

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Baptism of the Lord
11th January 2009



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If a man or woman wears a ring on their finger it's often a sign that they are married. It's a way of reminding themselves and others that they've committed themselves to another person totally and forever. But just wearing the ring doesn't make them married; nor does it automatically make them faithful. It's a sign or symbol of their commitment. If they're to be faithful to each other then they have to live out their commitment day in day out.

The same is true of baptism. Baptism is a sacramental sign that we have been given salvation in Christ. But just being baptised doesn't mean we're "saved". Our baptism has to be a genuine sign, like the ring. We have to live out our baptism rather than simply acting as though it was something that was over and done with one Sunday in church long ago.

There's a difference between a wedding and a marriage. You can get a wedding planner to help you make your big day go well but you can't get a marriage planner. That's because a wedding only lasts a day but a marriage lasts a lifetime and needs working at day after day.

Perhaps we could say that a "Christening" takes a day but a baptism takes a lifetime. Christians need to work at their baptism just like a married couple need to work at their marriage.

When a person is baptised by being fully immersed in water, what we are witnessing is essentially a type of funeral. We are saying that this man or woman in going down into the tomb with Christ and rising again to new life. The old person that they used to be is now dead and buried, and they are taking on a new life in Christ.

So when we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord we are reminded that every day brings a fresh opportunity for us to work on our own baptism: to offer God the best we have (to be priests), to speak out about the values of God's kingdom (to be prophets) and to protect and enhance the creation that God has gifted us with (to be kings and queens). Baptism is not a step that some adults can take. For those of us who have already taken it, today's feast is an occasion for thanksgiving and recommitment.

THE ST. JOSEPH'S 100 (OR MORE) CLUB 2009

We would like to thank everyone who supported the 100+ Club during 2008. It is a great way to both support the Parish Centre Building Fund and have the chance to win cash prizes every month. Last year the 100+ Club raised £920 for the Parish Centre Fund and £920 was given out in prizes. You will find more details on the application forms available at the entrances to the Church. Building on this success, the Club will continue in 2009 with an unchanged subscription of £12 per number per year. Again, one half of the total contributions will go to the New Parish Centre fund and the other half will be paid out in prizes in the monthly draw. There is no limit to the number of members – the more members, the greater the Prize Fund, and the greater the amount raised for the New Parish Centre.



100+ CLUB – CHRISTMAS JACKPOT WINNERS

£100 – No. 137 Joseph Dain-Williams

£40 – No. 60 Gemma Alexander

£40 – No. 95 Lisa Brady

WINTER GRAND DRAW AND EPIPHANY PARTY

Thank you to everyone who supported the Winter Grand Draw and Epiphany Party. Together we raised about £650. Special thanks to Louis for the Disco. Many thanks also for all the raffle prize donations. If you need a home for any unwanted Christmas Gifts, please leave them in the box at the side entrance to the Church.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered their help on the recent events and activities questionnaire. Two brief meetings are planned for Sunday 25th January 2009 after 10.45am Mass and Tuesday 27th January at 8.00pm. It would be most helpful if you could attend either one of these meetings.

THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY SNOW BALL

The SVP are organising a "Snow Ball" on Saturday 31st January at the Colosseum in Watford (next to the Town Hall). Funds raised will enable some of the families they support to go on a much needed break to the SVP Ozanam Centre in North Wales. Tickets cost £40 and include a meal, some wine and a live band – these can be obtained from Denise on 01923 221539 or Siobhan on 01923 442298.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name.

Sing a psalm to the Lord
For he has done glorious deeds,
Make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said:
This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS: NEXT WEEKS' READINGS:

Isaiah 55:1-11 1 Samuel 3:3-10.19
Isaiah 12:2-6 Ps 39:2.4.7-10
1 John 5:1-9 1 Cor 6:13-15.17-20
Mark 1:7-11 John 1:35-42
Mass Times

SUNDAY	BAPTISM OF THE LORD	8.30am 10.45am 12.15pm & 6.30pm
Monday		10.00am
Tuesday	Hilary, Bishop & Doctor	10.00am
Wednesday		10.00am
Thursday		10.00am
Friday		10.00am
Saturday	Anthony, Abbot	6.30pm
SUNDAY	SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	8.30am 10.45am 12.15pm & 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: £1,423.08

Crib: £121.25

Christmas Offerings: £104.05

plus the regular Standing Orders. Thank You!

ST PAUL'S SUNDAY MISSAL

St Paul's 2009 Sunday Missal is now on sale in the shop, price £4.50. Please note that the Missals are free to those who are on the Reader's Rota.

SVP

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

LEGION OF MARY

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

RCIA

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

FUNDRAISING MEETING

There will be a Fundraising Meeting at 8.00pm on Tuesday 13th January in the Presbytery.

PARISH MASS DIARY

The Mass Book for celebrating Masses here in the Parish is now open again.

THE GHANA CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY

The Chaplaincy will be celebrating a New year Mass at St Chad's RC Church, Whitworth Road, South Norwood SE23 6XN. It will be at 1.00pm on Sunday 11th January. All Ghanaian Catholics are invited to attend.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

There will be a meeting for the First Communion Catechists on Monday 12th January at 7.00pm.

CHURCHES TOGETHER

There will be a Churches Together in Cheshunt and Waltham Cross Meeting in the Waltham Cross Baptist Church, at 8.00pm on Monday 12th January. All parishioners are welcome to attend. The annual Service of Prayer for Christian Unity will be on Sunday 25th January at 3.00pm here in St Joseph's.

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.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

A Baptism Preparation Course will begin on Sunday 1st February at 2.30pm at the Convent in Longlands Close. If you wish your child to be baptised in the near future, please contact Father John.

PARENT & TODDLER GROUP

The Group will open again from Wednesday 14th and Friday 16th January from 9.30 – 11.30am. £1.50 per session. All welcome.

FRENCH CLUB

The French Club has now restarted in Eleanor Hall on Wednesday for age 5-7 and Thursday Age 8-11 both from 3.45 – 4.45pm. Encourage your children's language skills in a fun way through songs, games and the interactive website. Please contact Pauline on 07983 045050.

CYCLE OF PRAYER – ORDINARY TIME WINTER 2009

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.