

# OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

## Liturgy

### The Baptism of the Lord (C)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Cf. Mt 3:16-17  
**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.**

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11  
*The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it.*

**PSALM:** Ps. 103:1-2,3-4,24-25,27-30.R.v1

**R) Bless the Lord, my soul!  
 Lord God, how great you are.**

Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe! You stretch out the heavens like a tent. **(R)**

Above the rains you build your dwelling. You make the clouds your chariot, you walk on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers and flashing fire your servants. **(R)**

How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches. There is the sea, vast and wide, with its moving swarms past counting, living things great and small. **(R)**

All of these look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it, they gather it up: you open your hand, they have their fill. **(R)**

You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. **(R)**

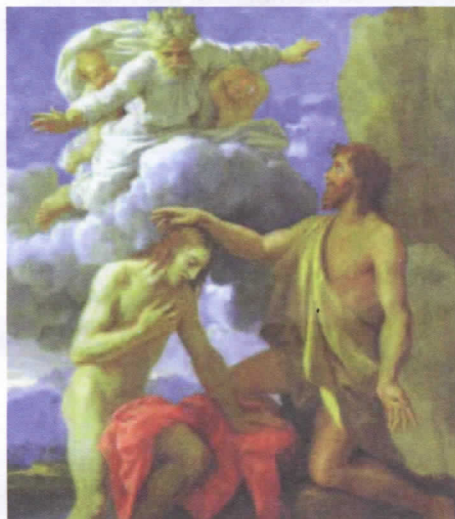
**SECOND READING:** Titus 2:11-14. 3:4-7  
*He saved us by the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!** Cf. Lk 3:13  
**Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I.  
 He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL:** Luke 3:15-16. 21-22  
*While Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Jn 1:32,34  
**Behold the One of whom John said:  
 I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.**

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



Today's Gospel is very brief and to the point. John the Baptist explains to the people that someone much greater than him is coming who will baptise them, not just with water, but with the Holy Spirit and fire. We then move on swiftly to the scene after Jesus' own baptism when 'the heaven opened', the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove and the voice (of the Father) proclaimed Jesus as his Son. This is very a clear manifestation of the Trinitarian nature of God, with Father, Son and Holy Spirit present together. What the people made of all this we don't know, but it is clearly a unique occasion in the life of Jesus. Another interesting fact is

that Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will only come when he (Jesus) has ascended into heaven. And yet here is the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, long before the ascension of Jesus. But God has always existed and therefore, all three persons of the Trinity have always existed, long before Jesus came on this earth and long before Pentecost. The difference at Pentecost was that the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles and Mary with a special mission and gave them himself in order to carry out that mission. On this special feast day, perhaps we can offer special thanks to God in his threefold gift to humanity.

### EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



#### II. THE HOMILY

##### *Words which set hearts on fire*

143. ... The preacher has the wonderful but difficult task of joining loving hearts, the hearts of the Lord and his people. The dialogue between God and his people further strengthens the covenant between them and consolidates the bond of charity. In the course of the homily, the hearts of believers keep silence and allow God to speak ... in the homily they want someone to serve as an instrument and to express their feelings in such a way that afterwards, each one may choose how he or she will continue the conversation. The word is essentially a mediator and requires not just the two who dialogue but also an intermediary who presents it for what it is, out of the conviction that "what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake" (2 Cor 4:5).

### Day by Day with St Francis\*

#### THOMAS OF CELANO, THE LIFE OF SAINT FRANCIS

When the father [of Francis] saw that he could not recall him from the journey he had begun ... he led the son to the bishop of the city to make him renounce into the bishop's hands all rights of inheritance and return everything that he had. Not only did he not refuse this, but he hastened joyfully and eagerly to do what was demanded.

When he was in front of the bishop, he neither delayed nor hesitated, but immediately took off and threw down all his clothes and returned them to his father. He did not even keep his trousers on, and he was completely stripped bare before everyone. The bishop, observing his frame of mind and admiring his fervour and determination, got up and, gathering him in his own arms, covered him with the mantle he was wearing. He clearly understood that this was prompted by God and he knew that the action of the man of God, which he had personally observed, contained a mystery. After this he became his helper. Cherishing and comforting him, he embraced him in the depths of charity.

Look! Now he wrestles naked with the naked. After putting aside all that is of the world, he is mindful only of divine justice. Now he is eager to despise his own life, by setting aside all concern for it. Thus there might be peace for him, a poor man on a hemmed-in path, and only the wall of the flesh would separate him from the vision of God.

\*\*Excerpts from *Day by Day with St Francis: a Franciscan Breviary Published by New City* ISBN: 9781905039166  
 These writings by or about Francis of Assisi are from the time of Francis which means that the language is sometimes rather archaic but it reflects the true spirit of Francis.





# ST. JOHN FISHER, REDBOURN with FLAMSTEAD AND MARKYATE.

PARISH PRIEST: Father Michael Mannion Telephone 01582 792270

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019

### MASSES THIS WEEK

Sunday (Saturday)	5.30pm Deceased Members of the Prall Family
Sunday	9.00am Kishore Goojha (R.I.P.)
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	11.45am feria <i>LAUFER FAMILY (INFS)</i>
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	11.45am feria
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> January (Saturday)	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> 5.30pm John & Anne O'Donovan (RIP) 9.00am Kesari Khurwal (RIP 3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniv.)

Feast Days This Week: 17<sup>th</sup> January – St. Anthony, Abbot.

Please remember in you prayers : Sick: Nigel Clark, Ivor Hopla, Judy Atkins, Sofia Mayorga, Una Hewitt Mary Jones, Breda Iommi, Baby David Ruth, Maria Maynard, Liz Mevin and Lucy Swift.

Please remember in your prayers this week in The Churches Together List the Residents of:  
Lybury Lane, Lords Meadow, The Square, North Common, Roseacre, The Priory, Bartholomew Green, Church End, Granary, Manor Farm, Pond House, Wesley Road, Friendless Lane (Trowley Heights), Pepsal End Lane and Valley Road.

### First Holy Communion Preparation.

Parents meeting takes place in the porch on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00pm.  
We will arrange the day and times for the preparation sessions.

An evening with The Bella Mamas singers in aid of The Freddie Goodchild Fund & Woodfield School, Leverstock Green, will take place on Saturday January 19<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 7.30pm  
This event will raise money for the two worthy causes through the sale of tickets and a raffle on the night.  
Tickets are priced at £10 (including a welcome drink).  
If you would like one please contact Angela Connery at [theconnerys@ntlworld.com](mailto:theconnerys@ntlworld.com)  
There are flyers on the table at the back of the Church for more information.

Church Cleaning Rota for 2019 in on the notice board in the porch. Please sign your name against one of the free months. Ideally two parishioners are required each month and you can do the cleaning at a time to suit yourself.

Kitchen area on Parish Room. Two pictures are on the notice board giving an idea of the redevelopment of the kitchen area. We are reminded that the money to pay for this is our parish money from the Giving in Faith project. Please do look at the pictures and the letter which gives details of the ongoing work in the Church. Any comments can be written on the back of the letter, copies of which are on the table in the porch.

Children's Liturgy: The Children's liturgy classes on Sunday are currently running with just three volunteers. We would love at least three more volunteers to explore the Word of God. Its not at all difficult, no previous experience is required, and with more people, we can ensure that all our children benefit. Please let Fr. Michael if you can help. We are also looking for people to have CRB clearance. We should always have two CRB clearance volunteers in the classes. Therefore one CRB cleared person could be present but not necessarily active with the children. This would greatly help the volunteers. This CRB clearance is the very basic one. Please speak to Vicky Carr if you can help.