Loose £1,015.92

Total £1,530.89

Offertory for Sunday 1st January

Envelopes £183.10

Loose £316.96

Total £500.06

Many thanks for your generosity