

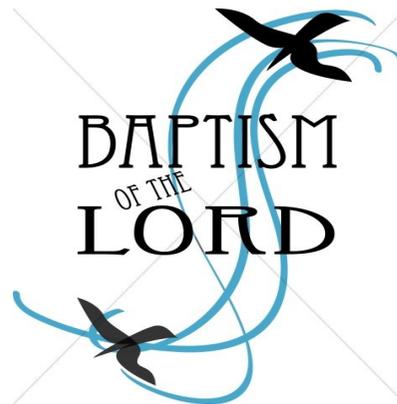
Reflection—

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In today's Gospel, as in the other Gospel accounts of Jesus' baptism, we hear John the Baptist address the confusion of the people who thought that John might be the Messiah. In response, John contrasts the baptism that he performs with the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptised with water, but that someone will come and baptize with the Holy Spirit. The type of baptism that John performed was not yet a Christian Baptism; it was a preparation for Christian Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.



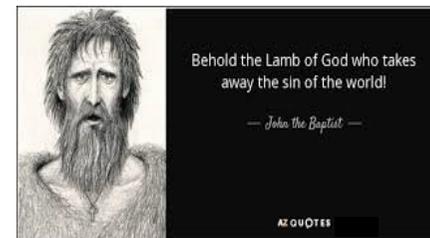
The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, it was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. The Evangelists Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. Compare this to Matthew's Gospel in which the voice from heaven speaks to everyone. In Luke, however, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus during his time of prayer after his baptism. Through his Gospel, Luke will show Jesus to be a person of prayer who withdraws regularly from the crowds and his disciples to pray to his Father.

The baptism of Jesus is considered a manifestation of God in Jesus, another "epiphany." On this, the last day of the Christmas season, our Gospel reveals to us Jesus' relation to God: the son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. In Luke's Gospel, all three members of the Trinity are manifested here: God the Father in the voice, the Holy Spirit descending, and Jesus the Son. At the beginning of his Gospel, Luke is communicating to us important information about the identity of Jesus. In the verses that follow, Luke lists the genealogy of Jesus, tracing Jesus' ancestry back to the first person, Adam, who is also identified as the son of God. We, the children of Adam and Eve, are again made children of God through Baptism.



Saturday	11th	The Feast of	Vigil Mass 4 pm Parishioners
Sunday	12th	the Baptism of the Lord	Mass 9.30 am That people will listen to God as he speaks
Monday	13th	Feria	NO MASS
Tuesday	14th	Feria	Mass 10 am All Ordinands
Wednesday	15th	Feria	Mass 10 am Anthony Wood
Thursday	16th	Christmas Feria	Mass 10 am Sick in the parish
Friday	17th	St. Anthony, abbot	Mass 10 am All religious sisters & brothers
Saturday	18th	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Vigil Mass 4 pm

Next Week : THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A):
Saturday 18th January 2020 Vigil Mass 4 pm and Sunday 19th January Mass at 9.30am



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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION :

Fr. Paul will be in the confessional on Saturday 11th January 11.30-12noon and **between 3.30 and 3.50pm** before the Vigil Mass. **OTHER TIMES BY APPOINTMENT.**



EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION ON FRIDAYS EACH WEEK.

After Mass on Friday morning the Blessed Sacrament will be Exposed on the Altar for adoration, prayer & reflection. Benediction at 11.15am

It was well supported in Advent we will see if people wish to continue.

Take this time to be before the Lord in his Blessed Sacrament.

NEXT PARISH MEETING IN HALL THIS SUNDAY 12TH. JANUARY AFTER THE MASS. DON'T RUSH HOME STAY AND JOIN IN WITH THE ORGANISATION OF YOUR PARISH?

As the season of Christmas comes to an end what are we going to do with our Christmas cards as we take them down?

Obviously recycle them but why not bring them to St. Benedict's so that the Chintowa Charity can use them to make cards for next Christmas?

Fr. Paul and Andrea are giving their cards to Margaret so they can be re-used. Please bring your cards and we will make sure they are used again.

MASS ATTENDANCE IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2019

30/1	88	7/8	112
14/15	99	21/22	114
24/25	241	28/29	78

A reminder to all who are in the **GIFT AID SCHEME.** Please ensure we have been informed of any change of address or Tax situation. **THANK YOU.**

If you are not Gift Aiding your church giving why not do it?

Notice seen on a Catholic Church notice board:
We are still open between Christmas and Easter.

GUILD OF ST. STEPHEN THANKSGIVING MASS 2020

This year it will be celebrated on **SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2020**

By Bishop David McGough in St. Chad's Cathedral, Queensway, Birmingham B4 6EX

At 12 noon.

Followed by refreshments in the Grimshaw room.

Fr. Paul hopes that St. Benedict's will be well represented by our Servers who are in the Guild.

More information nearer the time. Please put the date in your diary now.



St. Benedict's Church Rotas 2020

All volunteers (new or long serving) must now complete and sign a

volunteers form. These will be available in church from this weekend. We need your name contact number, e mail and your signature. Forms will be available this weekend.



PRAYER FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

May the Communion we share today with the members of our parish family who are at home or in hospital, remind us to live for one another and give them a sense of belonging to our family and to this celebration.

Please don't forget to hand in your Mass requests in an envelope with the name and date on and with your donation inside. Fr. Paul has no outstanding Masses.



Is a registered Christian Charity with national support, is seeking part-time paid staff to support and grow our mission to give hope to vulnerable Christians living in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan from our office in Kenilworth. Typical client support IT and interpersonal skills preferred, hours by mutual agreement. More details of our work can be found on our website: www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk. We are proudly ecumenical and non-political. We also seek both office and home-based volunteers. To express your interest in these immediate opportunities, please either call: 01926 512980 or email office@friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk.