

Birth of St John the Baptist **Monday 24th June**

Precisely because of the essential mission of John the Baptist in the mystery of the Incarnation, today's feast day, The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, interrupts the regular cycle of Sundays of Ordinary Time.

"John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel; and as John was completing his course, he would say, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet'" (Acts 13: 24-25). The Nativity of John the Baptist reminds us of the fundamentals of our Catholic Faith: "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man" (Nicene Creed).

So many people live out their lives as if Jesus never existed. So many Catholics no longer join us for Sunday Mass. Today's feast day reminds us of the challenge that Blessed Pope John Paul II gave us during his pontificate. He called us to the "new evangelization." What will it take to evangelize modern man? What methods can we use? What should our liturgy, preaching, community and our catechesis look like? Much has been tried and much has been discussed over the decades since the Second Vatican Council, but for some reason, the frustration lies in the fact that for most people in the pews, so little really sticks. John the Baptist used new ways to evangelize the people of his time. The witness of John the Baptist begins with his birth. The miraculous circumstances of his conception and birth direct our attention to the mysterious and the transcendent. As an adult, his chosen surroundings bear witness to a different reality. John is a man of the desert. He totally separates himself from the world in order to give testimony of another world. Moreover, John's manner of dressing bears witness as well. He does not clothe himself in the garments of the leaders of his day, he eats locusts and wild honey. Like his living conditions and his dress, his food is also simple.

John's preaching is a witness of the truth. His message is effective because he is completely empty of himself. He does not preach himself. He points to someone beyond himself. *"I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals"* (Matthew 3: 11).
(Father James Farfaglia)



Catholic Parishes of St Mary's and Our Lady of Lourdes

St. Mary's Brierley Hill and
Our Lady of Lourdes, Kingswinford
Parish Priest: Fr Shanju John
The Presbytery, Summerhill,
Kingswinford, DY6 9JG.
01384 274520



Email: stmarylol.blackcountry@rcaob.org.uk
Website: www.stmaryladyoflourdes.co.uk
Deacon John Brindley (*Retired*)

Convent - Daughters of Divine Love 01384 380155
St Mary's Primary School 01384 985005

Part of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham: Reg. Charity No. 234216

SAFEGUARDING - The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Mrs Epi Pfunde and Miss Lilli Pace. They can be contacted at sg.olol.kingswinford@racob.org.uk or sg.stmary.brierleyhill@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 / safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

12TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR B

23RD JUNE 2024

PSALM RESPONSE

O give thanks to the Lord,
for his love endures forever.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our minds,
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

Alleluia, alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The eyes of all look to you, Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.

| Ordinary B1 | Ordinary | Intention/Info |
|---|---|--|
| Sunday 22nd/23rd 12th Sunday of the Year | 5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH | Bernie Townsend People of the Parish |
| Monday 24th Birth of St John the Baptist | 10am Mass KF | |
| Tuesday 25th | NO MASS | _____ |
| Wednesday 26th | 10am Mass BH 10.30am-11am BH | John, Tom and Bill Adoration and Confessions |
| Thursday 27th | 9am Mass School | School intention |
| Friday 28th St Irenaeus, Bishop | 10am Mass KF 10.30am-11am KF | Francis PA Adoration and Confessions |
| Saturday 22nd Ss Peter and Paul | 5pm Mass KF | Fr David Lloyd and Fr John Darley |
| Sunday 29th/30th SS Peter and Paul | 5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH | Fr David Lloyd and Fr John Darley Fr John Darley |

Please pray for all those whose have died recently especially those on our June deceased lists and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they all rest in peace.

Please pray for all those who are sick including Fr Brendan Carrick, Becky Lodge, Fr Cecil, Irene Brown, Christine Holding, Brian Saunders, Christine, Marlene and Tony Lyons, Ian Manley, Noel O'Reilly, Georgina Czuk, Martha Jones, Mavis Geach, Sheila Rowley, Roger Ward, Pauline Bant, Dorothy West, Kath Emery, Patricia Smith, Chris and Tony Rylands, Margaret List, Ken Lowe, Rob Bryan, Betty Storey and Connie Birch May the Lord grant them hope and healing.

Collections BH GA £233.00 Loose £271.72 Day for Life £119.04 Teas £85.26
KF GA £89.00 Loose £253.25 Day for Life £87.32

BRIERLEY HILL: Craft Group Mon 1st July June 2pm to 4pm in Parish Centre
KINGSWINFORD: Friday 9.30 - 11.30am Foodbank .

FOODBANKS - If you are able to donate to them they will be happy to accept your donations as the need is growing.

SECOND COLLECTIONS - This week for our Sisters., next week for Peter's pence.

Tea/coffee after Mass - Please join Fr Shanju and stay for tea and coffee after Mass on Sunday morning at BH for a chat and a catch up. No teas at KF until further notice.

Congratulations to the children who were Confirmed on Friday evening. Please pray for them as they continue to grow in faith.

Volunteer needed at KF is there anyone who can help maintain the grounds at KF by cutting the grass etc? Possibly a group of you to lighten the load? Please speak to Fr Shanju as soon as possible. Thank you.

Multi-cultural Mass - Today (Sunday) We are celebrating our many different cultures, united in faith, at St Mary's. Please join us after Mass for tea and coffee and foods from our various cultures. We are blessed to have such a large family in Christ.

Peter's Pence - the collection next Sunday helps the Pope to support his work across the world. For more information please see <https://www.obolodisanpietro.va/va/en/giornate-dell-obolo.html>

Healing Mass with lunch - Thursday 11th July 11am at St Mary's. We will be having our annual Healing Mass for all those are ill, infirm or in need of God's healing followed by lunch. Please sign the sheet if you are coming to help with catering. Everyone is welcome to attend along with the mini-Vinnies and faith leaders from our Parish school. We are grateful to the SVP for organising this Mass.

Friends of St Mary's school Summer Fair at St Mary's on Mill Street on Saturday 29th June from 11am-2pm and will be called 'GlastonMary.' Speak to Megan after mass or ring/text 07949 189257.

General election - the Bishops' Conference have created a webpage on their website with information about the issues important to Catholics.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/election24/>

Annual Harvington Pilgrimage Mass - Sunday 1st September 2024 Mass will be at 3pm and it is essential you bring your own chair and packed lunch. For more information please see the poster at the back of Church.

Pope's prayer intention for June For migrants fleeing their homes. We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of violence and danger, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.. Amen.