

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7

Thus says the Lord : Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 28

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

1. O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power.
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court..
2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour.
3. The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry. "Glory!"
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever.

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: "The truth I have now come to realise," he said "is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

"It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil."

**Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded:
"This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mark 1:7-11

In the course of his preaching, John the Baptist said, "Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, ascending on him. And a voice came from heaven, "you are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

Holy Family Church

Whitby Ave, Ingol Preston PR2 3YP

Tel: 01772 725193 **E-mail:** parish.priest2@btinternet.com

Website: <http://holyfamilyparish.weebly.com/>

Priests: Fr. Peter Draper, Fr. John Moriarty (Tel: 725193)

Sunday Mass: 11.00 am.

Weekday Mass: Thur: 9.15am. (Other weekdays: 9.15am at St. Anthony's)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: on request

Holy Family Primary school: 727471 **Covenant Books:** 735993

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Identity and Mission

The Baptism of Jesus is the third of three great manifestations or revelations of God-with-us which characterise the liturgical Christmas season: **the birth of Jesus**, made known to the shepherds, representing the poor and the marginalised; **the Epiphany**, which reveals that Jesus was born not only for his own people but for people of every country and every race everywhere; [1] and **the Baptism of Jesus** which is 'the great epiphany of the Trinity on the day when Jesus is brought into the limelight of history to begin his public ministry.' [2] 'Jesus' identity is being affirmed as he is being 'missioned' by his Father for the work he is just about to begin. The baptism of Jesus reminds us of our identity. It reminds us of who we are and whose we are. "You are my Beloved". It is because Jesus knows who he is that he does as he does. Like Jesus, all that we undertake must flow from who we are - God's beloved. [3]

'It is the experience of who we are in God that enables us to carry out our mission in life even in those times when it is difficult to experience love because of experiences of failure, humiliation, suffering and difficulties in relationships. It is true that we not only are the Beloved, but also have to become the Beloved. If that is true, how then can we get a grip on this process of becoming? If the spiritual life is not simply a way of being, but also a way of becoming, what then is the nature of this becoming? Could it be that:

- our growing awareness of being the beloved will gradually lead us to stop identifying ourselves with our jobs, our emotions, our life situations? These are not who we really are.
- finding people and places where we are reminded of our deepest identity will renew our experience of what is already within us?
- celebrating our belovedness with gratitude and wonder for our many daily experiences of love, we will fully live even when life is full of hurt?

When we claim and constantly reclaim the truth of being the beloved, we soon discover within ourselves a deep desire to reveal to others that they are also beloved. At the beginning of a new year, today's gospel tells us that being the beloved constitutes the core truth of our existence. Our main mission in life is to embrace our belovedness and to become who we are. [4]

[1] Living space [2] Pope Saint John Paul II [3] Vatican news [4] Henri Nouwen

The Baptism of the Lord Year B

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DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 9th January 2021

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joe Morrison	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Doris Wilson For our parish Marie & Tom Hooper	<i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Anniversary intention	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	John Devereux	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Sean, Caroline, John & family	<i>Feast: St. Kentigern</i>
Thur 9.15am	<i>H Family</i>	Private intention	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Michael Gildea	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Margaret Devereux	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Mary & Ralph Holden For our parish Private intention	<i>2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Day of Prayer for Peace</i>

Masses received this past week: Maeve Walker, Helen Towey, John Devereux, Margaret Devereux, Winifred Cooper, Liz & Dave Smith, Frances Thompson, Margaret Sumner.

BIDDING PRAYERS

We pray ... for the Pope, and for all priests and bishops, that "with joy" they will lead the Church and all peoples "to draw water from the wells of salvation".

.... for the world as we move from the excitement of Christmas into the long, uncertain year ahead. Against the odds, let us sing and shout for joy for "great in our midst is the Holy One of Israel".

... for the people in our parish affected once again by Lockdown – especially our children, and the parents and teachers struggling to teach them; the isolated unable to hug their family and friends; those struggling with financial worries, and those who have lost hope.

We pray for the sick and the housebound of our parish and for those who care for them, particularly: Mildred and Harold Slack, Bill O'Shaughnessy, Malaya, Ray Mannion, Bill York, Lawrence Dunnagan, Trevor Hughes, Claire, Joyce Hilton, Vera.

those who have died recently: Frank Baron, Mary Frances Thompson, Mgr Jim Hook, Harry Motherwell, Celia Flynn, Johnny Greenwood;

and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Auntie Gert, Mary Holland, Jack Dobson, Richard Kelby, Albert Cocker, Richard Gillibrand, Mary Latus, Jack Miller, Lilly Grant, Douglas Frobisher, Margaret McCann, Joan Nicholson, Stanley Turner, Leonard Holt, May they rest in peace.

Christmas time

Although Epiphany marks the 12th night of Christmas Christmastime continues in the church until today's feast of the Baptism of the Lord. So the three Wise Men have been in our cribs from Epiphany until now. The crib and decorations will be taken down this week. Thanks again to those who work so hard on them.

Church is still open for Mass ...

Even though tougher restrictions are now in place throughout the Country we are still allowed to open for Mass and other Services. There are restrictions of course, but we've become used to these in recent months. We are reminded to keep distanced as we enter and leave church outside of our family groups.

First Holy Communions

It seems unlikely that we'll be able to celebrate first Holy Communions for the foreseeable future. We'll have another look at the situation after Easter. It is very sad for the children who are at the stage when they could be taking this great step forward in their faith. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Alpha Course

St. Joseph's, Lancaster are starting an online Alpha Course on Thursday 14 January at 7pm. Particularly useful for anyone who wants to know more about what Catholics believe. You can get details and/or register at alphalancs@gmail.com

Year of St Joseph

Pope Francis has announced the beginning of the Year of St Joseph and published an inspiring apostolic letter, *Patris Corde*, which can be found on the Vatican website.

'The Drama Displayed: A Journey of Salvation'

A free series of online talks offered by the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst College. A range of excellent speakers will examine the key moments of salvation history, with the aid of great works of art. 7:30pm every second Thursday, 14th January to 25th March. Visit: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-drama-displayed/>

Train to Teach with the Catholic Teaching Alliance:

Are you looking for a new challenge? Would you like a job where no two days are the same? Have you considered training to be a teacher? If you, or somebody you know is, or soon to be, a graduate, the Catholic Teaching Alliance, based in Our Lady's High School, offers bespoke PGCE training in Early Primary, Primary, Secondary (Preston or Blackburn) and Secondary 14-19 (Post 16). With over 60 schools in the alliance they are able to offer a range of experiences in a variety of locations. Contact them for further information, or to book onto one of their online information sessions, call 01772 326931 or email ctaschooldirect@olchs.lancs.sch.uk

Note from Right To Life: Please ask your MP to oppose introducing assisted suicide. The assisted suicide lobby have launched a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It is vital that the Government know that the public want them to continue to hold strong against this pressure from assisted suicide campaigners and reject their demands. Right To Life UK have set up an easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give into demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It only takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting the link below: <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>