

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

WE have probably all grown up to think of Christmas and the Epiphany as two separate festivals, commemorating two separate events, Jesus' birth and the coming of the Magi. If so, then it might be quite a surprise to learn that it was not till the 4th century that it became common to celebrate the birth of Jesus on 25th December. Before that the Church celebrated around this time a whole cluster of events which manifested the presence, the person and the power of Jesus. There was first his birth in Bethlehem and his manifestation to the Jews and to the poor as represented by the shepherds; then there was the coming of the Magi who, with their gifts, represent the pagan world responding in faith to the showing forth of God-made-man; then the Baptism of Jesus, at which he is declared to be the Beloved Son of the Father, endowed with the Holy Spirit; and lastly the turning of water into wine at the marriage at Cana in Galilee, which (as St John's gospel says) was the first of Jesus' signs and 'revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him'.

So we can think of today's celebration of the Baptism of Jesus as a continuation of Christmas, as our continuing worship of the One who was manifested to us in so many different ways for our salvation. For us, baptism into Christ is a cleansing from all sin because we are being born again into his Body. The baptism that Jesus received was the baptism of John, which was a sign that a person was repentant and had joined himself to those who were looking forward to the coming of the Messiah. Jesus had no sins of his own to repent of. But by accepting John's baptism he associated himself with us in our need. So the point about the baptism of Jesus is not the effect that it had on him, but what it tells us about him.

The words spoken at Jesus' baptism, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you', echo the prophecy of Isaiah in the first reading of today's Mass. Pondering on that reading will show us not only what Jesus is like, but also how we as his disciples should try to live. The son or servant (the same word in the original) of God is the one who is endowed with the Spirit to 'bring true justice to the nations'. He will achieve his aim not by force and violence but by unwavering faithfulness. He is to serve the cause of right, to open the eyes of the blind and give liberty to those who are enslaved. All this is what Jesus does for you and for me. And he asks us in turn to do the same for one another.

Fr Fabian OP

The Baptism of the Lord

Year A

9 January 2011

The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

Serving Leicester's Catholics since AD 1247



Entrance Antiphon:	When the Lord had been baptised, the heavens opened, and the Spirit came down like a dove to rest on him. The the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with him I am well pleased.
At 11am – page nos in Missale:	•Mass Ordinary, p 13; Mass Proper, p 61 •Sung setting: Missa de Angelis, p 206; Credo III, p 216 •Communion motet <i>Veni creator</i> (Asola); Marian Antiphon 1, p 219 •Organ sortie: Fantasia super <i>Komm, Heiliger Geist</i> BWV 651 J S Bach
1st Reading:	Isaiah 42:1-4.6-7
Psalm LX:	May the Lord bless his people with peace. (Ps 29)
2nd Reading:	Acts 10: 34-38
Alleluia:	The heavens opened and the Father's voice was heard: "This is my beloved Son, listen to him."
Gospel:	Matthew 3: 13-17
Communion Antiphon:	This is he of whom John said: I have seen and have given witness that this is the Son of God.
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. In addition to the Masses listed in the schedule on p 3, Holy Mass will be offered in the older form from Monday to Saturday at 8am <u>except</u> , we regret, on Thursday 13 January.	

Blessed chalk for Epiphany will be distributed after each Mass today. There is a custom, in Epiphany-tide, of writing the initials of the three magi above the front door of one's house or room, along with the year. So this year we write: 20 + C + M + B + 11. As well as standing for Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, these initials are short for *Christus mansionem benedicat*, 'May Christ bless [this] dwelling'. So we're asking for the protection of Christ and his saints over our house, and at the same time make a small public profession of faith. If you've not had your house or flat blessed by a priest, now is a good time of year to do so. Any of the community at Holy Cross will be happy to oblige! (or ask your Parish Priest, if you live outside the parish).

The Parish Website is continuing to grow. On the 'Resources' page there is Calendar of Parish Social Events, a pdf with the entire content of *Missale*, and links to the Dominican Provincial Ordo, either to download or to purchase as a printed book. You can see the photographs of the consecration of the shrine: 165 photos in three albums. Click on the link on the home page, then double click on one of the photographs, and you can see a slide show of each album. There is also Fr Leon's reflection "The Relevance of the Martyrs".

Do you enjoy the tea and coffee after the 11.00 Sunday Mass? We are getting low on helpers to organise the drinks once Mass is finished, and to help wash up afterwards. If you can spare some time to help in this way, and would like to spend a convivial half hour or so doing a very useful job, please volunteer your services to one of the people behind the counter.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – No figures are yet available. More news next week.

Next week there will be a retiring collection for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children's White Flower Appeal (see below).

200 Club. Last month's winners were: 140, P Davis £150; 74, P Bailey £100; and 97, B Brooker £50. Congratulations!

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

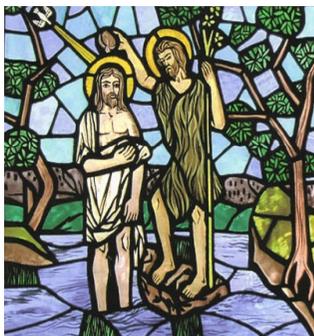
White Flower Appeal – the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children will be holding its annual appeal next Sunday, 16 January. In common with the Catholic Church, SPUC defends and upholds the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. The Society's work covers a wide spectrum of issues. It seeks to protect unborn children from abortion and defends the disabled, elderly and incapacitated from euthanasia and assisted suicide. SPUC also provides trained speakers for schools and offers pro-life support for teachers, parents and medical professionals. Please give generously to this very worthy cause.

