

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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Feast of the Baptism of the Lord – 10 January 2021

“And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved;
my favour rests on you.’”

Mark 1, 11

SATURDAY MORNINGS

The 10am Mass on Saturdays followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 11.00am will be continuing. No booking is required for this morning Mass.

RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ian MacDonald who will be greatly missed by everybody who knew him. May he rest in peace and those who grieve him find solace.

Ian's funeral will be on Monday 18th January but unfortunately numbers are restricted in lockdown so it is by 'invitation' only. It is hoped to be livestreamed though, details of the link in next week's newsletter.

Please pray also for the repose of the souls of Dante and Luciana Salussolia who both died over Christmas. No details of their funeral available just yet.

STAYING SAFE AT MASS

The church is open for Mass at the moment but keeping people safe is a high priority. If you consider yourself to be at all vulnerable with this new more highly transmissible Coronavirus please consider staying at home where you feel safe and secure.

For those who are at Mass, it is even more important than ever to maintain as much social distance as possible and to keep masks on over noses.

One of the hardest rules to stick to is not talking to anybody who is not in our household or support bubble but this is more important than ever now. We all like a chat but please do not wander around to talk before Mass or linger outside on your way out.

FUNERAL AT ST MICHAEL'S, SONNING COMMON

Please pray for the repose of the soul of *Angela Sealey* whose funeral will take place at St Michael's, Sonning Common on Wed 13th January at 12noon. If you think you would like to attend, please ring St Michael's parish office to find out if there is room for you - 0118 9723416.

DONATE TO THE PARISH WHILE YOU SHOP ONLINE

Just sign up to The Giving Machine and nominate Our Lady & St Anne RC Church as your charity. We have a designated number of 267066. Find out how it all works at <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/how-tgm-works/>
All the major supermarkets make a donation so if you click and collect or have a delivery every little helps ☺

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 B – Mark): Today's feast marks the close of the Christmas season. Having just celebrated the Nativity and the Epiphany where the child Jesus was centre-stage, we now find ourselves leap-frogging over thirty years of his life – “the hidden life” – to a moment which marked a new beginning for the adult Jesus. Most of our lives began with Baptism and, although an adult when he received Baptism from John, the moment on the banks of the Jordan described by all four of the evangelists marked a new beginning too in the earthly life of Jesus. In this moment the Old Testament, with John the Baptist as the last of its prophets (preceded by thirty years by Simeon and Anna), and the New Testament, with Jesus recognised by God as his beloved Son on whom divine favour rests come into being. In a sense this is what certain evangelical Christians might understand as a “born again” moment for Jesus and even if this idea causes us difficulty what the Baptism on the banks of the Jordan certainly represents is a new beginning for Jesus, the dawning of the New dispensation or Testament. It is also an “epiphany” moment: the veil on the divinity of the Christ-child may have been momentarily lifted for the three wise men, here the voice from heaven confirmed his identity and revealed to all who heard it that God's favour rested on Jesus.

First Reading (OT): Isaiah 55, 1 – 11: This invitation issued by God through the mouth of the prophet Isaiah has something of the political party programme about it, designed to appeal to the electorate. It is clear from the beginning that it is not a matter of money, what is promised is open to all and cannot anyway be purchased. It is a reminder to people of their hunger and thirst and a pledge by God to satisfy those who turn to him. It is also a call to conversion, a challenge to pursue the path of virtue which alone leads to happiness. One can imagine that John the Baptist may have been familiar with this text of Isaiah.

Second Reading (NT): 1 John 5, 1 – 9: Faith in God is a loving dynamic. God reaches out to us in love and the response by us to his loving overtures is to obey and live by the commandments. We will find obedience to the commandments, especially that to love our neighbour, from our belief in Jesus Christ, begotten of the Father. He was born of water (an allusion to Baptism) and of blood (his sacrificial death) and God has given testimony to his Son's mission (that voice heard on the banks of the Jordan).

Gospel: Mark 1, 7 – 11: Mark makes clear right from the outset that this is not just anyone who is being baptised – John had already baptised thousands, one presumes, in the waters of the Jordan – but the Son of God who henceforth, propelled by the power of the Spirit, will go through the country preaching and healing. Mark is clearly looking back at this event through the eyes of his resurrection faith. The baptism of Jesus may have been a public event, there were witnesses, but what matters is that it was an inner experience in which Jesus confirmed his relationship with God his Father, heaven opened, and the Spirit descended on him, empowering him for his mission and confirming his identity.

Mass Intentions for the First Week of Ordinary Time

Tues. [9.15], Thurs [08.00] and Saturday [10.00]
are public weekday Masses.

Saturday 9th January 10.00 People of the parish
Feria of Week 3 in Advent (O Radix Jesse)

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Year B

Saturday 9th January 17.30 Jackie Clyne
Sunday 10th January 10.00 Ranjbar family

Monday 11th January 09.15 Ian MacDonald
Feria in Ordinary Time

Tuesday 12th January 09.15 Zygmunt Powiecki
Feria in Ordinary Time

Wednesday 13th January 09.15 Private intention
Memorial of St. Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop & Doctor

Thursday 14th January 08.00 Stephen Piper
Feria in Ordinary Time

Friday 15th January
Feria in Ordinary Time 12.30 Anonymous donor

Saturday 16th January 10.00 Sheila McCarthy
Feria in Ordinary Time

Second Sunday of the Year Year B

Saturday 16th January 17.30 People of the parish
Sunday 17th January 10.00 McLoughlin family intentions