

Baptism of the Lord

IN 2002 Pope John Paul II introduced five new mysteries of the Rosary, which he called the, 'Luminous Mysteries.' These covered Christ's public ministry from his baptism to his Institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. During that period Jesus showed himself as the definitive revelation of God. He announced the coming of God's kingdom and what he required of us. Jesus was the light of the world, who had come to show us the way to the Father. In each of the 'Luminous Mysteries' Jesus throws light, during his public ministry, on God's plan of salvation.

The Baptism of the Lord is the first of the 'Luminous Mysteries' and marks the beginning of Christ's public ministry. With his baptism Jesus leaves the private, domestic life at Nazareth, and sets out to proclaim God's salvation for the world.

By preaching a baptism of repentance John the Baptist had already begun to prepare the way for Christ's coming. This generated a great atmosphere of excitement and expectation. But John hadn't expected Jesus himself to ask to be baptised. After all, baptism was meant to prepare other people, who were sinners, for Christ's coming. And he was no sinner. But Jesus insisted on being baptised. He wanted to identify with the whole of sinful humanity, to carry and remove the burden of our guilt.

Then, immediately after his baptism, something remarkable happened. The Spirit of God rested upon Jesus, in the form of a dove – the symbol of the peace God brought to the chaotic, destructive waters of the Flood. Jesus came to bring peace to our chaotic, troubled lives. He wanted to enable us to make a fresh start. And the Father's voice from heaven proclaimed, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'

At Christ's baptism the Father commissioned Jesus to act and speak in his name and with his divine authority. In the power of the Spirit he would proclaim the Good News of salvation. Christ's baptism prepared him for this mission.

Today's feast celebrates not just Christ's baptism, but also ours. Through our baptism we have been born from above – from God – and have become his children. Now we share God's own life. We have become God's beloved sons or daughters, with whom he is well pleased.

But we are not simply called to a private, cosy relationship between each of us and God. Our baptism commissions us to share the faith we have received. Like Jesus, we are meant to be 'luminous' – lights revealing the glory of God and the power of his salvation. Like Jesus we are called to dispel the darkness of ignorance and error. If we live up to our vocation God will, indeed, be able to say of us, 'This is my beloved son or daughter, with whom I am well pleased.'

Fr Isidore, O.P.

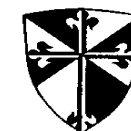
The Baptism of the Lord

Year B

11 January 2009

The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

Serving Leicester's Catholics since AD 1247



Sunday Masses	This week	Mass Intentions	Next week
6:00pm Vigil	Fr Isidore	Evelyn Dixon, RIP	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Isidore	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Fabian
9:30am Family	Fr Euan	Vera Burrows, RIP	Fr Leon
11:00am Solemn	Fr Leon	Brendan McCabe, RIP	Fr Euan
4:00pm Old rite	Fr Duncan	Sarah Athaide, RIP	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	— —	No Mass for Students until 18 Jan'y	Fr Peter
7:00pm	Fr Euan	Thomas Joseph Kelly, RIP, & Mary Ellen Hudson, RIP	Fr Duncan

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	10 January	Confessions	17 January
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Euan	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Fabian
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Duncan	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Euan

Refugees and Asylum Seekers - Leicester City of Sanctuary. The Red Cross remain desperate for food and personal goods and we would ask you to be as generous as you can. No clothing or alcohol please, but see the list inside or, for more information, please e mail b.hawcroft@ntlworld.com.

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
Psalms Response:	May the Lord bless his people with peace. (Ps 29)
2nd Reading:	Acts 10: 34-38
Alleluia:	The heavens opened and the Father's voice was heard: "This is my beloved Son, listen to him." At 11:00 - I have found David my servant and with my holy oil anointed him.
Gospel:	Mark 1: 7-11
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 baptised in Christ, you have all clothed yourselves in Christ, alleluia.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections: Offertory Collection £911.45 (previous week £1248.58); SVP £10.34 (£69.43); Friends of Holy Cross £5.43 (£4.52); Holy Souls £5.17 (£6.50); Crib restoration £32.80 (£102.89).

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

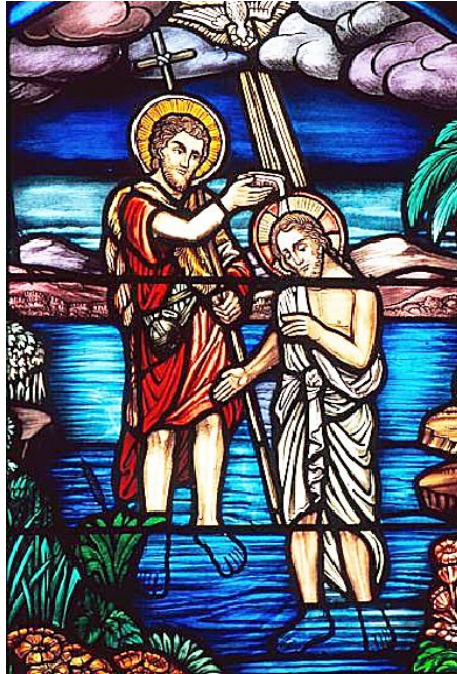
Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity - 18 to 25 January. This year's services will include a joint service on Wednesday 21 January at the Salvation Army in Kildare Street at 7pm. And on Sunday 25 January, Bishop Malcolm will preach at Choral Evensong at Leicester Cathedral at 4pm. Everyone is invited to both these services.

Infant Jesus Devotion. All are invited to the celebration of the Feast of Santo Niño (Divine Infant) on 17 January at Blessed Sacrament Church, Braunstone. All are welcome to join the 9-day novena which has already begun. For more details please see the poster.

Copies of 'The Black Friars', the newsletter of the English Dominican Province (Christmas issue), are still available by the church doors. Please pick up a copy to keep abreast of everything that's going on in the Province.

Living Baptism - a day of study and reflection. Clare Watkins, Catholic theologian, teacher and author of "Living Baptism - Called Out of the Ordinary" will be leading a day on the theology of baptism, reflecting on our understanding of what it means, our vocation, our missions and ministry. She will also look at the role of the parish in preparing and nurturing those to be baptised. It's on Saturday 31 January at the Diocesan Centre, Mackworth, Derby, and costs £15. See noticeboard.

What have these saints in common? - St Martin de Porres, St Theresa of Lisieux, St Joseph, Our Lady, St Dominic, St Patrick, St Helena. Answer: we have statues of them here in Holy Cross. Want to know more about them? There is a set of leaflets available in the Wellington Street transept giving some details of their lives and works. So you can discover who was apprenticed to a man who was both a barber and a surgeon; who, when invited to choose a toy from a box, said "I'll have the lot"; who sold his precious theology books to buy bread for the hungry; and who lived to a ripe old age, excavating the site of a pagan temple.



The Baptism of Christ

Year 1	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 1
ORDINARY TIME - WINTER BEFORE LENT		
The weeks in Ordinary Time do not celebrate a specific aspect of the mystery of Christ. Rather, especially on the Sundays, they are devoted to the mystery of Christ in all its aspects. During Ordinary Time (before Lent) we are asked to pray for these intentions: Peace on Earth; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; Students and Teachers; The Unemployed.		
Monday:	St Aelred of Rievaulx, abbot	
Tuesday:	Feria	
Wednesday:	Feria	
Thursday:	SS Francis Fernández, friar, priest, Peter Sans, friar, bishop, and Companions, martyrs of China	
Friday:	Feria	
Saturday:	St Anthony, abbot	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form on Wednesday and Friday at 8:30am, and on Saturday at 8:15am.		
Next Sunday - 2nd Sunday per annum. Readings:		
1 Samuel 3: 3-10. 19	1 Corinthians 6: 13-15. 17-20	John 1: 35-42

Red Cross Appeal for Refugees & Asylum Seekers. The Red Cross has a list of items needed to support these destitute and vulnerable people:

- ◆ Dried items: rice, pasta, cous-cous, maize meal-meal, sugar, salt, porridge, cooking oil, flour (self-raising), spices, palenta, mashed potato (Smash), tea, coffee, powdered milk, water, fruit juice, semolina;
- ◆ Tins: baked beans, soup, fruit, rice pudding, sauces, vegetables;
- ◆ Pre-prepared food: cereal bars, chocolate, biscuits, nuts, crisps, pot noodles;
- ◆ Baby items: nappies (sizes 2-4), baby wipes, food, milk, lotion, talc, clothing, equipment;
- ◆ Toiletries: toothpaste, tooth brush, soap, moisturiser, shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper.

Please leave these items at any Mass. We thank you for your continued support.

Please join us in the Parish Hall after the 9:30am and 11:00am Sunday Masses for tea, coffee, fruit-juice etc. The Hall is in Wellington Street. There is the opportunity for a chat with members of the Dominican Community and with parishioners. We particularly welcome newly-arrived students and other visitors to our Parish.

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS
8.00 Lauds
10.00 Mass
12.30 Mass
17.45 Vespers
Old Rite Masses as announced.
The church is open from 8.00 to 15.30 (winter) / 16.00 (summer)
WEDNESDAYS
10.30 Exposition until 12.30
11.45 Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary & Benediction
SATURDAYS
9.00 Lauds
10.00 Mass
10.30 Novena to Our Lady
10.30 Confessions until 11.30
12.30 Mass
17.00 Confessions until 18.00
17.45 Vespers
18.00 Vigil Mass for Sunday
Old Rite Masses as announced.
HOLIDAYS
18.00 (previous day) Vigil Mass
8.00 Lauds
10.00 Mass
12.30 Mass
17.45 Vespers
19.00 Mass
BANK HOLIDAYS
8.00 Lauds
10.00 Mass, after which the church is closed
SUNDAYS
8.00 Mass
9.00 Lauds
9.30 Mass (Family)
11.00 Mass (Solemn: Latin on 2 nd , 4 th and 5 th Sundays)
16.00 Mass (Old rite in Latin)
17.00 Mass (for Students, term time only)
17.45 Vespers
18.00 Rosary
18.20 Sung Latin Compline
18.40 Benediction
19.00 Mass
Leicester Royal Infirmary Catholic Chaplaincy: For urgent visits, ask ward staff to bleep the Roman Catholic Chaplain. For non-urgent visits leave message at the Priory or the LRI Chaplains' Office. Messages may not be picked up until the end of the day.
Website for past Newsletters: holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk
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For home visits: 255 3856