

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



New Beginnings - Now when all the people were baptised, and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

This is a great moment for Jesus, a moment when he receives affirmation from God his Father. For the rest of us it is also a momentous occasion. This is the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and a promise of great things to follow. What a shame that our own baptisms aren't as momentous. At best we might have got a party, though of course we were far too young to share the sausage rolls and champagne. Perhaps there's a bit of video footage somewhere in the loft, but it's not likely that we got doves from heaven or God's voice from the clouds. This doesn't however make our baptism unimportant.

Jesus' baptism came at the start of his public ministry and marked a new beginning for us all. The story invites us to look at our own beginnings in light of Jesus' ministry. What have we made of our lives so far? Is there anything we can point to that we feel might have particularly pleased God? Perhaps we have done nothing to please God. Perhaps we have made rather a rocky start. Perhaps we haven't done much to be proud of at all. It doesn't matter; coming so close to the beginning of the year, this feast day is a perfect invitation to start again.

The second thing we learn from this gospel reading is that Jesus was not alone; he was enabled by the Holy Spirit who descended in the bodily form of a dove. The really exciting news is that according to John, we too receive the Holy Spirit in our baptism. We are not alone in our struggles. We too are enabled. That's a genuinely powerful belief.

As we begin yet another new year, we set about facing our challenges with a renewed courage and a renewed faith in the Holy Spirit. We begin again with an appreciation that our baptism is more than just a distant childhood memory.



PARISH PRAYER – Father, pour out your Spirit upon our parish. Grant us a new vision of your glory, a new faithfulness to your Word and a new consecration to your service, that your love might grow among us and your kingdom come, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST. MARGARET MARY [Registered Charity 278742]

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9TH JANUARY 2022 – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – Year C

[1ST Week of the Year, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 1]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 8 Jan.	6.00 pm	The Baptism of the Lord	NHS Staff
Sun. 9 Jan.	9.00 am 11.00 am		The People of the Parish Bill Sibley
Mon. 10 Jan.	-	Feria	No Mass today
Tues. 11 Jan.	-	Feria	No Mass today
Weds. 12 Jan.	-	Feria	No Mass today
Thurs. 13 Jan.	-	Feria	No Mass today
Fri. 14 Jan.	-	Feria	No Mass today
Sat. 15 Jan.	-	Feria	No morning Mass
Sun. 16 Jan.	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Marian Matthew (Cyriac 3/5) Annie & James Whittingham The People of the Parish

The Church is open daily until 5:00pm

Anniversaries this week: Jane Elizabeth Winifred Oaksford, James Tinney, Margaret Jones, Pamela Whigham, Elizabeth Brocklehurst, Nell Hunt, V. Rev. Canon Herbert Gray (1st Priest at Dereham), Harry Monk, Rachael McErleane, Cicely Harvey. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Useful links: Diocesan Safeguarding – <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/safeguarding/>
Diocesan Website – <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>
Notre Dame High School, Norwich – <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>
Daily Liturgy Website – www.universalis.com

ALL MASSES ARE LIVE STREAMED ON YouTube –

Search for **Dereham Catholic Church** on YouTube, or use the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR-qWs-B40VTvbezZ83MxQ/videos?view=2&flow=grid>

The parish newsletter (incl. back copies) is available to view on the parish website from Friday onward each week.

Hospital Visits: If you or any member of your family is admitted to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and would like to have a visit from a Catholic Priest, please inform a nurse on the ward and contact will be made through the Chaplaincy. If you are admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn, please contact Fr. Peter Rollings at the Presbytery on 01553 772220. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick before going into hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan either by phone or by email.

Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – Please pray for: Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Derek Williams, Greta Cummings, Patsy Gray, Allan Michael Howard, Collette Barrow-Nessian, Terri Sanderson, Ellen Harrington, Betty Reavey, Marion Ring-Davies.

Money Matters: Thank you for your offering of £204.00 for the maintenance of our parish last weekend and for an additional £50.00 for the Christmas Offering.

For those who would like to make their regular offerings by Standing Order, the information you need is: Account name: **Catholic Church of Dereham**. The Sort Code is: **40-20-08** and the Account number is: **11311115**. If you are a tax payer, please also consider **Gift Aid**. This is a great way for the parish to get additional funds from the tax reclaim benefits scheme; with this scheme you do not need to commit to a fixed amount as it will just be based on your total annual contribution. Let Fr. Brendan know if you would like to sign up to Gift Aid.



Newsletter by Email - Please let Fr. Brendan know if you would like to receive the parish's weekly bulletin by email. We have a GDPR compliant list of names for this purpose.

Retreat: I am going on retreat to Clare Priory from Monday to Friday hence the absence of weekday Mass during the week. Fr. Michael Stack will have the telephone line transferred to him while I am away for sick calls etc. A retreat really is just withdrawing from the day-to-day things for a chance to reflect, pray and just be in the presence of God for a while. It can be described as doing nothing in God's presence. A chance to wind down and just be.

First Communion Class – Saturday, 15th January – 10.30-11.30 a.m. in the Emmaus Room.

Deputy Headteacher required at St Alban's Catholic Primary School, Cambridge - Are you an inspiring Deputy Headteacher who would like to work in a very successful school in the heart of Cambridge city? We are looking for someone new to fill this position due to the promotion of our current Deputy. For more details contact Joanne Koehler, School administrator, on 01223 712148, office @stalbans.cambs.sch.uk or visit www.stalbans.cambs.sch.uk. Ideally, this post is from the start of the summer term 2022 but we accept it may have to be in the autumn.

Thirst for Life: Take on the 'Thirst for Life Challenge' this January and bring water to all - This January, challenge yourself. The challenge could be to give up your favourite drink for two weeks or for the whole of January. With the money you save, or with the money you

raise through sponsorship, you can donate online at Christian Aid to support our global neighbours who are struggling for water due to the climate crisis. Visit www.christianaid.org.uk/ and follow the 'Thirst for Life' link to donate online.

Recommended Reading: Time for a Change: Pocket Seminar for Reflection and Growth by Anselm Grün - We are frequently faced with decisions about whether to make small or major changes to our lives. Sometimes it's better to hang on and examine our circumstances from a fresh perspective. This book can help with those situations. It asks the right questions which each of us can answer for ourselves. There's plenty of space for writing and jotting down notes, along with practical advice for everyday use on putting your answers to work. The result is an essential companion for reflection and growth. *Redemptorist Publication. Available on Amazon.*

Be A Champion E-Campaigner in 2022 - Our Catholic aid agencies and Christian networks do so much good but they all rely on our help whether it be by offering prayers, volunteering, giving money or campaigning. Campaigning can often be little more than writing to an MP or sending an email to the prime minister. None of us are too busy or too poor to help out in our own way. Your support matters so the first step is to make sure you are in touch. Spend five minutes logging in to your favourite charity websites and registering for a newsletter. This way, all the most up to date charity news will arrive straight to your inbox throughout 2022 and there will most definitely be times when you will want to help or to add your voice.

Bitesize – “The obstacles of your past can become the gateways that lead to new beginnings.” ~*Ralph Blum*

Continuing to Pray the Prayer of the Synod: Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

“We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path, nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity, so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.”

Prayer for the Election of a Bishop - God, eternal shepherd, who govern your flock with unflinching care, grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

St Felix: *Pray for us*; St Fursey: *Pray for us*; St Edmund: *Pray for us*;
All Holy Martyrs and Saints of East Anglia: *Pray for us*.