The Aquinas Institute at Blackfriars, Oxford. There will be a series of seminars on Thomas Aquinas and Contemporary Culture on Thursdays from 27 January to 3 March 2011. See noticeboards.

The Leicester Theological Society's next talk will be given by Elizabeth Wayne with well-known local historian Richard Gill and music critic Neil Crutchley. This is the President's Evening, and the talk is entitled "Let all the World in Every Corner Sing: Reflections on Hymns" on Friday 14 January. All are welcome. Meetings are held at Christchurch, Clarendon Park Road (near Queens Road) at 7:30pm. The Theological Society is an ecumenical organisation, founded in 1959. Its aim is to provide a platform for serious theological debate which is both challenging to those with theological training and intelligible to the thinking lay person. The Society welcomes both new members and others who may find it more convenient to attend occasional meetings.

The British Red Cross remains in urgent need of food donations to respond to the emergency needs of destitute asylum seekers in Leicester. To help, please leave your gifts after any Mass – non perishable goods such as tinned and dried foods are also mostly wanted. A full updated list of items may be seen on the noticeboard and in the Newsletter (26 December) on the parish website. Please keep giving generously to support these vulnerable people. Thank you.

If you are aged 16-35, join the Dominicans' special Youth Pilgrimage to Madrid in August 2011. Meet young Catholics from all over the world, celebrate our Faith with prayer, singing and catechesis, and enjoy the spirituality and culture of Spain. Contact Br Lawrence on wyd@english.op.org, visit www.madrid11.com and see noticeboard.



Today's Gospel: A voice spoke from heaven, "This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him."

Year 1	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 1
Confessions	10.30 to 11.30 Fr Isidore, and 17.00 to 18.00 Fr Duncan	
Sunday	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	
Vigil	18.00 ✠ James Henry 8.00 ✠ Danny & Maureen Fitzpatrick	
Family	9.30 Mary Mahony (sick)	
Solemn	11.00 <i>Pro populo</i>	
OP Rite	12.30 ✠ Cyril Moseley	
Students	17.00 No Mass now until next term 19.00 ✠ Jim & Mary Morton	
ORDINARY TIME		
<i>Apart from those seasons having their own distinctive character, 33 or 34 weeks remain in the yearly cycle that do not celebrate a specific aspect of the mystery of Christ. Rather, especially on the Sundays, they are devoted to the mystery of Christ in its fullness. This period is known as Ordinary Time. During Ordinary Time up to Lent, we are asked to pray for these intentions: Peace on Earth; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; Students and Teachers; Unemployed People.</i>		
Monday	Feria 10.00 ✠ John Joe Maugham 12.30 Patrick & Margaret Collopy (int)	
Tuesday	Feria 10.00 ✠ Dead of the Order of Preachers 12.30 Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Lourdes	
Wednesday	St Aelred of Rievaulx, abbot 10.00 Morecey Family 12.30 ✠ Thomas Ruddy	
Thursday	Feria 10.00 ✠ Robert Marcus 12.30 Danny McCarthy (int)	
Friday	Feria 10.00 Private Intention 12.30 Connell Family (int)	
Saturday	SS Francis Fernández, priest, Peter Sans, bishop, and Companions, martyrs 10.00 Bihon Victorinne 12.30 ✠ Ngo Kollo Emerentienne	
Confessions	10.30 to 11.30 Fr Thomas, and 17.00 to 18.00 Fr Leon	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. Holy Mass will be offered in the older form from Monday to Saturday at 8am except , we regret, on Thursday 13 January		
Next Sunday – 2nd Sunday per annum. Readings:		
Isaiah 49: 3.5-6	1 Corinthians 1: 1-3	John 1: 29-34

Don't forget the Twinclarke's Blog. Do have a look at the weekly blog created by Peter and Isidore Clarke OP. Blogs are being added at the rate of one a week. The blog address: <http://mywaygodsway.blogspot.com>.



The Dominican Community wish all our parishioners and visitors a happy and holy New Year



REGULAR SERVICE TIMES

MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS
7.30 Lauds
10.00 Mass
12.30 Mass
17.45 Vespers
Old Rite Masses as announced.

WEDNESDAYS
10.30 Exposition until 12.30
11.45 Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary & Benediction

SATURDAYS
9.00 Lauds
10.00 Mass
10.30 Novena to Our Lady
10.30 Confessions until 11.30
12.30 Mass
17.00 Confessions until 18.00
17.45 Vespers
18.00 Vigil Mass for Sunday
Old Rite Masses as announced.

HOLIDAYS
18.00 (previous day) Vigil Mass
7.30 Lauds
10.00 Mass
12.30 Mass
17.45 Vespers
19.00 Mass

BANK HOLIDAYS (& MON TO FRI AROUND XTMAS & NEW YEAR)
7.30 Lauds
12.30 Mass, after which the church is closed

SUNDAYS
8.00 Mass
9.00 Lauds
9.30 Mass (Family)
11.00 Mass (Solemn: Latin on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays)
12.30 Mass (Old rite in Latin)
17.00 Mass (for Students, term time only)
17.45 Vespers
18.00 Rosary
18.20 Sung Latin Compline
18.40 Benediction
19.00 Mass

Leicester Royal Infirmary Catholic Chaplaincy: For urgent visits, ask ward staff to bleep the Roman Catholic Chaplain. For non-urgent visits leave message at the Priory or the LRI Chaplains' Office. Messages may not be picked up until the end of the day.

Parish Website: www.holycrossleicester.org
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