



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

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Diocese of Northampton

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8 th January 2023 Psalter Week 1	The Baptism of the Lord The Season of Christmas	
First Reading	Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7 <i>Here is my servant in whom my soul delights.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	The Lord will bless his people with peace.	
Second Reading	Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38 <i>God anointed him with the Holy Spirit.</i>	
Gospel Acclimatation	Alleluia, Alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to Him!' Alleluia!	
Gospel	Matthew 3:13-17 <i>As soon as Jesus was baptised, He saw the Spirit of God coming down on Him.</i>	
Saturday 7th January +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (David Watson RIP)
Sunday 8th January +	10.30am	Mass (McCarthy family Int.)
Monday 9th January <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today
Tuesday 10th January <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass (Fr John Fowler RIP)
Wednesday 11th January <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 12th January St Aelred of Rievaulx – op memoria		No Parish Mass today
Friday 13th January St Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop & Doctor	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Service of Word & Holy Communion
Saturday 14th January <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass this morning
SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
Peace Day		
Saturday 14th January	6.30pm	Vigil Mass (For the Parish)
Sunday 15th January +	10.30am	Mass (Fr Brian Leatherland RIP)

White Flower Appeal – the annual White Flower Appeal in support of the work carried out by SPUC, is scheduled for **next weekend - 14th/15th January.**



Mass Intentions

If you would like a Mass offered for a particular intention, please try to give us at least two months' notice of the date/time that you would like. Already there are no available dates in January and February is beginning to fill up. Whilst every effort is made to offer the Mass on your chosen date, there are occasions when this may need to be amended. Thank you.

Home & Hospital Visiting - As people get elderly, we appreciate that it may be difficult for them to attend Mass. If you have an elderly family member who is not able to come to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the parish office on **01234 711212**. If any parishioner is expecting to be admitted to hospital for planned treatment, and would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, please contact Father David before you go in. Also, if you are admitted to hospital, please make the hospital admissions team aware that you are a Catholic, so that you can be offered the opportunity to receive Holy Communion.

MK Food Bank – We have been asked by the staff at the MK Food Bank to remind donors that all donations of food need to have a 'use by' date of at least two months please. This is to enable the safe distribution of those making use of the Food Bank. A massive thank you for all your donations, particularly over this Christmas period – as we can all appreciate, in these very challenging times, the numbers relying on the Food Bank are increasing dramatically.



Used Postage Stamps - We all get lots of used stamps at this time of year so please save them and leave them at the back of the church marked for Denise. They will be forwarded onto the National Children's Society to enable them to raise additional funds.



The Spiritual Testament of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

On 29th August 2006, the Holy See released the Spiritual Testament of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. This has been published by Vatican News and you can read this by following the link:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2022-12/the-spiritual-testament-of-pope-emeritus-benedict-xvi.html>

Fr Robert Spitzer is a Jesuit Priest and is currently the President of the Magis Centre of Reason and Faith and the Spitzer Centre for Ethical Leadership. He is the host of a weekly international EWTN television programme – Fr Spitzer's Universe. There is a very interesting video on You Tube showing Fr Spitzer delivering a talk entitled:

'The Latest Scientific Evidence of God and the Soul' – you can view this by following the link: <https://youtu.be/KvghlgftwnE>



St AELRED OF RIEVAULX - In 1143, Aelred was appointed abbot of Revesby Abbey, a newly founded Cistercian monastery in Lincolnshire. However, he was destined to greater things and in 1147 was recalled to Rievaulx (*North Yorkshire Moors*) to serve as its third abbot. Over the next 20 years, the already thriving monastery became a religious, cultural and economic powerhouse. According to Walter Daniel, Aelred ‘doubled everything’, the size of the community reaching 640 men. The name of Rievaulx became famous at the royal courts of England, France and Scotland and to popes in Rome. The monastery attracted recruits from across Europe. These included men who had struggled to settle at other monasteries. In Aelred, they found a loving and compassionate father and were able to fulfil their monastic vocation. Walter Daniel and his brother monks held their abbot in such esteem that they called him ‘our Aelred’.



