

The Baptism of the Lord

Registered Charity No. 234025



For most of us as Catholics, the day of our baptism is not something that we remember. Our parents brought us to church dressed in special, white baptismal garments and lots of pictures were taken of us with our parents, godparents, grandparents and the priest or deacon that baptized us. We may not remember the actual event but we've usually got pictures to prove the event took place. At Jesus' Baptism, they didn't need to take any pictures to make the event memorable. Matthew tells us that at Jesus' Baptism the heavens opened up and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and

coming upon him, a loud voice from the heavens declaring, 'This is my Beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.' It is interesting that, for a baby born in a simple stable, on a silent night, all those years later has such a dramatic Baptism in the River Jordan. We know that Jesus didn't need Baptism, Baptism is for us but by his Baptism, Jesus makes holy the water of every Baptism that will take place following his. Baptism is our way of beginning our walk with Jesus Christ and as we come to the end of our Christmas season, before we head into Ordinary Time, we take the time to remember that we are baptized people and that it makes us different. From the moment the water was poured over our heads, we were a new creation in Christ, we were born again. Following this Feast Day, we are reminded that it is time for all of us to go to work, building the Kingdom of God, and bringing his Gospel to every person that we come in contact with. On this Feast Day, we are sent out into a world that desperately needs us, just like Jesus was, two thousand years ago. May we bear witness to our Baptisms with our lives, not just with our words, may we live out our Faith every day and put into action, Jesus' good news, by the way that we care and get involved.

Masses and Services During the week - Eucharistic Service: Monday - 9.30 a.m. Masses: Tuesday - Friday - 9.30 a.m. Sunday - 9 a.m., 10.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. Reconciliations - Saturday - at 12.30 - 1.00 p.m and again from 6.30 - 7.00 p.m.

We welcome 6 of our young people who are enrolling for Confirmation at our 10.30 a.m. mass today. We pray for the candidates, their parents and their Catechists throughout their time of preparation.

Please pray for Derick Rowlinson whose funeral takes place on Friday at 3.20 p.m. We pray for his family and friends at this time and for **Joyce Flaherty** whose funeral Mass is at 10.00 a.m. on Friday 17th January. We pray for her and the entire family. May they both rest in peace.

Annual Mass for the Celebration of Marriage 2020 - The annual Mass for the Celebration of Marriage will be celebrated this year at St Joseph's, Birkenhead on Saturday 8th February at 12 noon. Any couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2020 wishing to attend are asked to let Father know, together with an indication of which anniversary they are celebrating, so that they may receive a personal invitation.

Marriage Encounter - 4th to 5th July, 2020, an Opportunity for all Married Couples to enrich their marriage and renew their commitment to one another. A non-residential Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held at Savio House, Bollington, Nr Macclesfield, SK10 5RW. Most couples and many priests find this a very rewarding experience. Book now at www.wwme.org.uk or for more information contact Charles & Krysia Golabek on 01625 263627 charles.golabek@ntlworld.com or Mark & Liz Dutton on 01625 428498 lizmark@lizmark1.co.uk

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes - The dates of the Lourdes Pilgrimage for 2020 are: 28th July to 5th August, overland and 29th July to 4th August, by air.

God Bless You All

Fr. William O'Riordan

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. W. O'Riordan 01625 522776. Permanent Deacon: Rev. B.T. Chrisp: 07925 072270.

Parish Contact for all Sacraments/Newsletter -Trish Chrisp: 07957 285824 or trishchrisp@gmail.com

Parish Rep. Child Protection: 01625 252108. S.V.P: 07749 453776. Hall Co-ordinator: 01625 250879

Parish Website: <http://stbenedictshandforth.mycylex.co.uk>

Your Catholic Primary School is: St. Benedict's situated on Hall Road, Handforth.

For more information please contact Hannah McGuire, Head Teacher on 01625 520207