

# Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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Feast of the Baptism of the Lord 11/12 January 2020  
“This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.”

Matthew 3, 17

## THANK YOU

Father Patrick would like to thank the parish community and visitors to Our Lady & St. Anne over the Christmas period for their generous Christmas Offering: he is very grateful. Thank you too to those parishioners who gave him personal gifts in honour of Christmas. Here too, he is very thankful and appreciative of these kind tokens of affection for their pastor. Go rabibh amith agaibh/ Thank you so much everybody!

## HEAVENS ABOVE

A stargazing evening at Our Lady & St Anne's on 25th Jan (Sat) at 7pm, involving 45 min presentation by Dr Chan Malde on planets & galaxies followed by practical observation in Presbytery garden (weather permitting). Come and find out what is shining above your head here in Caversham.

Drinks & nibbles provided.

Tickets £5 /person or

£15 / family - available after all Masses.

All proceeds to Church refurbishment fund.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid £135.34 Loose £524.85

Standing Orders £1,120.00

(still waiting for some direct debits to activate but this amount of gift aided donation is promised)

## POPE'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2020

### **Promotion of World Peace**

We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.

## WONDERING HOW TO RECYCLE CLEAN PLASTIC BOTTLE TOPS?

'Lush' in the Oracle will take clean plastic bottle tops in the shop. They then send them to their recycling centre in Poole where the tops are sorted by hand.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER THANKS

Everyone was extremely generous this Christmas, and the amazing sum of £542.08 was raised!!

Just under £320.00 was spent on decorating the church, so the remaining money will be spent on flowers over the next few months.

A huge thank you to all who contributed.

## GOING INTO HOSPITAL?

On admission to Royal Berkshire Hospital all Catholics should inform the hospital staff that they are Roman Catholic and if they wish to receive Communion or see a Priest.

The diocesan Privacy Policy is available at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy>  
or by request from the parish office.

Our Lady & St Anne Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Charity No. 234216

**Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Year A – Matthew):** We have all been baptized, we are a community of men and women who share a common identity as sons and daughters of God consequent upon our baptism. This last day of Christmastide, on which we leap-frog thirty years of Jesus' earthly life, brings us all back to the beginnings of our own individual Christian journey. Most of us have no memory of our baptism being christened as small infants, but given how significantly the first sacrament defines our lives today's feast presents us with a welcome opportunity to reflect on what baptism means for us. We are baptised in and with water: Jesus, we must imagine, was subject to total immersion and then had water poured on him by John the Baptist. Water is essential to life, without it we dehydrate and plants, crops and trees cannot grow. [One of the emergent crises of the third decade of the 21st century will be the struggle for water and the weaponizing of access to water]. And yet, as recent floods have clearly shown, water too can bring death on a large scale. Life and death are side by side in the reality of baptism. We are baptised into Christ's death and yet in the waters of Baptism we are (re)born to new life. Jesus, who was without sin, in an act of unique solidarity with sinful humanity he came to redeem and save, submitted himself to baptism in the Jordan at the hands of John, known for ever as "the Baptist", as if this action defined his being and mission.

**First Reading (OT): Isaiah 42, 1 – 4. 6 – 7:** This magnificent excerpt from the writings of the prophet Isaiah, who had so much to say about Messiah and his coming, expresses in a few words what God expected his Holy One would be. One might wonder was this one of the texts Jesus took with him from the Jordan into the desert during his forty days and forty nights of prayer and reflection on his mission. The latter part of the reading was used by Jesus when he launched his public ministry in the synagogue of his native Nazareth.

**Second Reading (NT): Acts of the Apostles 10, 34 – 38:** It is rare for us to hear from Luke's follow-up to his Gospel outside Eastertide. What we are presented with today is a proclamation of Easter faith, of the message of salvation to all men and women of good will that we celebrated at Epiphany, and a brief summary of Jesus' career, starting as it did with his baptism by John in the Jordan. [Interestingly enough, John features more prominently in the works of the secular Jewish historian Josephus than does Jesus.]

**Gospel: Matthew 3, 13 – 17:** John always prefaced his invitation to be baptised by a call to conversion. It is understandable therefore that John, recognising in Jesus God's Messiah, should be reluctant to baptise Jesus (without sin). It was an act of solidarity with sinful humanity and received the immediate seal of approval from heaven where Jesus was identified as Son and enjoying divine favour.

## Masses and Intentions Christmastide

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January      No Mass      No Mass  
*Christmas feria*

### Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

### Year A

Saturday	11 <sup>th</sup> January	17.30	Intentions of Julia Feeney
Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00	Frank Gratrix RIP
		18.30	Maria, Margita, Matej Grestiak RIP

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January      No Mass  
*Feria in Ordinary Time*

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January      No Mass  
*Feria in Ordinary Time*

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January      No Mass  
*Feria in Ordinary Time*

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January      No Mass  
*Feria in Ordinary Time*

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January      No Mass  
*Memorial: St Anthony*

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January      No Mass  
*Feria in Ordinary Time*

### Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Year A

Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup> January	17.30	Intentions of Maureen Lennon
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00	Milan Bus
		18.30	People of the parish

Confessions:	Saturday	No confessions
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Exposition & Benediction:	Saturday	No exposition
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Evening prayer, Rosary:	Saturday	16.45
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