

ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

The R.C. Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity

Parish Priest: Father Oliver O'Doherty 29 Zetland St, Dukinfield, Cheshire SK16 4EJ

Website: stmaryandstpaul.org.uk

Email: o.odoherty@ntlworld.com

Telephone: 0161 330 2424

The Baptism of the Lord

10th January 2021

THEME: This is my Son, the beloved. Listen to him

Associating himself with all those flocking to put their relationship right with God, Jesus, though sinless, came to the banks of the Jordan to be baptised by John. As the Spirit came down on him like a dove, God audibly confirms both his status and his mission. Through Jesus the Spirit confirms us, too, and lives within us to carry out the work of establishing God's kingdom on earth.

MASS TIMES from Monday 11th January: St Mary's & St Paul's Saturday 6-00pm Vigil Mass.

Sunday 9-30am, 11-00am. Tues, Weds, Thurs, Fri 9-00am **All services take place in St Paul's church.**

RECENT DEATHS: Kath Manley, Robert Heywood and Mary Lord. We offer our sincere sympathy to all their families, relatives and friends.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: Mark 1:7-11. Jesus' mission was foundation building. He was to clear the ground, dig deep, and prepare God's people for a completely new stage in their relationship with Him. By the means of the word and sacrament he touched their hearts and consciences until they were receptive enough to know their Saviour when he stood among them in everyday clothes, looking like any other village carpenter.

For however clearly God thunders and makes his will known, those who have closed their minds will be unable to see or understand. By convincing ourselves that God is inactive, we effectively blind ourselves to his acts. And although he yearns for our acceptance of his love, he will find it almost impossible to attract our attention. So it is of utmost importance that we keep God's access routes clear of the debris of sin and daily clutter; then we shall be given the valuable gift of discernment.

PUBLIC WORSHIP TO CONTINUE DURING THE NATIONAL LOCKDOWN: Bishop Mark writes that it is with sadness that we learnt that the Scottish Administration has prohibited all public worship. In England we are conscious that we will be subject to even greater scrutiny as to how we implement the required safety measures.

My engagement with the media in defence of the freedom to worship suggests there will be some lack of sympathy and even incomprehension as to why churches and other places of worship remain open while other gatherings and facilities are prohibited by force of law. We have a grave responsibility to provide for the safety of those who come together for worship together with the safety of the wider community. This a daunting task, yet we have all the means to ensure the safety of parishioners and that of the wider public by following the extensive guidance provided which we can say is tried and tested in all the months since the summer of last year. I hope we can go through the time ahead both with confidence and a continued sense of responsibility that has been seen in all our parishes not least at Christmas.

THE GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT: You can leave your home to attend or visit a place of worship for communal worship, a funeral, or event related to death, a burial ground or a remembrance garden or to attend a wedding ceremony. You should follow the guidance on the safe use of places of worship and must not mingle with anyone outside of your own household or support bubble when attending a place of worship.

ARRANGEMENTS for MASS

- If you are intending to come to mass please provide advance notification, preferably by email john.storey6@btopenworld.com or tel: 0161 330 2424.
- A face mask must be worn whilst you are in Church. The only exception is for children 3 and under. Please do not come to mass if you are feeling ill or if you are unable to wear a face covering.
- On arrival you will be asked to sanitise your hands and check your name against the booked list.
- You will be guided to a pew. To avoid passing those already seated, pews are filled from the front.
- Mass will take approximately 30 minutes and there will be no singing
- **Holy Communion will be distributed after the final blessing.** Please remain seated whilst Father prepares for communion. Stewards will then guide the congregation for communion starting with the front pews of the centre aisle. After receiving communion **do not return to your seat** and leave church by the exit doors on the left (front of church at St Mary's, back of church at St Paul's).
- **Parishioners with disability must not leave St Mary's church through the front door of the house due to the steps but through the main door of the church.** John Storey and his helpers will assist you with advice if needed.
- **The toilets will not be open.**

DEPUTY HEADSHIP ST MARY'S: Bishop Mark and the director of schools for the Shrewsbury diocese, have advised that the filling of this post be deferred due to the lock down. It will be readvertised at a later date.

DIOCESAN YEAR BOOK 2021: Are on sale in both churches price £5. Once again it is full of very useful information including all the Pastoral letters issued by Bishop Mark throughout 2020.

ST MARY'S CHURCH: Will be closed for redecoration from Monday January 11th until Friday February 5th. The 9-30am and 11-00am Sunday masses will be celebrated in St Paul's Church. Weekday masses on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday will be celebrated in St Paul's at 9-00am. Requiem masses and funeral services will also be held in St Paul's.

GIFT AID: If you have previously signed a Gift Aid form and are no longer paying Tax, please let Mary McDonough know by email mrm.32hillmount@gmail.com or leave a message on 07305301299.

SECOND COLLECTION: Today is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and the Second Collection will be for crib donations that will go to Shrewsbury Caritas.

RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION: Next weekend the annual collection for the 'Retired Priests Fund' will be held. If you wish to Gift Aid your donation or avoid the handling of cash, please make your donation on line using the www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/retired-priests-fund

OFFERTORY: Thank you to everyone for your offerings to St Mary's or St Paul's. There will be no collection at Mass, but there will be a basket for your offertory as you leave Church. If you would like to set up a standing order or to Gift Aid your donations, please contact Mary McDonough after Mass, or via email mrm.32hillmount@gmail.com. The forms can be sent electronically.

Mother Earth: At the heart of our problem today, Pope Francis seemed to be saying, is that we have forgotten the utter dependence we all have on the earth, our Mother. In fact, Pope Francis says that Western society, in particular, has allowed itself to believe its own super human myth: we are masters over the earth. As Pope Francis puts it, society has developed 'irrational confidence in progress and human abilities'. This seen from our fascination with technological advances like space travel, our ability to travel right across the world, communicating simultaneously with billions of people, generating electricity from separating atoms, and even manipulating DNA. All of this is truly astonishing, but it has blinded us to a much more profound truth about existence: for all our scientific advancements, we remain dependent on one small planet. *Lorna Gold. Climate generation.*

BIDDING PRAYERS for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Priest: Let us bring our prayer to God the Father through his beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

We pray for Christians everywhere: through our common baptism, may we foster unity among the churches, so that we may live as one people and promote God's love throughout the world.

Lord, hear us

We pray for church leaders; may they become immersed in the lives of the people they serve and support those who are vulnerable, poor and oppressed.

Lord, hear us

We pray for those who work for peace and justice: may we nurture the paths to peace among our neighbours and all nations.

Lord, hear us

We pray for God's creation: that we may serve as protectors of the natural world given to us by God.

Lord, hear us

We pray for the souls of the faithful departed, those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries fall around this time: may they inherit the glories that God has prepared for those who love him.

Lord, hear us

We pray for our own special needs.

Hail Mary, full of grace the Lord is with you. Blessed are you amongst all women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death, Amen.

Priest: God our Father, your Holy Spirit hovered over the waters at creation's birth and descended on Jesus in the form of a dove; open our hearts and minds, so that we may follow Jesus path of service and reflect the glory of your kingdom. Through Christ our Lord Amen.

The Readings for Sunday 10th January 2021

Entrance Antiphon After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah 55:1-11

Thus says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you. Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

Psalm 147

Response: **With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water

from the wells of salvation. **Response**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. **Response**

Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds;
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Response

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John 5:1-9

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth – so that there are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and all three of them agree. We accept the testimony of human witnesses, but God's testimony is much greater, and this is God's testimony, given as evidence for his Son.

Alleluia, alleluia! John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said:

This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. **Alleluia!**

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1:7-11

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said: 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

Communion Antiphon Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the son of God.

Gloria:

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise You,
We bless You
We adore you
We glorify You
We give You thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father almighty.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only-begotten Son.
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
You take away the sins of the world, receive our
prayer;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One.
You alone are the Lord.
You alone are the most high,
Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen

Credo:

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
Of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the
Father; through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of
life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic
Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen