

THE WORD THIS WEEK

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD YEAR A

8 January 2023

It may seem strange, but this is a Christmas Feast - not if we think of Christmas only in terms of the Baby in Bethlehem, but if we have followed the ideas of the Feasts of Holy Family and especially Epiphany and have seen the Season in terms of the growing manifestation or appearing of the Son of God: first to the shepherds and then to the wise men from the East. Now in the River Jordan, Jesus, Son of Mary, is revealed to all as the fullness of all God's promises: 'This is my Son, the Beloved'. On this day we stand before the revelation of God's love for us, such that he would send his only Son into the world. Christmas without the Baptism of the Lord, and the words that are spoken from heaven, would be incomplete, since it is only in them that we fully see the wonder of what happened in Bethlehem, that we fully understand the reason for the joy with which we celebrated Christmas Day. As we come to the end of Christmas today and look forward to hearing the Gospel in Ordinary Time, we do so having been shown who it is we listen to: the only Son of God, the Beloved.

PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

PARISH OF DIVINE MERCY PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, help us never to abandon your ways. As you have loved and shown us your mercy, may we sincerely express our love for God by loving our neighbour and being merciful to them. Jesus, King of Divine Mercy, we trust in you.

2. READINGS

First: Isaiah 43: 1-4, 6-7 - The Lord says "Here is my servant ... that he may bring true justice to the nations ... he does not cry our shout aloud ... Faithfully he brings true justice ... I the Lord have called you to serve the cause of right ..."

Psalm 28: The Lord will bless his people with peace / O give the Lord you sons of God / The Lord's voice resounding on the water / The God of glory thunders.

Second: Acts 10:34-48: God does not have favourites: his word was sent to the people of Israel - but Jesus Christ is the Lord of all ... because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen to the power of the devil.

Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17 - John baptizes Jesus - heaven opened and he saw the Spirit of God descend on him like a dove ... "this is my Son, the beloved: my favour rests on him".

3. NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE: Thank you to all those who came to the New Year's Eve dance. A good night was had by all. Thank you to those who organised it. Same time same place next year!

4. AFRICAN COMMUNITY DINNER GET-TOGETHER: The African Community of Divine Mercy Parish is having a Dinner Get-together today, 8 January 2023 at Corpus Christi tearoom. Time: from 3:00pm. You are invited to join us.

5. HOPE IN THE FUTURE FAMILY MASS: As we move, as a parish, into Stage 5 of our Hope in the Future project, the Mass at both churches on Sunday, 22nd January will be a Family Mass with participation from pupils from all three of our parish schools. Parishioners are encouraged, where possible, to attend Mass as a family. Stage 5 emphasises the need for us to 'Share the Hope' and reach out as a community by showing compassion and care for

those in need. We are also asked to reflect on our role as stewards of the earth that God has created for us.

6. HOPE IN THE FUTURE FORMATION DAY: The diocese is running a 'Formation Day' for those who want an opportunity to learn more about the needs of their community and how best to respond. The session for our Deanery will be on 18th March and parishioners are encouraged to attend then. However, if you are interested but cannot attend on that date other sessions will run on 21st January and 18th February. Further information and registration details are on the poster at the back of each church.

7. ST HERBERT'S CLEANING ROTA: Thank you to all those people who have helped to keep the Church clean throughout the year. We are grateful for all your help. If anyone else would like to help for one hour once a month, please see Barbara Mallinson or email divinemercuryoldham@gmail.com. Thank you.

8. YOGA/CHAIR YOGA: Yoga/Chair yoga classes will restart in the Parish Centre on Thursday, 12 January - 6.15 pm - 7.15 pm (12/1/23 until 23/2/23 - no class on 9 February). £5.00 per session or £25.00 for six sessions including use of a mat. Beginners welcome.

9. CHILDREN'S LITURGY - CORPUS CHRISTI: Children's Liturgy will resume next Sunday 15th January in the presbytery. There will be a short meeting in the presbytery for all the staff after 9.30 Mass this Sunday.

