

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

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.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

First reading: *Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11*

'Console my people, console them' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low.

Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 104*

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

1. 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/.*

2. 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 servant. *R/.*

3. 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/.*

4. 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/.*

5. You hide your face, they are dismayed; you take back your spirit, they die. 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*

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to *set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own* and would have no ambition except to do good.

But when the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

Gospel Acclamation: cf. *Lk3:16*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Someone is coming,
said John, someone greater than I.
He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit
and with fire.
Alleluia!

Gospel: *Luke 3:15-16,21-22*

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

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.

Prayer after Communion

Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth. Through Christ our Lord.

ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUDBURY

Sunday 9th January 2022

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Welcome to all at mass today and especially anyone who is new. Please take this Newsletter home with you. You may wish to share it with family and friends. This newsletter can also be found via our website. We ask God's blessing on you and your loved ones this week and know that we pray for you all each day.

Sunday Cycle
Readings Year C

Weekday Readings
Week 2

Divine Office
Psalms week 1

For children,
download a weekly sheet:
<http://www.sdc.me.uk/sundayliturgy/>

THIS WEEK

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Sun 8 Jan 6.15pm (Vigil) | THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Kathleen Anderson & Avril Isaacs RIP |
| 8.30am 9.45am 11.15am 5.30pm | THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH Baptiste Fernandes ints. Joe Lynch RIP Juliane & Jack Murphy RIP & Jack Jackson RIP |
| Mon 9 Jan 9.30am | feria Bill Byrne RIP |
| Tues 10 Jan 9.30am | feria Fr Clement Russell RIP |
| Weds 11 Jan 9.30am | S. Aelred of Rievaulx Michael Kilcoyne RIP |
| Thurs 12 Jan 9.30am | S. Hilary Hector Fabron RIP |
| Fri 13 Jan 9.30am | feria Tim Crowley RIP |
| Sat 14 Jan 9.30am | Of Our Lady Collen Feeney RIP |
| Sun 15 Jan 6.15pm (Vigil) | 2nd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Cheryl & Anthony Vegas [Good health] |
| 8.30am | Jaime & Stella Camelo Ints [33rd Wedding anniversary] |
| 9.45am 11.15am 5.30pm | Tom & Eileen Haugh RIP Michael Griffin RIP [2nd anniv.] THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH |



TODAY'S MASS



Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. John contrasts the baptism that he performs with the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that someone will come and baptize with the Holy Spirit. The type of baptism that John performed was not

yet a Christian Baptism; it was a preparation for Christian Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received. The baptism of Jesus is considered a manifestation of God in Jesus, another "epiphany." On this, the last day of the Christmas season, our Gospel reveals to us Jesus' relation to God: the son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son.

First Reading: *Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11*
Isaiah tells the people to prepare a way for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 104:1b-4,24-25,27-30*
A prayer praising God's greatness.

Second Reading: *Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7*
Jesus Christ saved us and renewed us with his Holy Spirit.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 3:15-16,21-22*
Jesus is baptized by John.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Every baptized person should consider that it is in the womb of the Church where he is transformed from a child of Adam to a child of God".
St. Vincent Ferrer

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest: Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk
Assistant Priest: Fr. Julio Albornoz julioalbornoz@rcdow.org.uk
Catechetical Coordinator: Mr. Peter Kingsley peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk
Secretary: Mrs. Toni Miles sudbury@rcdow.org.uk
Director of Music: Mr. Scott Price scottprice@rcdow.org.uk
Hall Bookings: via the office or sudbury@rcdow.org.uk
Safeguarding Rep: Mrs. Mary Kugaswaran sudburysg2@rcdow.org.uk
Address: The Presbytery, 970 Harrow Road, Sudbury, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 2QE
Telephone: 020 8904 2552. Phone Options: 1. Mass Times; 2. Parish Office/ SVP Information 3. Mgr Jeremy; 4. Fr. Julio; 5. Catechetical Coordinator.
Charity No: 233699
Email: sudbury@rcdow.org.uk Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/sudbury

GOSPEL REFLECTION

DAILY MASS TIMES

SUNDAY MASS: 6.15pm (Saturday Vigil), 8.30am, 9.45am (Family) & 11.15am (Solemn), 5.30pm.

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday – Saturday 9.30am.

HOLIDAYS OF OBLIGATION: 9.30am, 8.00pm.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Friday 9.00-9.30am, Saturday 5.15-6.00pm.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 5.15pm - 6.00pm. *and any time by appointment.*

DIVINE MERCY: Tuesday 10.30am.

ROSARY: Daily after Mass.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

SICK & HOUSEBOUND: Marie Rego, Eileen Kidd, Christopher Browne, Noel Gill, Tom Fernandes, Dee Auriol, Kathleen O'Brien, Allan *Noronha*, Fiona Power, SMR, Aaran Thayaparan Jocalyn Almeida, John

RECENTLY BAPTISED:

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Fr Eugene Lynch Thomas Dolan, Joy Cumberbatch

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: Fr Clement Russell RIP (First Parish Priest of St George's), Tim Crowley.

SANCTUARY LAMP

Thanksgiving: Mr & Mrs Joy D'Cunha

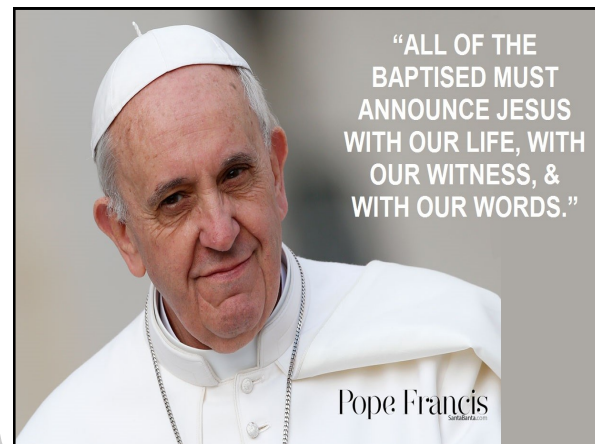
LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Thanksgiving: Mr & Mrs Joy D'Cunha

POPE FRANCIS INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY:

For true human fraternity

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.



"ALL OF THE BAPTISED MUST ANNOUNCE JESUS WITH OUR LIFE, WITH OUR WITNESS, & WITH OUR WORDS."

John the Baptist said that the Messiah would "baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Fire in biblical times was associated with God and with his action in the world and in the lives of his people. God sometimes manifested his presence by use of fire, such as the burning bush which was not consumed when God spoke to Moses. The image of fire was also used to symbolize God's glory, his protective presence, his holiness, righteous judgment, and his wrath against sin. It is also used of the Holy Spirit. Jesus came to give us the fire of his Spirit that we may radiate the joy and truth of the gospel to a world in desperate need of God's light and truth. His word has power to change and transform our lives that we may be lights pointing others to Christ. Like John the Baptist, we too are called to give testimony to the light and truth of Jesus Christ. his Holy Spirit.

John preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. But why did Jesus, the Sinless One, submit himself to John's baptism? In this humble submission we see a foreshadowing of the "baptism" of his death upon the cross. Jesus' baptism is the acceptance and the beginning of his mission as God's suffering Servant. He allowed himself to be numbered among sinners. Jesus submitted himself entirely to his Father's will. Out of love he consented to this baptism of death for the remission of our sins. The Father then proclaimed his entire delight in his Son and spoke audibly for all to hear. The Holy Spirit, too, was present as he anointed Jesus for his ministry which began that day as he rose from the waters of the Jordan river. Jesus will be the source of the Spirit for all who come to believe in him. At his baptism the heavens were opened and the waters were sanctified by the descent of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, signifying the beginning of a new creation.

Do you want to see your life transformed? And do you want to become a more effective instrument of the gospel? Examine Jesus' humility and ask the Holy Spirit to forge this same attitude in your heart. As you do, heaven will open for you as well. The Lord is ever ready to renew and refashion us through his Spirit and to anoint us for mission as his ambassadors. We are called to be "light" and "salt" to those around us. The Lord wants his love and truth to shine through us that others may see the goodness and truth of God's message of salvation. Let us ask the Lord Jesus to fill us with his Holy Spirit that we may radiate the joy of the Gospel to those around us.

