

HOMILY FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Readings: 1 Isaiah. 40:1-11; Psalm: 103; 2nd: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Gospel Luke. 3: 15-16. 21-22. **Theme—Christ's Baptism and Ours:**

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This feast marks the definitive end of the Christmas season and the formal beginning of the Ordinary Time of the Church's liturgical year, Cycle C. Today too marks the event that begins Jesus' three years of preaching, healing and saving. It recalls the history of the Lord's own baptism as we read in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 1223: "All the Old Covenant prefigurations find their fulfilment in Christ Jesus. He begins his public life after having himself baptized by St. John the Baptist in the Jordan (Mt. 3:13)".

Our first reading is a message of hope and consolation to all God's people. Christ, the anointed one of God is with us to bring us healing and restore our peace. Isaiah puts it this way: "Console my people, console them...here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him, the prize of his victory is here with him..."

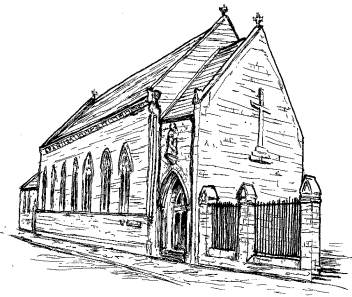
In our second reading, St. Paul reminds us that "God saved us by the cleansing water of baptism and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour." Indeed, through His own baptism, Christ sanctified and opened the fountain of baptism for us. Hence, through our own baptism in Christ, we are admitted into the redemptive process for our salvation.

In today's gospel from Luke, God the Father testified at Christ's baptism: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased! Listen to Him!" It was necessary for Christ to be baptized in order to underscore the importance of the sacrament of baptism as the foundation for all other sacraments. However, it is very important to note that the definition of baptism as: "The sacrament that washes away original sin..." does not in any way suggest that Christ was affected by original sin or needed to be cleansed from any sin through the baptism of John.

The letter to the Hebrews tells us that: "Christ was like us in all things except sin" (Heb. 4: 15). This makes us ask: "Why then was Christ baptised?" CCC 1224 explains: "Our Lord voluntarily submitted himself to the baptism of St. John, intended for sinners, in order to "fulfil all righteousness" (Mt. 3:15). Jesus' gesture is a manifestation of his self-emptying (Phil. 2:7). The Spirit who had hovered over the waters of the first creation descended then on the Christ as a prelude of the new creation, and the Father revealed Jesus as his "Beloved Son" (Mt. 3:16-17)".

Therefore, by accepting to be baptised by John the Baptist, Christ manifested His full humanity, yet, without undermining His divinity. In other words, He fully identifies with us, and His baptism was a sign of solidarity with us whom He came to save. Through His baptism Christ initiated our redemptive process, which He will finally seal with His blood on the cross. On this day therefore, it is very important for us to reflect on our own baptism especially on how well we have observed and kept our baptismal vows. How faithful have we been to God in terms of keeping these promises? Are we still saying, "I do" to questions like: "Do you reject Satan? Do you reject sin? Do you believe in one God and one Holy Catholic Church?" Today the church offers us a new opportunity to renew our commitment to Christ in whose name we were baptised.

Father Elijah



**13 & 20 JANUARY
2019**

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD & SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



**ST JOSEPH'S &
ST EDMUND'S
CITY CENTRE
CATHOLIC PARISH
SOUTHAMPTON**

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
PORTSMOUTH REG. CHARITY NO. 246871

STELLA MARIS DEANERY
INCLUDES:

- ST. BONIFACE, SHIRLEY
- HOLY FAMILY, MILLBROOK
- ST. VINCENT DE PAUL,
LORDSWOOD
- IMMACULATE CONCEPTION,
PORTSWOOD
- CHRIST THE KING &
ST. COLMAN'S, BITTERNE
- OUR LADY OF ASSUMPTION,
HEDGE END
- ST BRIGID, WEST END
- ST. PATRICK'S, WOOLSTON
- THE ANNUNCIATION,
NETLEY ABBEY



TODAY SUNDAY 13 JANUARY 2019

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION INSCRIPTION at 9am, 10am and 11am Masses today.

