

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 42:1-4,6-7*

Theme: Here is my servant in whom my soul delights.

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the nations
He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.
Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law.
I, the Lord, have called you
to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by
the hand and formed you;
I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
top free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness
from the dungeon.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 42*

R/. *The Lord will bless his people with peace.*

1. O give the Lord, you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court.

2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour.

3. The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: "Glory!"
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever.

Second Reading: *Acts 10:34-38*

Theme: The Lord had anointed him with the Holy Spirit.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him. 'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him."

Alleluia!

Gospel: *Matthew 3:13-17*

Theme: As soon as Jesus was baptized he saw the Spirit coming down on him.

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said, 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replies, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should in this way, do all the righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the beloved; my favour rests on him.'

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 8th January 2023

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 A

Weekday Readings
Week 1 year 1

Divine Office
Week 1

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

THIS WEEK

Sun 8 Jan

6.15pm

8.30am

9.45am

11.15am

5.30pm

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Maurice O'Grady RIP

Eileen Collins RIP

Margaret Fay RIP

Peter Golden Snr. RIP

THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

Mon 9 Jan

9.30am

11.00am

feria

Tony O'Donovan RIP

FUNERAL MASS

Anne O'Connor RIP

Tues 10 Jan

9.30am

feria

intentions of Teresa Groome

Weds 11 Jan

9.30am

feria

Fr Clement Russell RIP

(First Parish Priest of S. George's)

Thurs 12 Jan

9.30am

feria

Dem O'Sullivan RIP

Fri 13 Jan

9.30am

feria

Kevin Dowd RIP (1st Anniv.)

Sat 14 Jan

9.30am

Of Our Lady

Special Intention

Sun 15 Jan

6.15pm

8.30am

9.45am

11.15am

5.30pm

2nd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Evelyn Maloney RIP

Paud Daley RIP

Thomas & Patsy Gacquin Ints.

Michael Griffin RIP

THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH



TODAY'S MASS

The baptisms that John performs prefigure Christian Baptism. John baptizes for repentance from sin. In accepting this baptism, Jesus unites himself with all sinners even though he is sinless. In Matthew's Gospel, John the Baptist distinguishes his practice of baptism from the Baptism that the Messiah brings: "I am baptizing you with water . . . He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire". The baptism of Jesus is another manifestation of Christ, another epiphany. Christ's baptism inaugurates his mission. In an analogous way, our Baptism inaugurates our mission as Christians.

First Reading: *Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7*

The servant of the Lord shall bring justice to all.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 29:1-2,3-4,9-10*

The Lord will give peace to the people.

Second Reading: *Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38*

God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 3:13-17*

The Spirit of God comes upon Jesus as he is baptized by John.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure."

St. John Paul II

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest: Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk

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Information 3. Mgr Jeremy; 4. Fr. Mike; 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.

HOLYDAYS 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, Dee Auriol, Allan Noronha, Fiona Power, SMR, Aaran Thayaparan, Jocalyn Almeida, John, Rowland Watts, Catherine Corcoran, Shaun Scoon and Helen Jordan, Sean Marren, George Beel

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Luca Hui

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Gerda Fernando, Ivy Harvey, Joseph Bradley, Anne O'Connor., Eric Perera, Leslie Valles, Clara Corta

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: . Peter Golden, Fr Clement Russell (1st Parish Priest), Baron Ventry, Funnell family, Kevin Dowd (1st Anniv.), Margaret Saunders (1st Anniv.)

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

Dorothea Pierre (Birthday intentions)

LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

In memory of Mary Griffin RIP

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 2023

For educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.



The Baptism of Jesus can seem as strange event in the life of Christ. 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 bloody 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 for the remission of our sins.

The Father 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.

How can we enter into the mystery of Jesus' humble self-abasement and baptism? Gregory of Nazianzus, a seventh century Church father tells us: *"Let us be buried with Christ by Baptism to rise with him; let us go down with him to be raised with him; and let us rise with him to be glorified with him."*

In this new year do you want to see changes in your life? 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 us in his Spirit and to anoint us for mission. 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. So this week simply ask the Lord to fill you with his Holy Spirit that you may radiate the joy of the Gospel to those around you. The Lord never disappoints!

