

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord

It is the spirit that gives life. That is so central to understanding life: meaning, love, direction can only come from that which we cannot see. But the complementarity of God means that the physical is still important and beautiful - when it is a true vehicle of the spirit. We wouldn't know anything, if it wasn't for the physical. We can't get baptised without water. We couldn't receive Christ in his fullness without bread and wine. And today, it is powerful that the Spirit is 'seen' for the first time as a dove. The Mass has been simplified since the 60s, but gesture and posture are still important. We have thought about the importance of kneeling, but it is good to be aware of our other positions too, and the few simple gestures we are invited to make - as well as the ones the priest makes. So, before the homily, go through the different gestures we make during Mass, and see how many you really understand! The Baptism of Our Lord really makes us appreciate the importance of the physical in our growth in the spiritual! *(Courtesy of a Diocesan Priest)*

Prayer of renewal of Baptismal promises

O my Lord and my God, I humbly prostrate in spirit before Thy Divine Majesty, I adore Thy sovereign justice and Thine infinite mercy. I am penetrated with fear at the consideration of Thine awful judgments, and my great ingratitude for Thy benefits, since I was ranked by baptism among Thy children, raised to the glorious dignity of a Christian and thus entitled to enjoy Thee eternally in heaven. I was not then conscious of the precious grace bestowed upon me, nor of the awful obligations I contracted when I promised to renounce the devil, the world, and the flesh.

But I am now fully conscious of both; I most humbly thank Thee for having brought me safely to the waters of baptism, and I detest, from the bottom of my heart, every thought, word and action of my life which has been unworthy of a Christian.

O my good God, Who didst love me before I could love Thee, and didst apply to my soul the merits, of Jesus Christ when I was unable to implore that favour, look on me with compassion, and grant me all those graces, which will enable me to keep my baptismal engagement without reproof. Increase in my soul the heavenly virtues of faith, hope and charity, which I received at baptism, and teach me to make faith the rule of my conduct, that it may avail me to life everlasting; through the infinite mercies and merits of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Who, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. Amen. *(Catholic online - shortened)*



Catholic Parishes of St Mary, Lady of Lourdes

St. Mary's Brierley Hill,
Our Lady of Lourdes, Kingswinford and
Our Lady of Lourdes, Cradley Heath.
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BAPTISM OF THE LORD

10TH JANUARY 2021

PSALM RESPONSE

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded:

"This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him"

Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold the One of whom John said:

I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

Entrance Antiphon

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. *(Roman Missal)*



Ordinary (B1)	Psalter week 1	Intention/Info
Sunday 9th /10th Baptism of the Lord	Sat 5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH 11.30am Mass OH	Tracy Collins People of the Parish Jean Hancox
Monday 11th		
Tuesday 12th	10am Mass OH 10.30am-11am OH	Joseph Kochuparambil Adoration
Wednesday 13th	10am Mass BH 10.30am -11am BH	Fr Stephen Adoration
Thursday 14th		
Friday 15th	10.30am-11am KF 11am Mass	Adoration Patrick Madigan
Saturday 16th		
Sunday 16th /17th 2nd Sunday of the Year	Sat 5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH 11.30am Mass OH	Patricia Gray Bill Webb People of the Parish

Please pray for all those whose have died especially Gerald Price, Joseph Kochuparambil (Fr Shanju's grandfather), those on our January deceased list and for all those whose anniversaries occur this month. May they all rest in peace.

Please pray for all those who are sick including Francis Chin, Jess Shaw, Eva McCall, Harold Shackley, Michael Rose, Jill Rowe, James Kearney, Catherine Greenaway, Barbara Masterman, Margaret Shipley, Tess Barnsley, Steve Dunn, Lynsey Cooper, Alec Huffer, Kath Emery, Patricia Smith, Roy Davies, Chris Rylands, Tony Rylands, Margaret List, Ken Lowe, Peggy Tromans, Rob Bryan, Ilona Bryan, Betty Storey, Lily Petford, Connie Birch, Stella Jones, Margaret Marlowe, Don Neale, Michael Rose, Anne Peters, Francis Theseira, Jackie Spittle, Barry Simner, David Barnsley and Dawn Russon. May the Lord grant them hope and healing.

FOODBANKS - both our foodbanks have now reopened to help those in need. If you are able to donate to them they will be happy to accept your donations - the need is growing and donations are much needed at this difficult time for so many people

Collections: BH: GA £537.00, Loose £150.79, poor Parishes £25.950., Rent £60.00, Donations £700.00 KF 6/12GA £201.00, Loose £296.15, Donation £70.00 . 13/12 GA £30.00, Loose £70.50, Holy Places £110.91, Flowers £20.00. 20/12 GA £30.00, Loose £69.00. 27/12 GA £40.00, Loose £10.00. 3/1 GA £106.00 , Loose £70.00, Donations £150.00, Loan repayment £500.00

An American Catholic Priest writes,

“In today's culture, many people, even those who are baptized Christians, have great difficulty with their own identity. Many people wonder what their purpose is in this life. People find little or no meaning as they carry out their daily activities. A cloud of laziness hangs over many people as they also strive to find direction for their lives. This Sunday's liturgy shows us that Jesus gives us meaning, purpose and direction. It is through the sacrament of baptism that we become his disciples. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, and it is precisely in Jesus that our human existence finds fulfilment. “

Stewards/Wardens Are there any volunteers to help at Brierley Hill on Wednesdays please? Also at Kingswinford as some of our more senior Parishioners have decided to withdraw for the time being, understandably. If so, please speak to Fr Shanju or Stephanie or email the office. Thank you

Collections If you would like to set up a regular donation to your Church via the bank please ask for the details you need. Our income has been severely reduced by the pandemic but sadly the bills have not.

Gerald Price RIP Gerald and his family were long serving members of Old Hill Church and he continued to support the Parish and its Priest financially when he moved to Gloucester to live with his son. His Requiem will be at Halesowen next Wednesday. Please keep Gerald and his family in your prayers.

Sacramental Preparation The children from our school are planning, hoping and praying to receive the Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation this summer if all goes well. Two classes will make their First Holy Communion as they were unable to do so last summer. Fr Shanju is working with Parents, Teachers and the children to prepare them. Please pray for them that will be able to receive these Sacraments.