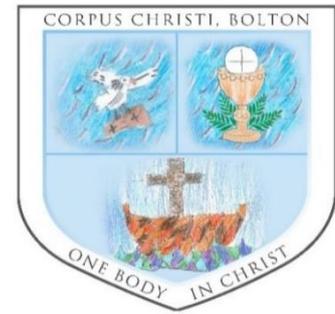


Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

St John, the Evangelist, Bromley Cross, St Columba's, Tonge Moor
and St Brendan's, Harwood

8 January 2023

The Baptism of The Lord



On the threshold of a New Year, we begin again the Gospel stories of the Ministry of Our Lord. We look back over two thousand years to the beginning of the Good News, and in our scriptures, we go back even further to the creation stories and the words of the Prophets. When we do this, it is so important not to lose sight of what is to come; we can be so immersed in the past that we fail to understand that we live in the present day and that what we are to be is more important than what we are today.

Isaiah, in our first reading, is looking forward to the coming of the Servant of the Lord. He paints a portrait of a humble man, filled with the Spirit of God, who will act with integrity and justice. This is not the figure of a king or a warrior but of a man who cares for his people. One who will bring true justice into the lives of all the people and who seeks to free those who are blind, those who are in prison, those who live in darkness and bring them back into God's light.

Peter has seen God's light, he has followed Him through the Holy Land, sat with him at table, and listened to His word. Now enlightened by that light he realises that the mission of Jesus was not to the Jews alone but to all the peoples of the world. Led by the spirit he comes to the house of Cornelius, a pagan, a Roman, one who in the eyes of the Law was unclean. He sits at table with him, shares in his meal and speaks to him and his household about the Lord. He has come to realise that God does not have favourites; after the meal he baptises all who have found faith in Jesus Christ.

John begins the preparations for the coming of Christ; he leads the ordinary people to a baptism of repentance through washing away their sins in the waters of the Jordan. Now Jesus comes to him, He requires no distinction between Himself and the people gathered in this place. He is content to share in this baptism. We are all equal in the eyes of God and, as we enter this new year, the regrets of the past can be put aside if we seek forgiveness and can look forward to working for God's Kingdom and a new life in Christ.

David Frank

Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1
Divine Office Week 1
Roman Missal: p172*

Sunday 8 January-1st Week in Ordinary Time

9.30am Mass (SJ)- With Children's Liturgy
11am Mass (SB)

Monday 9 January

6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 10 January

10am Requiem Mass for Kathleen Banks (SB)
7.30pm Christian Meditation (SJ)

Wednesday 11 January

9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)
9.30am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 12 January

10am Mass (SB)

Friday 13 January

No Mass Today

Saturday 14 January

11am Mass Exposition & Adoration (SJ)
11.30am Mass (SJ)
5pm Vigil Mass of 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

Sunday 15 January - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Mass (SJ)
11am Mass (SB)
12.30pm Baptism (SJ)

Parish Contact Details

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HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends: Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Pat Margiotta, Frances Skemp, Edwin Rankin, Philip Anderson, Vincent Hopkinson, Irene Clappison, Dorothy Killoran, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, Wynn & Michael Latham, Irene Sheridan, Thomas Baker, Kathryn Browning, Rachel Edge, Fr Leo Heakin, Peter Hayler, Frank Vickers, Frederick Parkinson, Mary Fitzgerald, Helen Fraser, Peter Reilly, Sheila Derbyshire, Helene Draper

Lately Dead: Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Mary Airey, Agnes Kirby, Kathleen Banks, Josephine Ward, Winifred Dawson, James Costello, Malcom Neill, Margaret Hodginson

Anniversaries: Marian Kosecki, Fr Gerard Duffy, May O'Brien, Neville Smith, Ivy Cooper, Eileen Croft, Harriet McAvoy

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Sheila Hayes (Birthday Remembrance), Kathleen Banks, Winifred Dawson, The Whyte & Eastwood Families (Living & Deceased), James Costello, Malcolm Neill, Margaret Hodginson, Marian Kosecki, Mary Airey, Fr Gerard Duffy, May O'Brien, Neville Smith, Ivy Cooper, Eileen Croft, Harriet McAvoy, a Special Intention, In Thanksgiving

During Ordinary Time, we pray for: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God, Christian Unity, The sick and those who care for them; Victims of trafficking and those who work to combat it; the Unemployed

We continue to pray for peace and an end to the conflict in Ukraine

Financial Support: We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially. Thank you

Cheques: Please make all cheques payable to **Corpus Christi**.

Standing Order: Please contact us if you would like to set up a direct payment. *Thank you*

Confirmations 2023: Please note, the date for the Sacrament of Confirmation has changed. It will now be on **Thursday 13 July 2023, 6.30pm at Thornleigh.**

Parish Trip to the Holy Land: Monday 6 November-Monday 13 November 2023. Booking forms are now available. Once completed, please return to Parish Office with the deposit by **Sunday 5 February.** Thank you.

Christian Meditation Dates for the New Year (7.30pm-8.30pm):

- 10 January at St John's
- 17 January at St Brendan's
- 24 January at St John's
- 31 January at St Brendan's

Readers for 14/15 January 2023		
5pm(SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am(SB)
S Mikolajewski	A Hayes	C Ezeogu

A Note from Fr Alf: As we know Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who served as Supreme Pontiff from April 2005 to February 2013, died aged 95, on New Year's Eve. A short statement from Matteo



Bruni, Director of the Holy See's Press Office, said: "With sorrow I inform you that the Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI, passed away today at 9.34am in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican." Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Bishops' Conference, said:

"I am deeply saddened to learn of the death of Pope Benedict. He will be remembered as one of the great theologians of the 20th century.

"I remember with particular affection the remarkable Papal Visit to these lands in 2010. We saw his courtesy, his gentleness, the perceptiveness of his mind and the openness of his welcome to everybody that he met."

"He was through and through a gentleman, through and through a scholar, through and through a pastor, through and through a man of God - close to the Lord and always his humble servant."

"Pope Benedict is very much in my heart and in my prayers. I give thanks to God for his ministry and leadership."

May he and all the faithful departed rest in peace Amen

Can I take this opportunity to welcome our visiting seminarian Carmine Rea, who is staying with us for three weeks. I am sure we will all make Carmine feel at home in our parish.

I cannot believe that I am coming up to my fourth anniversary at here at Corpus Christi, and my third as Parish Priest time certainly does fly.

I hope you all had an enjoyable and blessed Christmas season and may I take this opportunity to thank everyone for your kind wishes, cards, prayers, and gifts. As we emerge from Covid we always aim to strengthen links with our children and young families via our schools and I am so grateful to the kind volunteers who have assisted in the re-emergence of Children's liturgy.

May I wish you and all your families and friends a very Happy, Blessed and Peaceful New Year.

Every good gift comes from the Father of Light. May he grant you his grace and every blessing and keep you safe throughout this coming year. May he grant you unwavering faith, constant hope, and love that endures to the end. May he order your days and work in his peace, hear your every prayer, and lead you to everlasting life and joy...AMEN. (New Year Blessing).

With every blessing Fr Alf