NEWS UPDATE

Confirmation 2023

Information Evening



Are you in Year 10 or above, regularly attend Mass at our Parish and wish to be confirmed in 2023?

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

Confirmation Information Evening
Monday 9th January at 7.30pm.

WELCOME to all at Mass today and a big welcome to anyone who is new or a visitor.

FUNERAL MASS of ANNE O'CONNOR on Monday 9th January followed by cremation at Breakspear Crematorium. May she rest in peace.

FUNERAL MASS of ERIC PERERA on Tuesday 24th January at 11.00am followed by cremation at Breakspear crematorium. Reception of the body on the night before, Monday at 7.00pm. May he rest in peace

MGR. JEREMY, FR. MIKE & PETER would like to express a huge thanks to the parish for all the kind gifts and cards and enclosures. It has been an extremely generous Christmas towards us and we can't thank you enough. Your support gives us huge encouragement and let us pray for another year together in God's service. Thank you all again!

A HUGE THANK-YOU to all who helped and made preparations for Christmas: Cleaners, decorators, singers, servers, readers, welcomers, those who helped with hospitality etc. We had a great Christmas thanks to all your help!

ANOTHER BIG THANK YOU to all who brought presents under the tree which are to be distributed via the Catholic Children's Society. We had a really great response this year.

LASTLY—A THANK YOU to all our children who performed in our nativity tableau at the 6.00pm Vigil Mass on Christmas eve. You did a wonderful job. And thanks to all who helped and made this possible.

THERE IS STILL TIME (until Candlemas on 2nd February) to visit the Christmas Crib, now with the arrival of the three Kings. Do please take the opportunity to look at our beautiful crib, and maybe for a moment before it, offer a prayer. All Crib offerings (donations) made will, as usual, be sent to the Catholic Children's Society, for their important work with children. Thank you for supporting the Society.

MARRIAGE? Wanting to find out more about what God has on offer for you through the Sacrament of Marriage? We have two engaging speakers visiting our Parish on **Saturday 4th February from 10 am to 1 pm, with lunch provided.** Especially, if you are in a civil marriage or are living together, listening to these entertaining and enthusiastic speakers could change your lives. It is also suitable for others thinking of getting married in the future. There will be ample chance to ask questions about the Church's life-giving teaching on marriage. If you would like to attend, speak to Fr Mike or email him (address on the cover).

DID YOU WIN A RAFFLE PRIZE at the Advent fair? If so please pick up your prize now.

CATHOLIC EVENTS FOR YOUNG ADULTS - If you're a young adult at the Parish, why not sign-up to the Westminster Youth Ministry Newsletter, with lots of information about Catholic youth events in the Diocese? Visit <https://dowym.com/>.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - Parents & Carers should all have a copy of the dates for Part 2 of the FHC Programme. We very much look forward to the Video Evening, for **Parents/Carers Only**, introducing Part 2 of the Programme in the Parish Centre on **Tuesday 10th January at 7pm.**

CONFIRMATION 2023 - Those in Year 10 & above who would like to be confirmed at the Parish are asked to please attend the **Confirmation Information Evening** with a Parent/Carer in the Parish Centre on **Monday 9th January at 7.30pm** when registration documents will be provided. Please note that a copy of one's baptism certificate is also required for registration.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) : If you are feeling isolated and would like a home visit or a chat with a friendly person over the phone please get in touch. If you are struggling financially or would like other practical assistance please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are over 18 and are interested in becoming a member of the SVP you would be very welcome, just call the number below or drop in to our next meeting. Tel. 0775 3654154 (Theresa). Email. frain.home@gmail.com

CALLING NEW CONFIRMATION CATECHISTS - Might you consider a new ministry at the Parish helping our young people prepare for their Confirmation in 2023? If you might consider helping, please contact our Catechetical Coordinator, Mr. Peter Kingsley, at peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk for further information.