St HILARY, Bishop & Doctor of the Church - was born in Poitiers at the beginning of the fourth century, Hilary was elected Bishop of that city in the year 350. He combatted the Arians relentlessly, for which reason he was exiled by the emperor Constantine. For the purpose of strengthening the Catholic faith and interpreting sacred scripture he published works which are outstanding in their wisdom and learning. He died in the year 367. “I realise indeed, almighty God and Father, that the overriding duty of my life to you, is that you should be the subject of all my words and all my thoughts.”

From the treatise of St Hilary on the Trinity

From Fr. David's desk.....



Baptism of the Lord - Do you know the date of your Baptism? We all know the date of our birth, when we entered this world from our mother's womb: the human life nurtured and grown within the womb was then nurtured and helped to grow in the world. But the day of our Baptism was when we entered into the new world which Christ came to inaugurate. That

world is the world of grace – the world where we begin to share God's life in a way that changes us for ever. The day of our birth was the beginning of our human life which will one day end in this world. But the day of our Baptism was the beginning of our living a life that, when we die in this world, will see no sunset, no dimming, no weakening but an ever-greater share in the infinite and joyful plenitude of God's existence. All this has already begun in us – on the day of our Baptism. This is why St Paul could exclaim, “I live – no, it is not I who live but Christ who lives in me” (Galatians 2:20).

So, the day when we were baptised was the day when we became God's children because we were joined to Jesus and He was joined to us. This is Jesus who died and rose again for us: His risen human nature is now alive with the incorruptible and vibrant fullness of who He is as God. Baptism marks the moment when the transformation that took place in Jesus at His Resurrection begins to work its effect in us – note the word “begins”: this is a transformation that takes place throughout our lives and will only reach its fullness in eternal life and most of all the final Resurrection of the body. What this will be like we do not know – but it will be beautiful and magnificent. The words of St John hint at this, “*We shall be like Him because we shall see Him as He really is*” (1 John 3:2). St Paul describes it in a way that links with St John: “*God will be all in all*” (1 Corinthians 15:28). The key point is that within each one of us this Resurrection-life is at work and growing – and it all began the day we were baptised.

St Paul in his letter to the Colossians expresses this beautifully: “*I became a servant of the Church when God made me responsible for delivering God's message to you, the message which was a mystery hidden for generations and centuries and has now been revealed to his saints... The mystery is Christ in you, your hope of glory: this is the Christ we proclaim, this is the wisdom in which we thoroughly train everyone and instruct everyone, to make them all mature in Christ*” (Colossians 1:25-26,27b-28).

Christ is in you! Just as we need food and drink and care and love to grow naturally, this life of God that each of us has been given at Baptism all so needs to be helped to grow. We have to become mature in Christ. Our personal faith has to grow and we each have the personal responsibility to nurture this growth – through prayer, the sacraments, through living our Faith and putting it into practice through love. These are the things no-one else can do for us. It is a responsibility for each of us. Yet, it is more of a gift and privilege than a responsibility – we each get to work with Jesus Christ! The apostles worked with Jesus 2000 years ago; but they were not to be the only ones to get to do so. Each of us is invited by Jesus to join Him in His great work of salvation. We reap the harvest of salvation with Him in our own selves – but we also help to sow the seed of salvation elsewhere and help it to grow in others. Jesus is in us. We are not alone. And we have the help of the whole Church and of our parish and families and friends – we all reap the harvest together: we don't have to do anything just on our own. We have Jesus in us – in each of us and therefore in all of us, and this makes us always never alone but joined to each other. All this because of Baptism.

So, what is the date of the anniversary of your Baptism? Find out. Mark it in your diary. Make it a day of celebration. Something mighty began in each of us that day. It really is something to celebrate. Our Lady declared that God had done great things for her; for this reason, she cried out, “*My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.*” Make that day a day to join Our Lady in rejoicing in our Saviour.

May Our Lady Help of Christians, Mary, Mother of God, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St John Henry Newman, St John the Baptist, St Aelred of Rievaulx, St Hilary of Poitiers pray for us all.

With our love and prayers to you all - Fr David, Fr Patrick & Deacon Peter