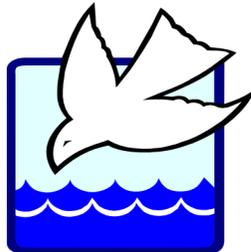


Baptism of the Lord

In the Western Church we end the Christmas season with the Feast of the Lord's "Baptism in the Jordan". The readings between the Feast of the Epiphany and the Feast of the baptism of the Lord are profound, touching the deeper meaning of these feasts. Here are a few sentences from an ancient homily given by the Bishop of Constantinople, St. Proclus:

"At Christmas we saw a weak baby, giving proof of our weakness. In today's feast, we see a perfect man, hinting at the perfect Son who proceeds from the all-perfect Father. At Christmas the King puts on the royal robe of his body; at Epiphany the very source enfolds and, as it were, clothes the river. Come then and see new and astounding miracles: the Sun of righteousness washing in the Jordan, fire immersed in water, God sanctified by the ministry of man..."

For the consecration of Christ is the greater consecration of another element. For when the Saviour is washed, then already for our baptism all water is cleansed and the fount purified, that the grace of the laver may be administered to the peoples that come after. Christ therefore takes the lead in baptism, so that Christian peoples may follow after him with confidence." (St. Maximus of Turin, 423 AD) We are invited on this great Feast to live our lives in the "Theophany" of the God who is a Trinitarian communion of Perfect love. The Christian vocation, no matter what our state in life, is to reveal the Love of the Trinity to the entire human race in order to bring them to the Waters of Baptism into New Life in the new humanity of the Church which is Christ's Body. There, joined in Him we participate in His ongoing redemptive mission until He returns to make all things new. *(Catholic online)*



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.

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

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

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

9TH JANUARY 2022

PSALM RESPONSE

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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.

For in the waters of the Jordan you revealed with signs and wonders a new Baptism, so that through the voice that came down from heaven we might come to believe in your word dwelling among us.

(Roman Missal)



Ordinary time (C2)	Psalter week 1	Intention/Info
Sunday 8th/9th Baptism of the Lord	Sat 5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH 11.30am Mass OH	Sheila & Geoff Smart, Felicity Librie People of the Parish Carol Daly
Monday 10th	4.30pm KF	Reception of body
Tuesday 11th	10am Mass OH 10.30am-11am OH 12.30pm Funeral KF	Rouse Family Adoration and Confessions Peter Battison
Wednesday 12th	10am Mass BH 10.30am-11am BH	Elizabeth - Grandmother Adoration and Confessions
Thursday 13th	9am Mass	School
Friday 14th	7pm KF 7.30pm Mass KF	Adoration and Confessions Healing
Saturday 15th		
Sunday 15th/16th 2nd Sunday of the year	Sat 5pm Mass OH 9.45am Mass BH 11.15am Mass KF	William Fawcett People of the Parish Patrick Madigan

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

Collections KF 2/1 GA £98.00 Loose £110.92

BRIERLEY HILL: Craft Group Mon 17th January 2pm to 4pm in Parish Centre
OLD HILL FOODSHARE Tuesday mornings 11am -1pm
KINGSWINFORD: Friday 9.30 - 11.30am Foodbank .

Please pray for all those who are sick including Fr George Grynowski, William Fawcett, Pauline Bant, Jeanette Amphlett, Dorothy West, Margaret Gilroy, Harold Shackley, Michael Rose, Jill Rowe, James Kearney, Barbara Masterman, Margaret Shipley, Tess Barnsley, Steve Dunn, Lynsey Cooper, Alec Huffer, Kath Emery, Patricia Smith, Roy Davies, Chris and Tony Rylands, Margaret List, Ken Lowe, Peggy Tromans, Rob and Ilona Bryan, Betty Storey, Connie Birch, Stella Jones, Margaret Marlowe, Don Neale, Anne Peters, Jackie Spittle, David Barnsley and Dawn Russon. May the Lord grant them hope and healing.

FOODBANKS - If you are able to donate to them they will be happy to accept your donations. The need is growing so donations are much needed and gratefully received.

SECOND COLLECTIONS - This week for Sisters, next week for Pax Christi

Brother Jaison - from the Seminary will be staying with Fr Shanju for two weeks to gain experience. Please make him welcome.

Mass times -Thank you for all your comments and concerns regarding our change of Mass times. This have been carefully considered before making the decision. From this week we will start with our new weekday Mass times and see how it goes. Please note that only weekday change is on Friday at Kingswinford and the new Sunday Mass time at Kingswinford will be 11.15am We will see how this goes and if any further adjustments need to be made Fr Shanju will give everyone the opportunity to comment.

New Mass times are:
Saturday 5pm Old Hill
Sunday 9.45am Brierley Hill
Sunday 11.15am Kingswinford.

Notice boards as we are changing our Mass times all our outside notice boards will need changing. Does anyone know a sign writer we could get a quote from? Otherwise we will have to just attached laminated revisions to the boards. We will wait to see how it goes before changing the boards so there is no rush. Thanks.

Covid Vaccinations and boosters - The Bishops' Conference has asked all priests to emphasise to their congregations the importance of receiving the booster vaccine where this is possible. There is overwhelming evidence showing the effectiveness of vaccination in preventing serious illness, the further spread of the virus and ultimately death. The vaccination programme, therefore, serves the common good by protecting the population, especially the most vulnerable. **Pope Francis has spoken of the 'moral obligation to be vaccinated' and referred to vaccination as an 'act of love'.** Given that, at the present time, the numbers of people being infected is rising quickly, a collective effort is needed to combat this virus.

Pope's prayer intention for January: For true human fraternity *We pray for all those suffering from religious persecution; may their own rights and dignities be recognised, we originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family. Amen*