

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE

PARISH NEWSLETTER

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (B)

Jan 10th 2021



More things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of.
Wherefore, let thy voice
Rise like a fountain for me night and day.
For what are men better than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God,
they lift not hands of prayer
Both for themselves
and those who call them friend?
For so the whole round earth is every way
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God.

"Morte d'Arthur", Tennyson

You are my Son, the beloved!

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DATE	PARISH MASS	OTHER
Sun 10th	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (B) 9.15 (BB) D&J Smith (D&CN) 11am (HAD) Ethel Hockey RIP (fam)	
Mon 11th	feria 9.30 (HAD) Requiem Mass for Adrian McHugh (int MS) 12.45 funeral service for Eileen Berry RIP	
Tues 12th	feria / St Aelred 9.30 (HAD) H Cowell (D&CN)	
Weds 13th	feria / St Hilary 9.30 (HAD) D Bone RIP (AS)	
Thurs 14th	feria 9.30 (HAD) deceased members of the Keen family RIP (fam)	
Fri 15th	feria 9.30 (BB) M Plazas (D&CN)	
Sat 16th	feria 9.30 (HAD) T Higgins & fam (D&CN)	
Sun 17th	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) 9.15 (BB) Fr Colum Kelly's welfare (SQ) 11am (HAD) Heath Donald RIP (fam)	

THE BAPTISM of the LORD (B)

Psalter wk 1

Introduction: The Spirit of God descends on Christ as he is baptised, to consecrate Him in the Father's work.

First Reading : Is 55 : "Listen to me and your soul will live".

Resp.Ps. WITH JOY YOU WILL DRAW WATER FROM THE WELLS OF SALVATION.

Second Reading : 1 Jn 5 : "Jesus Christ came by water and by blood"

Gospel : Mk 1 : "You are my well-beloved Son".

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND and ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Please remember to support and pray for those listed as sick and housebound in our parish:

Mary Perry, Peter James, Fr John Cairns, Cn Michael Moore, Pauline Anderson, Isabella Phillips, Monica Krommendijk, Una Wilkinson, Nella Lewykyj, Evelyn Mathewman, Neil Appleton, Alice Canning, Mary Mycio, Dorothy Yarwood.

Please recall in prayer our deceased priests and parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time: Revv Joe Phelan, Peter Tierney, Dennis Higgins; Joe Mitcheson, Alan Boland, Brigid Wiseman, Clare Hussell, Eileen Blomeley, John Smith, Christine Clayton, Margaret Dunk, Frances Churchman, Ian Mattimore, Brenda Shaw, Meg Brickell :

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, may they rest in peace. Amen

PARISH NOTES

THIS WEEKEND *We find ourselves at the bank of the river Jordan, and witness John the Baptist reluctantly baptising Jesus. We are not the only witnesses: here is the voice of the Father, acclaiming his beloved Son, and here too is the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. We are drawn by our Baptism into the life of the Trinity.*

Deacon Owen reflects on the living waters :

Water means so much to us: we drink it when we are thirsty, help plants to stay alive; we may drown in it, wash in it, and of course when we are born, the waters in the womb come forth. All of these images are connected with Baptism, and most of them have echoes in today's readings. So come to the waters of Baptism, all who are thirsty!

MASS BOOKING SYSTEM *Thanks to Angie (BB) (07977202639) and Sophie (HAD) (07907 884 105) who administer this system. Please ring them to book a place at BB or Friday or Sunday, or St Charles on Sunday.*

ENDING AND BEGINNING *This Sunday marks the liturgical end of the Christmas season. Our church cribs and decorations are put away for another eleven months. On Monday we return to 'Ordinary Time', with readings and liturgies taken from "week one in ordinary time". We may wonder what Ordinary can mean in these extraordinary times. Our devoted sacristans bring out the green fittings that will bedeck our sanctuaries for the five weeks that bring us to the next liturgical season—Lent on Ash Wednesday, 17th Feb.*

Next Sunday is celebrated as the Second in Ordinary time. It is also celebrated as Peace Sunday.

VALE OF TIERS *These are extraordinarily difficult time for one and all. Winter is taking its icy grip, and the lockdown3 constraints make isolation a commonplace. May parishioners, already fretful of possible infection, stay way from our public worship. Their concern for their own personal welfare is understood and accepted. Their concern not to be a potential threat to others is also commendable.*

It is our duty as parishioners to pray for our welfare and that of others. This we must do, at home and in church. We are one family of faith. Please bring to mind in prayer those who we rarely see; please try to stay in "parish" touch especially with our shielding parishioners.

THE GIFT OF STEWARDS *All parishioners will want to join with me in thanking our selfless stewards, without whom Mass cannot be publicly celebrated. Many of our stewards are in or reaching the 'vulnerable age-category'. This is true also in many other parishes throughout the*

country. A number of parish priests in our diocese and elsewhere have consulted with their stewards (and parish councillors) in this matter. Many of these parishes acknowledge the severe constraints of Lockdown3, of wintry weather, and locally-rising numbers of COVID cases. As a result of these consultations more than a few parishes have decided once again to close down for public Mass. I am always happy to hear from our stewards and other needed servants, and to hear their concerns - and decide whether it is sensible to follow the "close-down" route. If you have concerns or fears or constraints, let me know.

GRAPEVINE GATHERING It was good to be part of a virtual diocesan gathering on Thursday, along with two of our parishioners. It was exciting and uplifting to hear of parishes and parishioners who engage with food banks, bereavement support, telephone-call linking and many more neighbourly initiatives. It is also good to know that in our own parishes we do much mutually to support each other—and especially the isolated & lonely.

I hope & pray that these quiet acts of mutual support will grow.

ST CHARLES TOTE winners : Anne Heard £30; Jan Holland £20.

BISHOP PATRICK recommends the excellent short mini series (five 14 minute segments), which has been aired recently on BBC Radio 4 and is available still to hear via BBC iPlayer. (BBC Sounds). In each segment Hugh Bonneville reads John Barton's 'Story of the Bible' the link to access is: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/series/m000qlrx>.

It is well worth following the links to this excellent broadcast.

Maybe you have heard or read something entertaining or uplifting during lockdown3. Let me know, and it may well appear in the newsletter to enhance someone else's life!

ROSARY LINK One of our parishioners has connected many good folk through the daily recitation of the rosary. This cannot be a group-gathering for prayer, rather a personal commitment. If you can commit to praying the rosary before, during or after your daily constitutional, let me know and I'll link you to this Golden Chain of prayer.

A PRAYER REDISCOVERED

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

Thomas Merton.

AND FINALLY

An act of spiritual Communion, commended especially to those unable or unwilling to attend public worship:

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen