

This week at St Lawrence's



11th/12th January 2014

The Baptism of the Lord
(Missal Page 118 – YEAR A)
Weekday Lectionary: Year 2

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Psalm 28; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17
Second Sunday of the Year (Missal Page 125): Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; Psalm 39; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope that during these Christmas days you have had happiness and peace. Now the 12 Days of Christmas are over. I hope however that the grace of these days is not over, but will stay with us and our loved ones, for a long time. The grace of these days is our Lord **Jesus Christ** himself: *“Jesus Christ, yesterday and today and always, the beginning and the end; all times belongs to him and all the ages”*.

Today we conclude the Christmas season with the beautiful celebration of the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**. Baptism suggests very eloquently the global meaning of the Christmas celebrations in which the theme of *becoming God's children*, thanks to the Only-Begotten Son of God taking on our humanity, is a key element. He became man so that we might become children of God. God was *born* so that we might be *reborn*. Therefore we should always reflect on the fact that *we are children of God*. This is the fundamental condition that brings us all together. We are not all parents, but we are certainly all children. With the Sacrament of Baptism the person truly becomes a *son*, a son [or daughter] of God.

One of the earlier descriptions of Baptism in our Catholic tradition is: *‘the door of the spiritual life’*. Baptism is the way in, the foundation; it is the condition for the possibility of even having a spiritual life. To grasp this is to grasp something really basic about Christianity. Because Christianity is so much more than being a nice person or having a heart of gold or doing the right thing, as important they are. What does it mean to be a Christian? It means to be grafted onto Christ. It means to become a member of his Mystical Body; to participate in the relationship that He has to his Father. Therefore at the heart of Christianity is not just moral goodness, as important as that is, but is **divinization**: becoming a sharer in God's own divine life.

Generated from Baptism to new life, the Christian begins his journey of growth in faith that will lead him to invoking God consciously as *“Abba” - Father*, to addressing him with gratitude and to living the joy of being his child. To be baptised therefore, to share in the relationship between the Father and Son is to be in the Spirit, is to live a spiritual life. This is why Baptism is all about **grace**. We don't earn it, we don't buy it, and we don't do something to get it - rather through God's love we are drawn into his life. Jesus Christ, the **LIGHT** that God has sent into our lives, leading us out of the darkness of our deepest fears, our sufferings, and our sins. He alone can heal all the wounds of our failures and disappointments. He is our true hope! Once in Bethlehem. Now in London. Today in Feltham.

Many Blessings of joy and peace.

Fr Fortunato

SACRAMENTS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The Parents Session will be on **Tuesday 14th January** at 2.00pm or 7.00pm.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School resumes this Sunday with Rose Marie in St Lawrence's School at 10am. If you would like to find out more about our Sunday School programme please contact Bridget. Our Monday Group for children preparing for First Holy Communion (not in Catholic Schools) resumes this Monday at 5pm in the Parish Centre.

CONFIRMATION

The second Confirmation group will have their first meeting on **Thursday 16th January** at 7.00pm in the School Hall.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

If you are an adult who for whatever reason has not received the sacrament of Confirmation please contact Bridget regarding our Lenten preparation programme.

RCIA

Please continue to pray for our adults who are exploring the Catholic faith in our Monday evening group.

PARISH NOTICES

MASS WITH SCHOOL

The children of St Lawrence's School will be joining us for the 9.30am Mass on **Thursday 16th January** for the start of the new school term.

ST LAWRENCE'S PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group meets every **Thursday from 7.30pm to 9pm** in the Presbytery. A time of prayer and thanksgiving. Reflecting on scriptures. Intercessory prayers for the parish and wider community. New members welcome, come and see.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

The next PPC Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 21st January at 7.30pm**. If anyone has any items for the Council please write a note to the Chair, Graham Baker and post into the Presbytery by 12noon on the day.

THANK YOU

COMBONI SISTERS

Thank you to all of you for your generous support to the Appeal by Sr Natalia Gomes from the Comboni Missions. The Appeal raised £850.28 (includes a cheque given to Sr Natalia directly). Sr Natalia thanks Fr Chris and everyone in the parish for the very kind and warm welcome and especially your generosity.

NURSERY ADMISSIONS 2014 - FORM SIGNING

Fr Chris will be available Nursery Form signing at the following times for St Lawrence's School:

Tuesdays 3.30-4.30pm:	January 28 th	February 4 th , 11 th
	March 4 th , 11 th	April 1 st , 22 nd

Please come with your child and wait in Church.

Contact us:

9 The Green, Feltham, TW13 4AF
www.saintlawrences.org.uk

020 8890 2367

feltham@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Chris Vipers

Assistant Priest: Fr Fortunato Pantisano

Parish Sisters: Sr. Katherine O'Reilly, Sr. Monica Killeen, Sr. Nora Gorman

Catechetical Co-ordinator: Bridget Brinkley

Parish Secretary: Florie Fernandes

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Hazel Costello RIP, Bernadette Cimpoias RIP, Michael Brennan RIP, Baby Myles Rodrigues RIP and James David Fitzpatrick RIP** and keep their families in your prayers.