RITE OF WELCOME AND ANOINTING at 9am and 10am Masses of babies soon to be baptised.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION for candidates today from 2pm—4:30pm in St Boniface Church Hall.

RITE OF WELCOME AT 7PM MASS for those on 'Journey in Faith' and preparing, with God's grace, for Baptism, Reception into Full Communion, or Confirmation.

VOCATIONS:

The Baptism of the Lord -- January 13, 2019. "I, the Lord, have called you for the victory of justice," Do you feel the Lord calling you to consider becoming a priest, deacon or consecrated religious?

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time -- January 20, 2019. "There are different forms of service but the same Lord;" is your form of service to become a priest, deacon or consecrated religious? To explore further, contact Fr. John Cooke vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 013 2931 8869.

RECENTLY DIED: George Willis RIP late of Clovelly Road, Southampton. Funeral Service 12 noon Tuesday 15 January in St Edmund Church followed by burial at Hollybrook Cemetery. May he rest in peace. Please keep his family in your prayers.

THIS WEEK

FOR INFORMATION:

Mon Day off: VH/JP

Tues Funeral: VH. Supervision: VH.

St George: VH

Wed Journey in Faith

Thurs EST

Fri St George: VH

Sat Bethany Group

PARISH SECRETARY ON ANNUAL LEAVE from 14—18 January. Parish Office will be managed by volunteers.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP meet at St Michael's Church, Bugle Street, Tuesdays 6pm—6:45pm. Entry through the North door.

WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB meet Wednesdays at 12noon in the Stella Maris Centre.

RCIA GROUP meet on Wednesdays at 7:30pm in St Edmund Hall for those enquiring about the Catholic faith.

GRANDPARENTS GROUP next meet from 11am—12noon Thursday 17 January in Stella Maris Hall.

TOP (Triumph Over Phobia) UK for those suffering from OCD or phobias. Thursdays from 6:30pm in Stella Maris Hall. Email info@topuk.org if you need help.

EST GROUP meet from 7pm Thursday 17 January in St Edmund Presbytery.

NEXT WEEKEND

BETHANY GROUP next meet at 9:45am on Saturday 19 January in St Edmund Presbytery.

TWELVE-STEP SPIRITUALITY 'The Wisdom of a Twelve Step Programme as a Christian Practice' 10am—4pm Saturday 19 January at Wisdom Centre, Romsey. £30pp includes lunch, refreshments, afternoon tea. The course will be run by Jude Maleski, one of our parishioners. All welcome! Tel 01794 830206, email reception@wisdomhouseromsey.co.uk or see the Website wisdomhouseromsey.org.uk and noticeboards for more information or to book.

FATHER DES PREACHING at 9am & 11am Masses Sunday 20 January on forthcoming Mission.

FATHER VINCENT PREACHING AT AVENUE ST ANDREW'S Sunday 20 January (Part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity).

BAPTISMS: We welcome into our faith community:



Abigail Chircop, daughter of Alexander & Victoria

Kaya & Pola Jarmula, children of Andrzej & Barbara, being baptised at St Edmund Church

BAPTISM at 12:30pm

Max Zhang, son of Han & Xiao, being baptised at 11:30am at St Joseph Church. All baptisms taking place after Mass on Sunday 20 January.

APPEAL AT END OF MASSES 19/20 JANUARY (Homelessness Sunday) are for 'Rent Deposit Scheme'.

NEXT TWO WEEKS

FINANCE MEETING 5pm Tuesday 22 January in St Edmund Presbytery.

MASS AND PRAYERS FOR PRIESTS AND VOCATIONS TO THE RELIGIOUS LIFE **7pm Mass Friday 25 January in St Edmund Church** followed by half an hour of Adoration and praying the Rosary for this intention. All welcome to join the group to pray with them in support of our priests.

New Vianney Prayer Group praying for priests and vocations. *History has taught us the power of intercessory prayer, and nobody is in more need of our prayers than Catholic priests battling on the front lines for the salvation of souls.* As attacks on the priesthood intensify, we have a vital role to play in supporting priestly renewal and vocations. The men who have answered God's calling depend upon our prayer.

Please consider joining the prayer group under the patronage of St Jean Vianney. Next meeting Thursday 14 February in St Edmund Hall from 7pm—8:30pm. They will be praying for priests and vocations to the religious life. Will be meeting once a month on the second Thursday of the month.



BAPTISM: We welcome into our faith community **Edward Dyer**, son of Chris & Maddie, who is being baptised at 11:30am in St Joseph Church on Sunday 27 January.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL—PRAYERS AND REFLECTION to be led by Father Vincent along with Father David from St Michael's Anglican Parish from 3:30pm Sunday 27 January in St Edmund Hall. All welcome.

ST ANNE'S YEAR 10 MASS 9am Wednesday 30 January in St Edmund Church.

RCIA meet Wednesdays at 7:30pm in St Edmund Hall for those enquiring about the Catholic Faith.

RICHARD ROHR GROUP meet 4:30pm Thursday 31 January in St Edmund Presbytery.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREP for parents and children 10am—2pm Saturday 2 February at St Joseph's, 16 Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst, SO40 7DU. Shared lunch and a time of reflection and prayer.

COMMISSIONING OF THE EST MEMBERS during Masses on the weekend of 2/3 February.

GENERAL ITEMS

PARISH THEME for 2019—Disciples ... watch this space.

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTION FOR JANUARY
Evangelisation: that young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

THE PARISH MISSION IN 2019 Parish Groups and Adorers are saying the 'Mission Prayer' when they meet.

'STRENGTH TO STRENGTH' a CaFE (*Catholic Faith Exploration*) course on Prayer during Lent 2019 ... watch this space.

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY: Monday 29 April—Saturday 4 May 2019. Fr Martin Plunkett leading a pilgrimage to the Italian Veneto region, incl. shrine of Our Lady Queen of Love, the Convent of St Josephine Bakhita in Schio and the City of Verona. To book: Pax Travel, 102 Blundell Street, London N7 9BL, or visit www.paxtravel.co.uk

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2019 led by Bishop Philip Egan; Spiritual Director, Fr PJ Smith. Takes place from 25—29 July 2019 (4 nights) Direct return flight from Southampton Airport to Bordeaux. Staying at the Hotel La Solitude, price £645. All bookings to be made through Fr PJ Smith in the Pilgrimage Office, tel. 07780 221 686 or email lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

COMMUNICARE SOUTHAMPTON have expanded their service and have launched a new 'Hospital Homecoming' project. Communicare is a friendly, neighbourhood Charity that enriches the lives of lonely and isolated people in and around Southampton. Their new project offers people help in the first few days/weeks after being discharged from hospital. It is run and staffed by committed, kind-hearted Communiters, who act as good neighbours; providing practical and emotional support. Do you or someone you know need a Good Neighbour? Would you like to be a better Neighbour? Would you like to become a Communter? For help or to apply for any of the above email hannah@communicareinsouthampton.org.uk or call 023 8021 6022/3.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER REQUIRED.

The 'Joining Hands Across The Common' project is a partnership between Avenue St Andrew's and Freemantle United Reformed Churches in Southampton, working with TWICS (Training for Work in Communities). We wish to recruit a Community Development Worker to develop a new phase of work with our two local communities either side of Southampton Common.

- Are you passionate about communities working together and supporting each other?
- Do you have the skills and ability to develop asset-based work out of building relationships with people, projects and churches?
- Do you have the knowledge and skills to support voluntary projects with grant applications and management?

16 hours per week. Salary: £12ph. To apply email: ichambers@twics.org.uk Closing date Friday 18 January.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A CAFOD MEETING Saturday 9 February from 2:30pm to 4:30pm at St Theresa of the Child Jesus Church, Commercial Road, Totton, SO40 3AL. Nikki Evans, CAFOD's Programme Officer for Bolivia will be talking about CAFOD projects in Bolivia and there will be an opportunity to explore the resources for Lent fast day on 15 March. All welcome. Please book by emailing portsmouth@caofd.org.uk or call 012 5232 9385.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO MALTA LED BY FATHER VINCENT FROM 8—15 OCTOBER 2019 £895. There are still some places available and deposits can now be paid up to mid February. For details please contact Parish Office or Godfrey Doyle 07714 370 529 or email godfreydoyle@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH CLEANING OF ST JOSEPH CHURCH. Are you able to spare an hour or two on a weekly/monthly basis to help with the cleaning of St Joseph Church? Please contact the Parish Office on 023 8033 3589 if you are able to assist.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE: Lorenzo Mastronardi & Anna Maria Adele Acquaviva are planning to marry in Italy during May 2019.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Judy Brown, George Chesworth, Margaret Hicks, Jean White, Colette Clarke, David Palmer, Brian Gardiner, Sheila Morris & family, Karen Bell, John Hennessy, Aruni Panabokke, Pat O'Neill, Valerie Summerton, Myra & Bosco Andrade, Marcus Boulton-Smith, Jean Mooney, Kushmi De'Saram, Eloise Chessman, Christopher Browne, Bobby Murphy, Abid & Abbas Akperally, Lucky, Sujatha & Mano Disshnayake, Daham Koralage, Jackie Galbraith, Joan Forbes, Doris Leggett, John O'Reilly, Bill Eastman, Shane Wing, Kathryn Morley, Carol Butt, Maureen Lee, Roy Reeves, Joachim Rodrigues, Donna Madden, Joyce Mguni, Noreen Kealy, Kay Kelly, Colm O'Riordan, Simon Parry, Sue Tutton, Alex Boyle, Janette Brookes, Joy Grant, Joanne Cunio, Ludwig Basisty, Irene Green, JL, Malcolm Cross, O'Hanlon family, Paul Sassu, Peter Scott, Phyllis Grattan, Maria Annunziata, Perry Cunio, Mike Mantle, NW, Joe Sculley, Pauldia Grant and all parishioners who are ill.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR TWO WEEKS COMMENCING SUNDAY 13 JANUARY 2019

*(Church key to City Centre Catholic Masses below are SJ = St Joseph's Church, Bugle Street, SO14 2AH and SE = St Edmund's Church, The Avenue, SO17 1XJ)

| | | | | |
|-------|----------------|---|------------|--|
| SAT | 12 JAN 2019 | VIGIL MASS | 6:15PM SJ | ALFRED 'ALFIE' BOWLES (NC) |
| | | | 7:00PM SE | MASS IN POLISH |
| SUN | 13 JAN | THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD | 9:00AM SE | KAREN NUGENT RIP (1ST ANNIVERSARY) (GC&HP) |
| | | | 10:00AM SJ | PEOPLE OF THE PARISH |
| | | | 11:00AM SE | DOLLY MacKINNON RIP (GP) |
| | | | 7:00PM SE | PEOPLE OF THE PARISH |
| TUES | 15 JAN | 1ST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME | 10:00AM SE | IN THANKSGIVING—BIDDY'S RECOVERY (GD&SD) |
| | | | 12 NOON SE | FUNERAL SERVICE: GEORGE WILLIS RIP |
| WED | 16 JAN | 1ST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME | 7:00PM SE | JEAN RONAN RIP (DN) |
| THURS | 17 JAN | ST ANTHONY OF EGYPT | 12:15PM SJ | PEOPLE OF THE PARISH |
| FRI | 18 JAN | 1ST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME | 7:00PM SE | GERHARD HAUSCHILD RIP (HH) |
| SAT | 19 JAN | ST WULSTAN | 11:00AM SE | THANKSGIVING BRIDIE & STANLEY MYLES (BM) |
| | | | 6:15PM SJ | SEÁN, KATHLEEN & STEWART ADAMSON RIP (DC) |
| | | | 7:00PM SE | MASS IN POLISH |
| SUN | 20 JAN | SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 9:00AM SE | CARMUNA ZAPPONE RIP (GS&SS) |
| | | | 10:00AM SJ | MYRA & BOSCO ANDRADE—WELLBEING (IK) |
| | | | 11:00AM SE | JOSEPH CHEN & MARIA WANG RIP (RX) |
| | | | 7:00PM SE | THOMAS JAMES CRAWLEY RIP (F) |
| TUES | 22 JAN | ST VINCENT | 10:00AM SE | PEOPLE OF THE PARISH |
| WED | 23 JAN | 2ND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME | 7:00PM SE | PEOPLE OF THE PARISH |
| THURS | 24 JAN | ST FRANCIS DE SALES | 12:15PM SJ | PHILIP CONWAY RIP (F) |
| FRI | 25 JAN | THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL | 7:00PM SE | PRIESTS & VOCATIONS TO THE RELIGIOUS LIFE (HH) |
| SAT | 26 JAN | ST TIMOTHY & ST TITUS | 11:00AM SE | PEOPLE OF THE PARISH |
| | | | 6:15PM SJ | BRIDIE MYLES—GOD'S BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVING (RP) |
| | | | 7:00PM SE | MASS IN POLISH |
| SUN | 27 JAN | THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 9:00AM SE | AGOSTINHO GONCALVES RIP (MG) |
| | | | 10:00AM SJ | DECEASED MEMBERS OF HASTINGS FAMILY (MM) |
| | | | 11:00AM SE | FOSS (HOLY SOULS) (HH) |
| | | | 7:00PM SE | SR RITA—BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVING (RS) |

