



Parish Priest: Fr Philip Knights
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The Parish Office is open:

Tues 9:30am - 12:30pm

Wed 9:30am - 12:30pm

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Mass this Sunday: The Baptism of The Lord (A) 12th January 2020

Today's Readings

Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7 Isaiah offers a beautiful description of the Messiah, who comes to serve the cause of right and bring healing to humanity.

Acts 10:34-38 St Peter tells a Roman soldier, whom he baptised, how Jesus had gone about doing good and healing.

Matthew 3:13-17 Jesus, at his baptism, receives the Holy Spirit and is proclaimed to be God's beloved Son.

Mass This Week

Saturday 11th 6:30pm

Sunday 12th 9:00am

10:30am

Christmastime ends and Ordinary Time begins

Tuesday 14th 7:30pm

Weekday First Week,
Year 2 in Weekday Missal

Wednesday 15th 9:15am

Weekday

Thursday 16th 9:15am

Weekday

Friday 17th 9:15am

St Anthony, Abbot

Intention

Eamon Behan (anniversary)

Ann Sparks (RIP)

For Our Parishioners

Syriac Christians

Cardinal Wiseman RIP

Canon Patrick Davies RIP

Monastic Vocations

Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:45pm or by appointment

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for our RCIA candidates

Last Week's Offertory This amounted to £407.20 Many thanks for all your generosity. **Text Giving** If you wish to support the parish by giving £5 via your mobile 'phone, just text PARISH ROYST to 70800.

Prayer for Peace In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer next Sunday has a special focus on prayer for peace. Given the current tensions in the world, especially in the Middle East, Exposition next Saturday from 5:30pm will have a particular emphasis on praying for peace.

Civic Service We shall be hosting a Civic Service for North Hertfordshire at 3pm on Sunday 19th January.

Rosaries there are some lovely rosaries (handmade by one of our artistic parishioners) available in the Sacristy, suggested donation of £10.

RCIA Our next session will be at 9:45am on Wednesday 22nd January in the Presbytery. We will be looking at Catholics and the Bible.

Year of the Word 1: Pope Francis has announced that from now on each year the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (this year the 26th January) will be a Sunday of the Word of God. To mark this we shall invite all readers in the Church to renew their commitment to the ministry of the Word. If there are any more people willing to volunteer to help with this ministry please see Fr Philip.

Year of the Word 2: St Matthew's Gospel. We will have a parish evening of reflection of St Matthew's Gospel 7:30pm Thursday 6th February. Please bring a bible.

CWL Meeting The next CWL Meeting takes place on Monday 13th January at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall. All welcome.

The House of Prayer will next meet on Thursday 16th January, 10 till 12, at 52 Cherry Drive.

Alpha Course As part of our planning for the follow up of the Parish Mission, the PPC decided to explore having an *Alpha Course* in the Parish. There will be a meeting in the Presbytery to consider the practical next steps of setting this up. Anyone is welcome. Wednesday 15th January 7:30pm.

Parish Social There is an open invitation for people to gather for refreshment and good company at the *Old Bull* on Friday 31st January from 7:30pm.

Westminster Year Book 2020 (containing the 2020 Liturgical Calendar) Copies are now available at the back of the church priced at £4.50.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for January

Prayer intention for evangelisation - Promotion of World Peace. We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.

Cleaning Rota Monday – Pat Friday – Mary & Pat

White Flower Appeal 2020 The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal this weekend. On 21st October 2019, the most extreme abortion regime in Europe was imposed on the people of Northern Ireland by the government of Westminster. Abortion will now be permitted for any reason up until at least 24 weeks, and even beyond that. The abortion lobby now wants to introduce this in England and Wales. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers from this new attack.

The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** will be from 18th-25th January. The materials for the 2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the Christian churches in Malta and Gozo (Christians Together in Malta) On 10th February many Christians in Malta celebrate the Feast of the Shipwreck of St Paul, marking and giving thanks for the arrival of Christian faith on these islands. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles used for the feast is the text chosen for this year's Week of Prayer. Hospitality is a much needed virtue in our search for Christian unity. It calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. The people who showed unusual kindness to Paul and his companions did not yet know Christ, and yet it is through their unusual kindness that a divided people were drawn closer together. Our own Christian unity will be discovered not only through showing hospitality to one another, but also through loving encounters with those who do not share our language, culture or faith. In such tempestuous journeys and chance encounters, God's will for his Church and all people comes to fulfilment. As Paul will proclaim in Rome, this salvation of God has been sent to all peoples (see Acts 28:28).



THE
GOD
WHO
SPEAKS

At his baptism, Jesus became the source of the Spirit for all who would believe in him. The heavens were opened, the Spirit fell, and a new creation was inaugurated.

If we want to experience the power and grace of this new creation in our lives, we must follow Jesus' example. St Gregory of Nazianzus, a fourth-century church Father, gives us this advice. "Let us be buried with Christ by baptism, in order to rise with him." If we want to experience the transformation Gregory wrote about, we need to ask the Holy Spirit to forge the same humility in our hearts that Jesus showed at his baptism.