The Funeral Mass for **Hazel Costello RIP** will take place here on **Monday 13th January** at 11.30am.

The Funeral Mass for **Bernadette Cimpoias RIP** will take place here on **Wednesday 15th January** at 11am.

The Funeral Service for **Michael Brennan RIP** will take place at Hanworth Crematorium on **Wednesday 15th January** at 12noon.

The Funeral Mass for **Baby Myles Rodrigues RIP** will take place here on **Thursday 16th January** at 1pm.

The Funeral Mass for **James David Fitzpatrick RIP** will take place here on **Thursday 23rd January** at 2pm.

We also pray for the repose of the soul of **Veronica Mwaura RIP**, mother of Jacinta Mwaura who passed away in Kenya. Please keep Jacinta and family in your prayers.

OTHER

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEDFONT, FELTHAM AND HANWORTH

There will be an Ecumenical Service to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on **Sunday 19th January** at 3pm at St Dunstan's. All are welcome to attend.

PAX CHRISTI

There will be a retiring collection next weekend for Pax Christi, the Catholic movement for Peace in England and Wales.

PRINCESS ALICE HOSPICE

The Chaplaincy Team at Princess Alice Hospice are looking for Pastoral and Spiritual Care Volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering are invited to attend one of the Open Meetings planned at the Hospice (West End Lane, Esher, Surrey KT10 8NA). **Dates: Wednesday 15th January 6.30-8.30pm or Thursday 16th January 2.30-4.00pm.** Anyone interested but unable to attend the meeting call 01372 461806 for further information. Please see poster in porch.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

This year's Mass will take place at 2pm on **Saturday 8th February**. Archbishop Vincent Nichols will preside, and as in previous years, the Mass will include the Sacrament of the Sick. All are welcome, no seat reservations or tickets.

PILGRIMAGES 2014

PARISH PILGRIMAGE - MALTA

There are only a handful of seats left on this pilgrimage. If you have not already done so, please return your booking forms as soon as possible as places on the pilgrimage are being filled very quickly. The cost of the pilgrimage is £667. A deposit of £200 is required with the booking form plus £29 if you require travel insurance. If you have any queries please speak to Fr Chris or Florie in the Parish Office.

LOURDES 2014

We will be travelling by coach next year to join the Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, **20th-26th July**. Full details will be available shortly.

ECUMENICAL PILGRIMAGE TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELLA AND FATIMA

If you have taken a brochure and booking form for this Ecumenical Pilgrimage in September and would like to come please return your booking form and deposit to Fr Chris at the presbytery, or if you have sent your form direct to Pax Travel please let Fr Chris know. The deadline for booking is January 31st 2014.

Mass intentions and other services this week:

Saturday 11th Christmas Feria	11.00 11.00 11.45 12.00 17.00 18.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Sacrament of Reconciliation Benediction Thanksgiving Mass for Baptism Families Sacrament of Reconciliation Ellen McNab RIP
+ First Mass of Sunday		
+ Sunday 12th BAPTISM OF THE LORD	09.00 11.00 13.00 18.00	People of the Parish John & Kathleen Hamill RIP Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) Berl's Family Intentions
Monday 13th Feria Weekday Lectionary YR 2	09.15 09.30 11.30	Morning Prayer Eileen Carroll RIP (A) FUNERAL MASS – HAZEL COSTELLO RIP
Tuesday 14th Feria	09.15 09.30 10.00	Morning Prayer Jacinto Do Rosario RIP Novena to Our Lady
Wednesday 15th Feria	09.15 09.30 11.00	Morning Prayer Celebrant's Intention FUNERAL MASS – BERNADETTE CIMPOIAS RIP
Thursday 16th Feria	09.30 13.00	No Morning Prayer Private Intention – Domenica (with School) FUNERAL MASS – BABY MYLES RODRIGUES RIP
Friday 17th St Anthony, Abbot	09.15 09.30	Morning Prayer Diego & Alleluia D'Souza RIP
Saturday 18th Feria	11.00 11.00 11.45 12.00 16.00 17.00 18.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Sacrament of Reconciliation Benediction Harold & Afra Coutinho RIP Wedding of Jonathan Nicholas & Shiymani Anton Sacrament of Reconciliation People of the Parish
+ First Mass of Sunday		
+ Sunday 19th 2nd Sunday of the Year	09.00 11.00 13.00 18.00	William Flanagan RIP (Anniversary) Timothy Cahalane in Thanksgiving (93rd Birthday) Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) Deceased members of the Phan Family

Sanctuary Lamp: Thanksgiving for Baby Grace

Sunday Mass Times
Saturday 6 pm (Vigil Mass), Sunday 9 am, 11 am & 6 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) - Saturday 11am & 5pm

Thank you for your generosity in last week's Offertory Collection:

4th/5th Jan: Envelopes £1099.07, Loose £709.58, Standing Orders £420.00 Total: £2228.65

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