READINGS 20 JANUARY

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

1st Reading: Isaiah 62: 1—5
 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 4—11
 Gospel: John 2: 1—11

READINGS 27 JANUARY

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

1st Reading: Nehemiah 8:2—6, 8—10
 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 12—30
 Gospel: Luke 1:1—4; 4:14—21

PARISHES MASS TIMES: Holy Family, Millbrook Sat Vigil 18:30; Sun 10:30am; 1:00pm (Polish); Holy Day 19:00. St. Boniface, Shirley Sat Vigil 18:30; Sun 08:30; 10:30; Holy Day 10:00; 20:00. St. Vincent de Paul, Lordswood Sun 09:15; Holy Day 10:00. Christ the King & St Colman Sun 11:00; Holy Day 19:00. Immaculate Conception, Portswood Recon: Sat 10:30 (After Mass); Sun 08:30; 10:30; Holy Day 10:00; 19:30. Our Lady of the Assumption, Hedge End Sat Vigil 17:30; St Brigid, West End Sun 17:30; St Patrick, Woolston Sat Vigil 18:00; Sun 11:00; Holy Day 09:15 (term time); 10:00 (outside of term time). The Annunciation, Netley Abbey Sun 09:00, Holy Day 19:00.

13 JANUARY 2019 - BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Psalm Response:

Bless the Lord, my soul!
 Lord God, how great you are!

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I. He will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Alleluia!

20 JANUARY 2019 2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

Psalm Response:

Proclaim the wonders of the
 Lord among all the peoples.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life:
 you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

CONTACT DETAILS:

Parish Priest: Monsignor Canon Vincent Harvey
 Email address: vharvey@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
 Father Vincent Tel. No. 023 8033 4891

Assistant Priest: Father Jaya Praveen Yenubari
 Email address: jpraveen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
 Father Jaya Tel. No. 023 8017 2104
 Presbytery Address: 14 Rockstone Place, Southampton, SO15 2EQ

Assistant Priest: Father Elijah Fru Nde, Mob. 07774 667 010
 Email address: elijahnde@yahoo.co.uk

Deacon: Deacon Andy Philpott
 Email address: aphilpott@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary & Tel: Mrs Anne Wheeler / 023 8033 3589
 Parish Office Address: St. Edmund's Lodge, The Avenue, SO17 1XJ
 Parish Website: www.southampton-city-catholics.org.uk

2ND COLLECTION TODAY **CATHOLIC HOME CARE**
2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK **HOMELESSNESS SUNDAY**
2ND COLLECTION 27.1.19 **CATHEDRAL**

| COLLECTIONS 6.1.19 | 1ST | 2ND HCPT |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Total | £2,318.65 | £932.50 |
| Cash | 711.15 | 710.62 |
| S / O | 1,286.00 | 177.50 |
| Gift Aid Rebate | 321.50 | 44.38 |

CONFESSION TIMES

St Joseph: Thursdays 11:45am
 Saturdays 5:45pm

St Edmund: Saturdays 11:30am