

ST LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH FELTHAM

The Green, Feltham, TW13 4AF



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The Baptism of the Lord

11th/12th January 2020

Readings: Parish Mass Book Year A, Volume 1: Page 118: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Psalm 28; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17

Weekday Readings: Week 1 Year 2

Next Week: Second Sunday of the Year: Page: 125: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; Psalm 39; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34



Parish Team

Parish Priest:

Fr. John Byrne

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Assistant Priest:

Fr John Louis Tabor

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Deacon:

Rev. Colin Macken

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Parish Pastoral Assistant:

Dr. Jordan Pullicino

Email:

jordanpullicino@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Secretary:

Florie Fernandes

(Office Open: Mon-Thurs 9am-1pm)

Parish Sisters:

Sr. Katherine O'Reilly, Sr. Mary O'Malley, Sr. Nora Gorman

Protecting your Privacy:

In compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which became effective in May 2018, the Parish requires your permission to hold your data for Parish/Diocesan use. You can read our full privacy policy on www.rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy

Sunday Mass: 6pm (Vigil Mass), Sunday 9am, 11am, 1pm (Polish) & 6pm; Weekday Mass: Monday-Friday 9.30am; Saturday 12noon; Morning Prayer: Monday-Friday 9.15am, Novena to Our Lady: Tuesdays 10am; Exposition and Benediction: Saturdays 11am; Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession): Saturday 11am & 5pm

This Parish is part of Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust (WRCDT) Registered Charity No: 233699

Dear Friends

Last summer I had the privilege of visiting the site of the baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ on the River Jordan in the Holy Land. I wasn't sure what I was expecting to see but in some ways I was a little disappointed. Because of the enormity of the event that happened there around 2000 years ago I had an expectation of a wide (perhaps even majestic) river, with crystal clear water meandering through the desert. What I actually saw was a narrow stream, no wider than three metres, with muddy waters which seemed to be almost stagnant. Additionally, the site of Jesus' baptism is over two hundred metres below sea level, at the lowest point on our planet.

I then wondered why Jesus chose to travel from Galilee to the River Jordan to begin his ministry. I suspect that it has everything to do with the location because in doing so he humbled himself in his humanity and therefore revealed to us his divinity. So now I'm thinking why was Jesus baptised at all? He had no sins to be forgiven and as he was the second person of the Blessed Trinity he already had divine life. So in Christ's baptism he is showing us through his baptism, what is happening to us in our baptism. Or to put it another way he didn't go into those waters of the River Jordan to be sanctified but to sanctify those waters. And in doing so he made those waters an instrument for our baptism, our salvation and our divine adoption.

I'm sure that most of you who are reading this won't remember your own baptisms because of course you were baptised as infants. But just as Jesus revealed his divinity in his baptism, our baptisms were the beginning of our divine lives, the day when we were born as sons and daughters of God.

Our baptisms brought us many gifts. God marked our souls as belonging to him as his beloved son or daughter, He cleansed our souls of sin, original sin if we were baptised as infants and personal sin if we were baptised after reaching the age of reason.

At our baptisms God placed divine life in our souls, and everything that is required for that divine life, virtue, faith, hope and charity, prudence, justice and fortitude. Additionally, God gave us the gifts of the Holy Spirit, wisdom, knowledge, counsel, piety and fear of the Lord, in fact everything we need for our divine lives has been given to us in "seed form" to be nourished and protected so we can all come to the fullness of life in Christ. Having divine life in our souls we become living members of the Body of Christ, so baptism is so much more than joining a club or a group.

The group that we have joined is our Church, with Christ as its head and with us as the living members.

Have a blessed week,

Deacon Colin

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS – SUNDAY MEDITATION

Meditate

At his baptism Jesus is revealed as the Son, the Beloved on whom God's favour rests. At the same time the Spirit is visible as a dove and the Father speaks. All of us have moments of light where God is close to us. We need to carry them within us so that when, we go through darkness, we do not give up.

Act

You could spend some time in prayer meditating the second mystery of light, thinking of those moments of light in your life which precede and support your mission and life.

SACRAMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Classes resume this **Sunday 12th January** at 10am.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Classes will resume on **Saturday 18th January** at 4.30pm followed by 6pm Mass

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION TUESDAY GROUP

We meet on **Tuesday 21st January** at 4.30pm in the Parish Centre.

ENROLMENT FOR THE SECOND CONFIRMATION GROUP

Please complete and bring your enrolment form to the Church on **Thursday 16th January** between **4.30-6.30pm** to meet with Jordan. Please bring a copy of your Baptism Certificate if you were not baptised at St Lawrence's. Classes will start on 23rd January.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The next session will be on **Saturday 18th January at 10am** in the Presbytery.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE

The next Baptism Preparation Course will take place on **Saturday 25th January** from 2.00-4.00pm in the Parish Centre. It is aimed at first time parents. Please call Jordan Pullicino or email (jordanpullicino@rcdow.org.uk) to reserve your place.

PARISH NOTICES

HELP WITH REMOVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREE, CRIB AND DECORATIONS

We are appealing for help to remove the decorations, crib and tree on **Monday 13th January** after 9.30am Mass. The Christmas Tree will be collected by the Council on Thursday 16th January so needs to be out by the entrance to Church grounds on 15th January.

