

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Living Baptism - Very few of us remember our own baptism, and perhaps we have never really even questioned why it might be important, other than something we might need to attend a Catholic School or get married. Perhaps we need to look to Jesus' baptism to know how privileged we really are to have been baptised.

What does Jesus' baptism say to us? Jesus' thirty years of preparation before his public baptism remind us that it takes time to get ready for God's mission. How many countless hours did Jesus spend in prayer?

What study, what thought, what agony must he have undergone before appearing in front of John to ask him to baptize him. We are reminded that baptism isn't just something that happens to us as children, it's something we have to live out on a daily basis.

January is a time for new beginnings and fresh resolution. John the Baptist was an expert on this. John's ministry was all about repentance and life changing reform ... that's what his baptism was all about. But anyone who has ever seriously tried to change themselves will know how difficult change really is. The addict will tell you how difficult it is to quit gambling, drinking or cigarettes. All of us can point to parts of our life that remain stubbornly unchanged year in and year out. Those who were baptised by John were baptised as a sign of their intent to change from their old ways, but knowing how difficult change can be, we can't help wondering how successful they must have been. Perhaps John appreciated this too when he said "I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

Christians are hugely privileged people. We are told that the same Holy Spirit that empowered Jesus at the outset of his ministry, is the same Holy Spirit that is given to us in our baptism. Validating our baptism anew every day, knowing that we are filled with the Holy Spirit change isn't beyond any of us.

Bitesize – "When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves." ~ Victor Frankl



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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10TH JANUARY 2021 – BAPTISM OF THE LORD – Year B

[1st Week of the year, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 1]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 9 Jan.	6.00 pm	BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Pat & Enda Clarke (Perrin) Holy Souls The People of the Parish
Sun. 10 Jan.	9.00 am 11.00 am		
Mon. 11 Jan.	10.00 am	Feria	Holy Souls
Tues. 12 Jan.	-	Feria	No Mass today
Weds. 13 Jan.	10.00 am	Feria	Covid-19 Sick
Thurs. 14 Jan.	10.00 am	Feria	For those who are anxious
Fri. 15 Jan.	10.00 am	Feria	For the election of a bishop
Sat. 16 Jan.	-	St Fursey	No morning Mass
Sun. 17 Jan.	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	2 nd Sunday in Ord. Time	Holy Souls Annie & James Whittingham The People of the Parish

All Celebrations of Mass are livestreamed on YouTube

CHURCH OPEN DAILY: *The Church is open daily until 4:00 pm*

Anniversaries this week: Margaret Jones, Pamela Whigham, Elizabeth Brocklehurst, Nell Hunt, Very Rev. Canon Herbert Gray (1st Priest at Dereham), Harry Monk, Rachael McErleane, Cicely Harvey, Louise Bennett, Ellen Carey. *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

DAILY MASS LIVE STREAM – Search for **Dereham Catholic Church on YouTube**,
Or use the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR-qWs-B40VTvbzezZ83MxQ/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 family members are admitted to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital (NNUH) or Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, King's Lynn (QEII), and would like a visit from the Roman Catholic Chaplain, please call either St. John's Cathedral, Norwich (01603 624615) for visits to NNUH, or call the NNUH Hospital Chaplaincy direct on 01603 287470 for people needing urgent spiritual attention, or for visits to QEII Hospital, call Fr. Peter Rollings on 01553 772220. If you would like to receive the Sacrament or Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – Please pray for: Jenny Rudd, Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Una McWeeny, Derek Williams, Greta Cummings and Patsy Gray.

Money Matters: 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.

National Lockdown Guidance January 2021 - the following has been published by the Government and can be found at the following link: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/949536/NationalLockdownGuidance.pdf. The Places of Worship Guidance (updated 22nd December 2020) summarises the position for our churches. This can be found in full here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-from-2-december>. **A copy of the full guidance can be found on the parish website. Relevant extracts are as follows:**

- **Communal worship**, including prayers, devotions or meditations led by a Minister of Religion or lay person - Mass and other acts of worship can continue as normal following the Covid-security guidance that has been published by the Bishops' Conference after consultation with officials from Public Health England and MHCLG. People must not mingle indoors with anyone they do not live with or have not formed a support bubble with. You must not attend or mix with anyone outside your household or support bubble.
- **Weddings and civil partnership** ceremonies must only take place with up to 6 people. Anyone working is not included. These should only take place in exceptional circumstances, for example urgent marriages where one of those getting married is seriously ill and not expected to recover, or due where to undergo debilitating

treatment or lifechanging surgery. Please refer to the guidance for small marriages and civil partnerships during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Attendees should socially distance from anyone they do not live with (unless they are in their support bubble). Weddings planned for the next 6 weeks should be deferred.

- **Funerals** - In all areas, there must be no more than 30 people attending. Anyone working is not included as part of the 30-person limit. Please refer to the COVID-19: guidance for managing a funeral during the coronavirus pandemic. Attendees should socially distance from anyone they do not live with (unless they are in their support bubble).
- **Commemorative events** to celebrate the life of a person who has died These are events which occur to commemorate or mark the deceased's passing. Examples include a wake, a stone setting ceremony or the scattering of ashes. Only 6 people can attend a commemorative event which would include the interment of ashes after a cremation. The immediate burial of a coffin after a church or crematorium-based service would be subject to 30 people or the restrictions imposed locally by the graveyard or crematorium authorities.
- **Significant life cycle events**, outside of marriage ceremonies and funerals In all areas where such events are an element of communal worship, they are subject to the requirements for communal worship set out above. This means that the numbers of people permitted to attend life-cycle events such as baptisms, confirmations and other significant sacramental celebrations are subject to the Covid-security determined limits of the church.
- **Supervised children's activities** must only take place where reasonably necessary to enable parents to work, seek work, attend education or training; any activity which is church-based must be fully risk assessed and necessary for the above reasons.
- **Support Group activities** should be fully risk-assessed and full Covid-security measures should be in place.
- **Small prayer and study groups** - In person prayer or study groups (which would include catechesis for the celebration of the sacraments) should not take place physically, but only using online means.
- **Other requirements governing the use of** face coverings, provision of sanitisers, ventilation, minimising the time that people are in church, no congregational singing, cleaning etc. remain in force.

Intercessions for the election of a new bishop for East Anglia – We are asked to pray for all those who will be involved, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in the appointment of Bishop Alan's successor for the Diocese of East Anglia. The concluding prayer at the Bidding Prayers from now on will be for the Election of a Bishop. There are cards with this prayer for distribution and it will be in the bulletin each week. In this endeavour, we are also encouraged to pray the Rosary and to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament.