

JESUS CAME TO THE JORDAN

The river Jordan is a boundary. It was the river the Israelites had to cross before entering the Promised Land, so crossing the Jordan meant entering into the realm of God's promise. It is still a boundary; today it is the border between the state of Israel and the Kingdom of Jordan.

The Jordan was also the place of baptism by John; and in that sense too it is a boundary. Jesus' baptism marks the definitive boundary between his hidden life and his public ministry. And it also marks the boundary between the Old Testament and the New, between the time of promise and the beginning of the fulfilment. John the Baptist performed his baptismal rites in the river, gathering a community of people prepared for the coming of the Messiah. So he was on the side of preparation, not of fulfilment. Jesus said of him: 'Among those born of women no one is greater than John; yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he' (Luke 7.28). Jesus' own baptism in the Jordan marks the full arrival of God's Kingdom because it marks the arrival of the Messiah by the descent of the Spirit of God in the form of a dove, and by the words of the Voice from heaven: 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with whom I am well pleased'.

Our baptism is a crossing of the Jordan with Jesus. We often think of it more as a crossing of the Red Sea; but the two are closely linked. The Red Sea marked the start of the journey to the Promised Land, the Jordan was the entry into that Land.

In either case it is a crossing of a boundary, a frontier. If we have been baptised we have left behind the land of slavery to sin, and have entered a new land, a new kind of life. This must have been very clear in the early Church when it was generally adults who were baptised. The candidates were stripped of their clothes, to symbolise the leaving behind of the old way of life, and were fully immersed in the water. On coming out they were immediately given a new white garment, symbolising the new life in Christ and the Holy Spirit which they had been given. It is less easy to see this when baptism is given to an infant, as is usual now. We are tempted to think: 'This cannot make any real difference because a child does not know what is happening to it'. But baptism is basically something that God gives us, not something that we do, just as in birth life is given to us, we do not create it ourselves. Still, we have to embrace it, make it our own. If we have been baptised we have crossed the boundary, we are living in the Promised Land, and land of Christ and the Spirit. Do our lives show this?
Fr Fabian OP

The Baptism of the Lord

Year A

13 January 2008

The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

Served by the Dominican Order: website <http://www.torch.op.org>



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Parish Priest, Fr. Tony Rattigan: 252 1501 For home visits: 255 3856

Sunday Masses	This week	Mass Intentions	Next week
7:30pm Vigil	Fr David	For the People	Fr Euan
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Joanna & Patrick Martin, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Duncan	Annie Marie Allen Renaughton, RIP	Fr Fabian
11:00am Solemn	Fr Fabian	Gordian Marshall, OP, RIP	Fr Duncan
7:00pm	Fr Duncan	Thanksgiving, Gloria & David	Fr Tony

SUNDAYS IN TERM (from today): MASS FOR STUDENTS at 5pm (in the Church).

Sunday Evening Services	12 January	Confessions	19 January
5:45 Rosary	Fr Duncan	10:30-11:30am	Fr Fabian
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Euan	4:00-5:00pm	Fr David
6:40 Benediction	Fr Isidore	7:00-7:20pm	Fr Leon

Entrance Antiphon:	When the Lord had been baptised, the heavens opened, and the Spirit came down like a dove to rest upon him. Then the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.
1st Reading:	Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7
Psalm Response:	The Lord will bless his people with peace. (Ps 28)
2nd Reading:	Acts 10: 34-38
Alleluia:	The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." At 11:00 - I have found David my servant and with my holy oil anointed him.
Gospel:	Matthew 3: 13-17
Communion Antiphon:	This is he of whom John said: I have seen and have given witness that this is the Son of God. At 11:00 - All baptized in Christ, you have all clothed yourselves in Christ, alleluia.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend: Offertory Collection £918.12; SVP £6.18; St. Martin's Missions £4.50; Holy Souls £6.77; Grenada £5.76.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

This week's Feasts		
Monday:	Feria	
Tuesday:	Ss Francis Fernández, friar and priest, Peter Sans, friar and bishop, and Companions, martyrs of China	
Wednesday:	Feria	
Thursday:	St Anthony, abbot	
Friday:	St Margaret of Hungary, virgin and nun. Octave of prayer for Christian Unity begins.	
Saturday:	Saturday Mass of Our Lady or St Wulstan, bishop (<i>both optional</i>)	
Next Sunday's Readings: 2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6	1 Corinthians 1: 1-3	John 1: 29-34

Refugee and Asylum Support: We are still collecting food for the Red Cross. Tins are most welcome especially baked beans which can be easily prepared and served by their recipients. The collection point after the 9:30 and 11:00 Sunday Masses is Holy Cross Centre. At the other Sunday Masses it is the Wellington Street entrance. We are very grateful to you for your support: when we take the donations to the Red Cross on a Monday there is often a queue of people waiting for food and the cupboards are nearly bare. It is good to do something to help.

