

**1 1<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2015 – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**You are my Son, the beloved; my favour rests on you**



It may seem strange, but this is a Christmas Feast. Not if we think of Christmas only in terms of the Baby in Bethlehem, but if we have followed the ideas of the Feasts of Holy Family and especially Epiphany, and have seen the Season in terms of the growing manifestation or appearing of the Son of God: first to the shepherds and then to the wise men from the East. Now in the River Jordan, Jesus, Son of Mary, is revealed to all as the fullness of all God's promises: This is my Son, the Beloved. On this day we stand before the revelation of God's love for us, such that he would send his only Son into the world. Christmas without the Baptism of the Lord, and the words that are spoken from heaven, would be incomplete, since it is only in them that we fully see the wonder of what happened in Bethlehem, that we fully understand the reason for the joy with which we celebrated Christmas Day. As we come to the end of Christmas today, and look forward to hearing the Gospel in Ordinary Time, we do so having been shown who it is we listen to: the only Son of God, the Beloved.

<b>Liturgy &amp; Activities This Week</b> <i>Sunday Cycle B Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 1</i> <b>Sunday Missal: page 172; Readings: page 178; Preface: page 176</b>		<b>Prayers Please</b>
Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) - with Children's Liturgy 10.15am Mass (SC) - with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - with Children's Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SJ)	<p><b>Sick:</b> Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Tony Winstanley, Eunice Brierley, Cecilia Guest, Bernard Holder, Eileen Murphy, Maureen Kennedy, Joan Pearce, Peter Cranmer, Anthony Axford, Pauline Bowling, Caroline Garside, Sarah Parkinson, Mary Long, Dylan Crosby, Pat Hall, Linda Southern, Mary Joan Tornai, Bernard Neyland, Rosemary Davies, Rita Brooks and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p><b>Lately Dead:</b> Michael Kennedy, Shirley Bird, Brian Dumbell, Arthur Dewhurst, Mrs Rothwell, Kathleen Hopwood, Rosemarie Perry, Barry Hutchinson, Emma Turner, Josephine Hodgson, Mary Elizabeth Koab, Paul Cunliffe, Teresa Coughlan, Margaret Airey, Austie Heffernan</p> <p><b>Anniversaries:</b> Winifred Kenyon, Patricia Jameson, Christine Attiheri, Bill Houghton, Ellen Holroyd, Terance Behan, Fr Gerard Duffy, Ben &amp; Irene Sanderson, Anne Cordner, Isabelle Karcznski, Cynthia Winstanley, Bernard Molyneux, Paul Goggins</p> <p><b>Mass Intentions:</b> Michael Kennedy, Deceased members of the Cambridge &amp; Carter families, Winifred Kenyon, Patricia Jameson, Christine Attiheri, Shirley Bird, Brian Dumbell, Bill Houghton, Ellen Holroyd, Arthur Dewhurst, Mrs Rothwell, Kathleen Hopwood, In thanksgiving for a safe delivery, Alice Marshall, Terance Behan (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary), A Special Intention, Fr Gerard Duffy, Roy Davenport, Rosemarie Perry, Barry Hutchinson, John &amp; Mary Griffin, Joyce Knight, Ben &amp; Irene Sanderson, Anne Cordner, Isabelle Karcznski, Cynthia Winstanley, Paul Goggins, Bernard Molyneux, Rosemary Davies</p>
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 7.30pm Churches in Harwood Meeting (SB) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday	6.30pm Sacramental Programme Meeting (SC School) 7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday	9.30am School Mass in Church (SJ) 2pm-4pm CAMEO Group, Harbour Room (SB) 6.15pm Sacramental Programme Meeting (SJ School) 7pm Passion for Bolton Prayer Meeting (Bridge Church)	
Thursday	9.15am Mass (SB) 6pm Sacramental Programme Meeting (SB School)	
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Saturday <i>St Anthony</i>	11am Baptism (SC) 5pm Mass (SC) 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
Next Sunday <i>Peace Day</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) - with Children's Liturgy 10.15am Mass (SC) - with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - with Children's Liturgy 6pm Churches in Tonge Moor Service for Christian Unity Week (St Andrew's) <i>A Day of Special Prayer for Peace on Earth</i>	

**Parish Priest and Rural Dean: Rev Canon Michael Cooke**

**Assistant Priests: Rev Joseph Gee & Rev Francis Parkinson**

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**Congratulations:** To Gabrielle Dorothy Stephens and Francesca Grace Stephens who were baptised at St Brendan's last Sunday. We pray that both they and their family may continue to grow in faith.

**Theatre lovers:** *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* is coming to the Lowry Theatre in April from Wednesday 15th to Saturday 18th (it was a Book Club choice some years ago). If enough people are interested I will do a group booking. There are only six performances altogether and just two are matinees (Thursday 16 April & Saturday 18 April at 2pm). The prices for stall seats range from £13.50 to £19 but with a group discount it will be much less. Whichever day is the most popular I will book. If you are interested please ring me, 01204 303505. *Madeleine*

**CAMEO:** Our first event of 2015 is on Wednesday 14 January (2pm - 4pm) in St Brendan's Harbour Room: *After Christmas Fun and Games*. Join us for a fun afternoon of games and a chat. Please bring a wrapped gift to the value of £1. All will be made clear on the day as we blow away post Christmas blues. Our second event will be on Wednesday 11th Feb: Peter Watson on "the origin of surnames". A very interesting speaker.

**Red Mission Boxes:** St John's require a new Treasurer who will bank the money from the Mission Box collections. Also needed is a collector for the Egerton area (there are five or six boxes to be collected quarterly). Both are needed as soon as possible. Please telephone Margaret O'Kane (592348). Thank you.



**St John's Church Cleaning:** Thank you to all who currently help clean at St John's Church. With a view to the future, i.e. the Patmos Room extension, it may be a good opportunity to revise the current list of volunteers by having a quick get together to discuss future rotas. Perhaps we could change the way we work by looking at larger teams to reduce the time, or choose a day to clean? More importantly, there's always an opportunity to come together afterwards for a cup of coffee and a chat! There will be a quick meeting after the 9.15am Mass on Sunday 18 January in the Patmos Room for existing volunteers, and indeed, anyone who would be willing to come along and help in the future.

**Christian Unity:** There will be two services coming up (in Tonge Moor & Harwood) for Christian Unity Week. The first of these will be held next Sunday (18 January) at 6pm at St Andrew's Church, Tonge Moor. After the service there will be a short meeting for anyone interested in helping organise future ecumenical activity in the Tonge Moor area. The second service will be at 7.30pm on Monday 19 January at Christ's Church, Harwood.

**Fairtrade Stall:** Fairtrade goods will be available for sale at St John's after both Masses this weekend (11/12 January).

**St John's 200 Club**

The January winners are:

- £50 D O'Kane (171)
- £30 A Holroyd (118)
- £20 A Maguire (20)



**Cycle of Prayer Part 2 (of 6):** We pray especially for: peace on earth; Christian unity; the sick and those who care for them; students and teachers; the unemployed.

**Think Vocation**

Jesus comes for Baptism from John at the start of his public ministry. We can reflect today on how our own baptism marks us out for a share in that ministry – to continue Christ's work in the world today. Let us also pray for the priest or deacon who baptised us whether they are living or deceased.

**Marriage Matters**

[www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk](http://www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

**You are my Beloved**

How we each adapt to and accept the many differences in each other is a remarkable insight into the Spirit of God deeply seeded within us. It is this which calls us to say to one another: you are my chosen one in whom my heart delights! Let us celebrate with joy God's love for us and for all marriages.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

**HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE**

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