ST LAWRENCE'S SCHOOL

We welcome the Children of St Lawrence's to their Start of Term Mass on **Wednesday 15th January** at 9.30am.

EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE

On **Thursday 16th January** there will be a Eucharistic Service at 9.30am as both Fr John and Fr John-Louis are away.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 21st January** at 6.30pm.

CARITAS

St Lawrence's parish and the Caritas Food Collective will be running another holiday club, to help children and families access nutritious, healthy food and enjoy fun activities during the holidays. This will take place on **Friday 21st February** in the parish hall.

Thanks to all those who had volunteered previously, we hope you will be able to volunteer again. We still need more volunteers to help in the many different roles, training will be provided. Please register your interest on the sign-up sheet at the church or contact Anna Gavurin on 020 7931 6077 or at annagavurin@rcdow.org.uk. If you had already put your name down previously, please do not do so again as it just duplicates and causes confusion.

2020 - THE YEAR OF THE WORD ...

Following a directive from Pope Francis the Diocese have several events going on. As a start Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz PhD and Sr Monica Cardona PhD are running a series of talks through the Year of the Word on the Bible. The next talk is titled, **'What do we mean by Bible?'** exploring the origins and makeup of the Bible, on **14th Jan 7-8.30pm** at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN. Suggested donation £5. Please register at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk. A full list of the dates of the sessions is on the notice board.

ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER

Please hand in your items in writing by Wednesday of each week. Do not verbally give information as it gets lost!!

ZIMBABWEAN COFFEE MORNING

Helen Hurlley will be travelling to Zimbabwe and will be holding a Coffee morning to raise funds for the Zimbabwean orphans. This will be on **Sunday 9th February** after the 9am and 11am Masses. Offers of help and donations of cakes would be most welcome.

ROOM TO LET

A young couple in the parish are looking for somewhere to live in Feltham. If anyone has a double room to rent for approximately six months, please contact the Parish Office.

WALKING TOGETHER: POPE FRANCIS AND HIS VISION FOR ECUMENISM

Churches Together in Bedfont, Feltham & Hanworth will be hosting a talk by Christopher Lamb on the above topic at St Lawrence's Parish Centre on **Tuesday 28th January at 3.00pm**. The talk will be followed by questions and refreshments. All welcome.

WOMEN'S INTERFAITH EVENT

Colette Joyce, the new Justice and Peace Coordinator for Westminster Diocese, is speaking on Women in the New Testament, at the Baitul Wahid Mosque, Raleigh Way, Feltham, TW13 7NX, on **Sunday 19th January, 2.30-4.30pm**. There will also be a Jewish and Muslim speaker talking about women in their Holy Books. Refreshments and tour of mosque are included. Free. **Women only**. Contact Colette on colettejoyce@rcdow.org.uk if interested in attending or call Mrs Bushra Bhatti 07414 961 924. See poster on notice board.

HOUNSLOW PARISH – JOB VACANCIES

Two job vacancies have come up at Hounslow Parish. One is for a Parish Catechist and the other for a Parish Administrator. The link for both these jobs is <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>. Any interested candidate may wish to submit his/her application as soon as possible through this link. The link provides all the necessary information about the Hounslow Parish Catechist and the Parish Administrator Roles. Closing date for the Catechist role is 15th January and for the Parish Administrator is 24th January.

REST IN PEACE

EUGENIE BARBARA SELLORS RIP

We pray for the repose of the soul of **Eugenie Barbara Sellors RIP**, who died recently. Please also keep in your prayers her family and all who mourn her. May she rest in peace. Her Requiem Mass will take place here on **Thursday 23rd January** at 12noon.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 11	11.00 11.00 12.00 17.00 18.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Sacrament of Reconciliation Maria Webb and Family in Thanksgiving Sacrament of Reconciliation Steve Walsh RIP (Anniversary)
Sun 12	09.00 11.00 13.00 14.30 18.00	Desmond & Ruth Quinn RIP Trevor Clarke (Get Well) Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) Mass in Ukrainian People of the Parish
Mon 13	09.30	John James O'Reilly RIP
Tues 14	09.30 12.00	Joao, Monte & Domingos Do Rego RIP Baptism of Gerry Delaney
Wed 15	09.30	Catherine O'Connell Holohan RIP (With School)
Thurs 16	09.30 18.00	Matthew Rodrigues RIP (Eucharistic Service) Sacred Heart of Jesus devotions
Fri 17	09.30 13.00	Ellen Pireku RIP Baptism of Martin Stokes
Sat 18	11.00 11.00 12.00 17.00 18.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Sacrament of Reconciliation Herbert Williams RIP Sacrament of Reconciliation Matthew Graham RIP
Sun 19	09.00 11.00 13.00 14.30 18.00	John Igboanugo Junior RIP John, Kathleen & Peter Hamill RIP Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) Mass in Malayalam Deceased members of the Crawley Family RIP
Sanctuary Lamp: Quainoo & Pireku Families RIP		

Thank you for your generosity in collection last week:

4-5 January: Envelopes £838.16 Loose £1,219.17
Standing Orders £769.00 **Total £2,826.33**