CHURCH LAMPS: If you would like to sponsor the blessed sacrament lamp or the lamp by the altar of Our Lady of Walsingham with a particular intention, the cost is £10 for the week - Please see Toni in the Parish Office.

NEXT FILM NIGHT & MENS BREAKFAST—Dates, times etc out next week.

OFFICE OPENING TIMES IN JANUARY: Thursday & Friday, 10.30am –3.00pm

FROM BISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON: At the beginning of the New Year, I am writing to inform you that 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. Options include a 'Citizens' Assembly', further independent research, or a referendum. I would be grateful if you could inform parishioners of this Inquiry and ask healthcare and legal professionals to respond from their expertise.

Assisted suicide presents profound dangers to public safety and the common good, and so it is crucial that as many people as possible engage with the Parliamentary Inquiry and oppose the introduction of assisted suicide into UK law. It is especially important that those who respond should oppose the idea of a 'Citizens' Assembly' or referendum on this issue, as these are easily abused to try to legalise assisted suicide.

Pope Francis has constantly taught against assisted suicide, euphemistically called, 'assisted dying', as have earlier pontiffs.

"All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image,

and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect." (Pope Francis, *Message to Catholics participating in Day for Life in Britain and Ireland, July 28, 2013*) "Physician-assisted suicide is part of a "throwaway culture" that offers a "false compassion" and treats a human person as a problem...True compassion does not marginalise anyone, nor does it humiliate and exclude - much less considers the death of a person as a good thing." (Pope Francis, *Address to Directors of the Orders of Physicians of Spain and Latin America, June 2016*)

"More and more lonely elderly people exist in big cities, even in situations of serious illness and close to death. In such situations, the pressure of euthanasia is felt, especially when a utilitarian vision of the person creeps in. In this regard, I take this opportunity to reaffirm once again the firm and constant ethical condemnation of every form of direct euthanasia, in accordance with the Church's centuries-old teaching." (Pope Benedict XVI, *February 25 2008*) As believers, how can we fail to see that abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide are a terrible rejection of God's gift of life and love? And as believers, how can we fail to feel the duty to surround the sick and those in distress with the warmth of our affection and the support that will help them always to embrace life?" (St. Pope John Paul II)

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.

Statements of the Bishops' Conference can be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/category/cbcew/life-issues/assisted-dying/>

The Ancombe Centre can also help the response. They have produced a statement and resources about this Inquiry: <https://bioethics.org.uk/news-events/news-from-the-centre/anscombe-centre-statement-on-commons-hsc-committee-inquiry-into-assisted-suicide/>. The timeframe for answering the consultation is a short one. Submissions must be in by Friday 20 January but happily the format of the Inquiry is simple, and not time-consuming - just six questions. To aid public engagement, the Ancombe Bioethics Centre has [produced a short two-page Briefing](#) (attached) to help anyone interested in responding, whether as an individual or as an organisation. The relevant links for the questionnaire and for longer responses are included in this document.

Word Search Puzzle

words in a straight line left to right or top to bottom

W P L E A S E D B S W A
H S X M N R S V A A H L
O A H A D F P U P W E I
M I T O R I V T A N G
B D M T V O R O I T W H
E O F H E M I I Z E E T
L I K E B Y T C E R R I
O C J W E L L E D O E N
V A U H E A V E N S S G
E M S O N T O P E N E D
D E T J E S U S W I T H
T H I S U D D E N L Y I
G O D E S C E N D I N G

(Matthew 3:16-17)

Word List

DESCENDING ALIGHTING SUDDENLY
BAPTIZED PLEASED MATTHEW HEAVENS
BELOVED SPIRIT OPENED WATER VOICE
JESUS WITH WHOM WHEN WERE
WELL THIS SAID LIKE JUST FROM
DOVE CAME BEEN SON SAW HIM
HAD GOD AND UP TO OF MY