

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

The Baptism of the Lord
10 January 2010



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One Hundred and Fifty Years!

Father Bampfield hired a suitable house at Waltham Cross on 2nd February, 1860, and said his first Mass there for the parish (or mission as it was known then) on 5th February, 1860.

Archbishop Vincent Nichols will be coming to celebrate Mass with us at 6.30pm on Saturday 6th February 2010 to celebrate our anniversary, and launch The History of the Church which has been written by Geoff Kinton at the Social Gathering in Eleanor Hall after Mass. Please put the date in your diaries!

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED!

To become one of the Altar Servers in the Parish, you must have received your First Communion, and be attending Mass here. If you celebrated your First Communion last year or have recently moved into the Parish, and would like to join the Altar Servers, please see Fr John.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHESHUNT AND WALTHAM CROSS

There will be a Churches Together in Cheshunt and Waltham Cross Meeting in Christchurch, on the corner of Trinity Lane, at 8.00pm on Monday 11th January. All parishioners are welcome to attend. The annual Service of Prayer for Christian Unity will be on Sunday 24th January at 3.00pm in St James's Church in Goff's Oak.

CYCLE OF PRAYER – ORDINARY TIME WINTER 2019

During this time of the year, we are asked to pray for these intentions: Peace on Earth, Christian Unity, The Sick and those who care for them, Students and Teachers, The Unemployed.

EMPOWERED

The baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of his formal mission on earth. It's the moment when he takes his first steps in response to his Father's commission and begins to preach about the kingdom that God wants to establish here on earth and for all eternity.

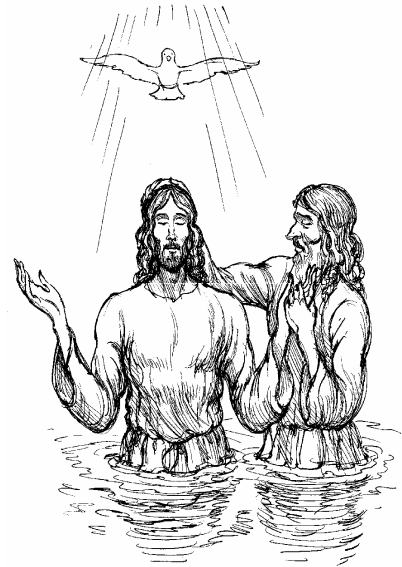
In future times of hesitation and difficulty Jesus would look back at his baptism and see it as the moment he was anointed to bring comfort to the afflicted and challenge to the affluent. It was the touchstone of his ministry.

It's easy for us to make the mistake of looking at our own baptism as simply a past event. We can imagine that it's something over and done with, something that was done to us as a child. This is because we tend to view baptism as being officially enrolled in the Church, as having our name written among those who are Christians. Baptism does indeed enrol; but more than that: it empowers.

Because we are baptised we have certain rights as Christians; we can take part fully in all that the Church celebrates, we can be baptised, married, buried etc. Along with these rights go certain responsibilities. We agree to live as members of God's people, to support each other and all those who are in need, to deepen our relationship with God and to become mouthpieces for the Good News of Jesus Christ.

As one of the sacraments, baptism needs to be lived out each day or else it will wither. It's a dynamic thing. The grace of baptism empowers us to become witnesses. We claim that Christ's message offers us the chance of living life to the full, of getting the most out of life, and our baptism fires us up to spread the news to others rather than keeping it to ourselves. It makes us official spokesmen and women.

So if you're tempted to think that spreading the Good News is something for the professionals, for catechists and missionaries, then think again. You've been empowered by the grace of your baptism to be an effective witness to the force of God in your life. Make sure you do your baptism



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servants.

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great and small.

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill.

You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I.
He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS: NEXT WEEKS' READINGS:

Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11 Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 103 Psalm 95
Titus 2:11-14.3:4-7 1 Corinthians 1: 12:4-11
Luke 3:15-16.21-22 John 2:1-11

Mass Times

SUNDAY	BAPTISM OF THE LORD	8.30am 11.00am 12.30pm & 6.30pm
Monday		10.00am
Tuesday	Aelred	10.00am
Wednesday	Hilary	10.00am
Thursday		10.00am
Friday		10.00am
Saturday		6.30pm
SUNDAY	SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	8.30am 11.00am 12.30pm & 6.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation -
Saturday 10.30 - 11.00am & 5.45 - 6.15pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church each Friday morning from 9.15 to 9.45.

Offertory Last Week: £1,404.37. Crib: £97.16
Standing orders for Dec: £1,610.50 Thank You!

SVP

The SVP Group meets on Monday evenings at 8.00pm in the Sacristy.

RCIA

The RCIA Group will meet on Monday evening at 8.00pm in the Presbytery.

LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary meets in the Sacristy at 10.45 on Tuesday mornings.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CATECHISTS

There is a meeting for First Holy Communion Catechists at 8.00pm on Tuesday 12th January in the Presbytery.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

There is a meeting for Confirmation Parents and Candidates at 8.00pm on Thursday 14th January in the Church.

BAPTISM THIS WEEK

Sunday 10th January 2010: at 11.00 - Robbie Walsh

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK

The Westminster Year Book 2010 is now available from the shop priced at £4.

LINE DANCING

Line dancing classes restart on Tuesday 12th January 2010 at 7.30pm in Eleanor Hall. Thank you all for your support in raising to date £595 in only ten weeks, towards the new hall building costs.

ST JOSEPH'S FITNESS CLUB

Could this be your chance to lose the extra pounds gained over Christmas!! Anybody interested in joining please ring Stewart 01992 634445 or email stewartbrodiesykes@yahoo.co.uk. Times and dates have still to be arranged.

DIARY 2010

The 2010 Diary for Mass Intentions is now open.

MONEY ROTAS

The new Banking and Gift Aid Entering Rotas are available, can be collected from the Parish Office.

ST PAULS' SUNDAY MISSAL

St Paul's 2010 Sunday Missal is now on sale in the shop, priced £4.50. Please note that the Missals are free to those who are on Readers' Rota.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

Dr David Black will be coming to our Parish on the 23rd and 24th January 2010 to talk at the Masses on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need. He looks forward to telling us about the work of this Catholic charity throughout the world, and appealing for your support.

AN APOLOGY

We are sorry about the confusion about the date of the School Mass last week. The date given in the Newsletter was the one originally requested by, and agreed with, the School. The date was subsequently changed, but the Parish was not informed.