An IRISH SET DANCE WORKSHOP & CÉILÍ will be held at St Patrick's Parish Centre, 100 Beaumont Leys Lane, LE4 2BD on Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th January 2008. Workshop Demonstrations by Irish Set Dance Teacher from Ireland on Saturday: Dance Workshop 10.30am - 1.00pm & 2.00pm - 5.00pm. Evening Céilí 8.30pm until late. Music by the IVY LEAF CÉILÍ Band. Sunday: Dance Workshop 11.30am - 1.30pm. Cost: Sat am £5, pm £5, evening Céilí £5, Sun workshop £5. Or a full Weekend Ticket £18. No dancing experience required to learn and enjoy the dances. Further details contact: Jo 07977 351901 or Annie 07908 044936.

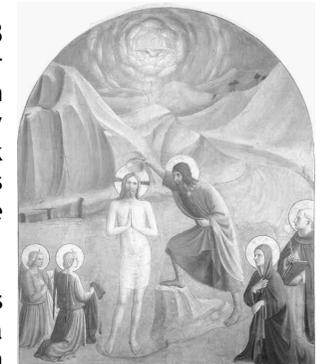
All the **Come Home for Christmas** leaflets which were put out seem to have been taken very quickly. I'd be interested in getting some feedback; what reaction did you get from the people you gave them to? Did they come to any of our Christmas services? Is it something we should do again? (The leaflets were free!) Please email me, John Young, on johnyoung4927787@btinternet.com.

The Black Friars - the Newsletter of the English Dominican Province. There are many articles and photographs showing the work of the Province, including a report on the Dominican pilgrimage to Lourdes. See if you can spot any parishioners in the photographs. Please take a copy, available by all the doors.

National Marriage Week: Bishop Malcolm will be offering a Mass of Celebration during National Marriage Week in St. Barnabas Cathedral on Wednesday, 13 February, 2008 at 7.30 in the evening. All who have ever received the Sacrament are especially welcome and the bishop would very much like to be joined by engaged couples and people who have married in recent years. Light refreshments will be served after Mass. Marriage Care personnel will be on hand to listen to the opinions of couples after Mass about their experiences in early marriage.

Santo Niño Devotion: All are invited to the celebration of the Feast of Santo Niño (the Divine Infant) on 19 January at Blessed Sacrament Church, Gooding Avenue, Braunstone. All are also welcome to join the 9 days' novena which begins on 11 January. For more details see the noticeboard.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2008: 2008 marks the 100th anniversary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity organised by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. The theme for 2008 is 'Pray Without Ceasing', and **there will be service to mark the centenary in St Nicholas Church, St Nicholas Circle, on Wednesday 23 January at 7:30pm.** All are most welcome to attend.



The Baptism of the Lord

A Christian/Muslim dinner will be held at St Philip's Church on 18th January. Tickets £12.50 from Sheila Brucciani. Money raised is for Christian/Muslim projects. Fr Tony can put you in touch with Sheila.

Training for Reading at Mass. A new formation course for both existing and prospective readers. Fr Tony has details of a Saturday event in Leicester in early February which will be the first presentation of the diocese's course for those who read at Mass or would like to become readers. The course will be repeated.

Come and Sing with the Leicester Bach Choir: an opportunity to sing Zadok the Priest, I was Glad, and other great English Anthems on Saturday 26 January at St Denys' Church, Church Road, Evington. There is a rehearsal in the afternoon followed by supper, with the performance at 7pm. If you can't come and sing, come nevertheless to the performance. David Cowen, our organist and choir director, will be playing the organ. Details are on the noticeboard.

 Services at Holy Cross during the week:
Mass: Monday to Saturday, at 10:00am (with sermon) & 12:40pm.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday 10:30am - 12:30pm.
with Rosary and simple Benediction at 12:15pm.
 On Mondays to Fridays during the winter months the church will be open from 8am until 3:30pm.
