

This week at St Lawrence's



12th/13th January 2013



The Baptism of the Lord
(Missal Page 118 – YEAR C)
Eucharistic Prayer III (Page 27)

Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7; Psalm 28; Acts 10:34-38; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22
2nd Sunday of the Year (Missal Page 127): Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 95; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11;
John 2:1-11



Dear Friends

Today, the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, marks the close of Christmastide. It has, once again, been a beautiful Christmas here at St Lawrence's. It's when our parish family truly shines. So a new year dawns, and today's feast is a wonderful way to begin it. St Luke's account of the Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan is an inspiration, an invitation to each of us to hear God our Father's words, spoken to Jesus, spoken also to us on the day of our Baptism and every day of our Christian lives: "You are my son, my daughter, the Beloved; my favour rests on you". There is no better way to start this new year of your Christian life than to hear these life-affirming, life-enhancing, life-changing words again. Whatever this year brings, blessing and burdens alike, God's favour rests on you.

A very happy - and blessed - new year to you all.

Fr Chris

Contact us:

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Fr Chris Vipers

Sister Katherine O'Reilly

Catechetical Co-ordinator: Bridget Brinkley

Parish Secretary: Florie Fernandes (Office Opening Hours: 9am to 1pm)

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SACRAMENTS

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2013 (YEAR 9 AND ABOVE)

NOT ADULT CONFIRMATION

The next preparation session is on the **Thursday 24th January** 2013 at 7pm in St. Lawrence's School Hall.

The Rite of Enrolment for Confirmation will take place at the 6pm Mass on Sunday 27th January.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The Parents Sessions with Fr Chris will be on **Tuesday 15th January** at 2.30pm or 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

PARISH NOTICES

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.

THE FELTHAM PASSION

Next March, just before Holy Week, we are joining with local churches to present **The Feltham Passion**. Recruitment for this starts right now, and we are looking for people to take part in the following ways: *soloists, actors, dancers, readers, stage management, technicians and costume makers*. Full details are available in the Church porch. An initial meeting will take place on **Sunday 13th January** from 12.30-3.30pm in the Parish Centre. You won't regret it!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy group is open to children who are in reception class and above. It takes place during three of the Sunday Masses in the Parish Centre – Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9am and 11am. Children's Liturgy catechists are asked to collect their rotas from the Presbytery.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School programme for children attending non-Catholic schools takes place at 10am in St Lawrence's School. Children aged 6 and above are invited to attend. Please bring your child along and see Bridget Brinkley for more details.

UCM

The UCM will meet on **Monday 14th January** at 7.30pm for the beginning of the New Year. "Have you made any New Year resolutions yet?"

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Pastoral Council Meeting will take place on **Thursday 17th January** at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. If anyone has any items they would like to be included in the agenda please send a note to Graham Baker, Chair care of the Parish Office.

OTHER

THANKSGIVING MASS FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL ON SATURDAY 18TH MAY 2013 AT 3.00PM

The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th and 60th+ wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2013. If you qualify, please give the following details in writing to the Parish Office as soon as possible: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number). Please write clearly.

YEAR OF FAITH QUESTION BOX

'Why do Catholic schools not employ Catholic staff?'

Answer: This question seems to suggest that Catholic schools have a problem recruiting Catholic staff (presumably teachers). It is indeed true that recruiting teachers is not an easy task for any school; statistics reveal that up to a third of newly qualified teachers leave the profession within their first few years. The problem becomes more acute in a school which has a distinct ethos or tradition. It would surely be untrue to suggest that head teachers and governing bodies in Catholic schools refuse to appoint Catholics as teachers. Our own school, for example, actively recruits from the Catholic college of St Mary's Strawberry Hill. This is an issue which needs our prayers, but also our action. Are we encouraging our young people to consider teaching as a profession? Do we actively support our teachers in their demanding and vital roles?

'What makes a school Catholic?'

Answer: A school is made Catholic by its tradition and ethos, through the teaching of the Faith and also by the links it maintains with the diocese and parish in which it is located. At the same time the school community – children, teachers, clergy, ancillary staff, parents, governing body etc – works together to build up the Catholic ethos through worship and the love and care they show for one another. Our Faith should also be visible and audible in our schools – crucifixes, images of the saints, attractive catechetical displays should be apparent along with gracious and careful use of language, and the skilful employment of music and drama.
DH.

Keep your questions coming!

WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

January

Sunday 27th – 14.00 – Mass led by the African Community

Sunday 27th – 18.00 – Rite of Enrolment for Confirmation

February

Saturday 2nd – 12.30pm – Rome Pilgrimage Meeting – Parish Centre

Sunday 10th – CAFOD Cake sale after the 9am and 11am Masses.

Wednesday 13th – ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent Course – A School of Prayer – a four week journey of discovery

Saturday 16th – Lent Day of Prayer in Church

SCHOOL FORM SIGNING

Fr Chris will be available at the following times for St Lawrence's School

Nursery Class 2013 Admissions:

Saturdays: 9.30am – 10.30am: January 19th, 26th; February 2nd, 9th; March 2nd; April 13th

Thursdays: 3.45pm – 4.45pm: January 24th, 31st; February 7th, 14th, March 7th; April 18th

Please come with your child and wait in the Church.

THANK YOU

THE PASSAGE APPEAL

Thank you for your support to the Passage. The total raised was £794.56.

Mass intentions and other services this week:

Saturday 12th Christmas Feria	11.00 11.00 11.45 12.00 17.00 18.00	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Sacrament of Reconciliation Benediction Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Baptism Sacrament of Reconciliation Margaret Simmons RIP
+ Sunday 13th The Baptism of the Lord	09.00 11.00 13.00 18.00	For the staff and residents of Derwent Lodge Care Centre People of the Parish Mass in Polish (Msze) Annette Lynch RIP
Monday 14th Feria Year C: <i>Weekday Lectionary</i> First Week of Year 1	09.15 09.30	Morning Prayer William Simmons RIP
Tuesday 15th Feria	09.15 09.30 10.00	Morning Prayer Nellie Connolly RIP and Michael Joe Folan RIP <i>Novena to Our Lady</i>
Wednesday 16th Feria	09.15 09.30	Morning Prayer For Vocations
Thursday 17th St Anthony, Abbott	09.15 09.30	Morning Prayer Xavier Menezes RIP
Friday 18th Feria	09.15 09.30	Morning Prayer Valerie Travena (Get well)
Saturday 19th St Wulstan, Bishop	11.00 11.00 11.45 12.00 12.45 17.00 18.00	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Sacrament of Reconciliation Benediction Edward Barber RIP <i>Baptism of Angelina Bernadette Joseph</i> Sacrament of Reconciliation William Flannagan RIP
+ Sunday 20th 2nd Sunday of the Year	09.00 11.00 13.00 18.00	Sheila Edgeworth RIP John & Kathleen Hamill RIP Mass in Polish (Msze) People of the Parish

Sanctuary Lamp: Adele Barreto (Intention)

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:

The figures were not available at the time of printing

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