NEWS UPDATE



Thank you for wearing your face covering in church and for considering others

Confirmation 2022 Information Evening



Are you in Year 10 or above, regularly attend our Parish and wishing to be confirmed in 2022?

If so, please join us, with your Parent/Carer, in the Parish Centre for the

Confirmation Information Evening
Monday 10th January at 7.30pm.



WELCOME to all at Mass today and a big welcome if you have not been to Mass for a while due to the Covid restrictions. You are no longer required to sign in though you can still choose to do so on the QR Code. Please continue, unless if you are exempt, to wear a face mask to protect yourselves and others. Under the present restrictions we are required to do so. There continues to be no required social distancing in Church. However the top left hand side of the church will be kept for those who wish to do so. We ask that you sanitise in and out of church but if you wish to sanitise before communion we ask you bring your own and do so yourself. **Above all be responsible to others, look out for each other and make sure if you feel ill or have been in crowded situations that you are tested.**

KEEP ST GEORGE'S COVID SAFE: If a member of your household has tested positive for COVID, even if asymptomatic (i.e. without symptoms), please refrain from coming to the church, in case you are asymptomatic yourself. Additionally, it may be helpful to know, that the Catholic Bishops have fully endorsed all aspects of the UK Vaccination Programme. The more people who are vaccinated, the less risk there is to us all.

MGR JEREMY, Fr. JULIO & PETER thank so many parishioners for your kinds in cards and gifts this Christmas. We cant thank you enough for your generosity and kindness. It means a lot to us.

FUNERAL MASS of Thomas Dolan on Wednesday 19th January at 11.00am followed by burial in Carpenders Park Cemetery. May he rest in peace.

DONATIONS FOR FLOWERS—I think you will agree that the Church continues to look splendid. Thank you to all those who behind the scenes have decorated the church and produced wonderful flower arrangements and decorations.

COFFEE & TEA AFTER MASS has now recommenced for those who wish and all the following Fridays. The café/Bar is looking very underused and we have a new updated coffee machine too. See you there! If you might consider helping please contact **Angela Traynor** at angelatraynor@btinternet.com

THE PARISH OFFICE will be open for booking Masses etc every Thursday and Friday after 10.00am—3.00pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - We look forward to helping the Year 3 children learn about the Mass, during part 2 of the FHC Programme, as they prepare for their First Holy Communion in May 2022. We look forward to welcoming back **Parents/Carers only** in the Parish Centre on **Tuesday 25th January** as we prepare to accompany the children as fruitfully as possible in the coming months as they begin this next stage on their journey of faith.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY HELPERS: - The Children's Liturgy has started up again in the Parish on last Sunday at the 9.45am Family Mass. We are looking for new volunteers to help the younger children (4-7yr) reflect on Sunday's Gospel during Mass in a fun, creative & simple way. If you might consider helping once every six weeks, joining an established group of experienced Catechists, please contact **Una Moran** una@bfmconsult.co.uk or peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk.

REPOSITORY: Volunteers urgently required to assist in the Repository after all Masses. If you are able to help please contact Imelda on 07982683664.

CHURCH CLEANING: - Church cleaning takes place on **Mondays after the 9.30am Mass**. All are welcome! Thank you for all who are already helping out.

ALTAR SERVING: - If your child would like to help with Altar Serving at Mass please note that you must first complete an Altar Serving Form, providing Parental Consent. Blank forms are available for completion from the Sacristy. Only once this form has been completed can your child begin serving at Mass.

RCIA—Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults. Do you know anyone (or it may even be yourself) who would like to explore what it means to be a Catholic Christian? If so, please speak or contact to Fr Julio.

PLEASE, IT'S A KINDNESS when Mass has ended

to ensure that your seat area is left clean and tidy, ready for the next Mass. It's particularly helpful to lift the kneelers so they are not walked on and so others can get in and out of the benches easily. Over the past two weeks, Newsletters, Mass sheets and spilt, food and loads of used tissues have been left in church for others to clear away. This is not helpful in the current climate. Let's look after our church and each other!

TODAY'S FEAST

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves", He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world".

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.

- Excerpted from
- Msgr. Rudolph Bandas