10. CORPUS CHRISTI 'A' TEAM CLEANING: The team will be cleaning the Church on the following Mondays this winter/spring.
9 Jan, 23 Jan, 6 Feb, 20 Feb, 6 Mar, 20 Mar, 3 April.
As a small team, we always love an extra hand if you are free on these dates. We start at 9am and finish by 10am with a cuppa and Liz's cakes.

11. PARENT/TODDLER GROUP: reopens on Thursday, 12 January at 1.00 pm in St Herbert's Parish Centre. All welcome.

HYMNS

CORPUS CHRISTI: Entrance: 314; Offertory: 240, 362; Communion: 681, 656; Recessional: 297.
ST HERBERT'S: Entrance: 526; Offertory: 362; Communion: 614, 630; Recessional: 290.

11. LADIES' EVENING: Payment is now due for the Ladies' Evening on the 27 January (Price: £25.00). Social Committee members will be available after 11am Mass on Sunday, 8 January. The last date for payments will be Sunday 14 January. Many thanks.

12 CHARITABLE COLLECTION OF USED STAMPS – FINAL WEEK: Parishioners are kindly asked to save used postage stamps collected over the Christmas period and place them in the boxes to be found in both churches. These will then be sent to the two charities concerned with Alzheimer's Disease and Parkinson's Disease, from which several parishioners sadly suffer. Please leave about half a centimetre of paper around each stamp.

13. PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES – CORPUS CHRISTI: These are still available at the back of Church. They are NOT Gift Aid. They are provided to help people remember to make an offering each week. They are dated for each Sunday of the year and they started last Sunday, 1st January.


14. SUNDAY SMILE - For the mathematicians among us!

After the animals had exited the ark, the Lord came to them and spoke thus, "Go forth and multiply." The snakes came to him and said, "Oh Lord, but we cannot fulfil thy commandment, for we are adders."

Thus spoke the Lord, "Go and cut down trees, and out of the trees you shall fashion furniture. For then adders can multiply with the aid of log tables."

WORDSEARCH

T	N	A	E	D	V	O	I	E	C	JESUS	JORDAN	JOHN
S	I	D	R	O	J	F	A	R	A	BAPTISM	FITTING	DEMANDS
U	D	R	O	J	I	R	N	T	S	WATER	HEAVENS	SPIRIT
E	M	S	I	T	P	A	B	A	S	DOVE	VOICE	SON
S	C	S	T	P	D	T	A	W	D			
E	E	I	U	R	S	D	A	W	N			
J	N	N	O	S	O	T	N	H	A			
G	O	J	I	V	E	M	O	O	M			
T	O	H	E	R	E	J	E	J	E			
E	S	N	E	V	A	E	H	E	D			



WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- MONDAY:** Both churches closed.
- TUESDAY:** **Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer at 6.30 pm; Mass at 7.00 pm.
- WEDNESDAY:** **St Herbert's:** Private Prayer at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am;
- THURSDAY:** **Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer at 9.00 am; Mass at 9.30 am
- FRIDAY:** **St Herbert's:** Private Prayer at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am
- SATURDAY:** **Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer at 5.00 pm; Mass at 5.30 pm
- SUNDAY:** **Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer 9.00 am; Mass at 9.30 am
St Herbert's: Private Prayer 10.30 am; Mass at 11.00 am

CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE BEFORE MASS ON REQUEST

MASS REQUESTS

Missa pro populo
Special Intention: Ann Legge, Joe Ball
Lately Dead: Jeffrey Ollerhead, Martin Francis Ward, Ann Marie Connor, Kathleen Hughes, Vincent Murphy, Peter Haughey, James Haughey, Rose Leyland
RIP: Alan Maymon, Holy Souls in Purgatory
Anniversary: John McDermott, Colin Prince, Jamie Kalthoeber
Birthday Anniversary: Jean Ankers

PRAYER FOR SICK & HOUSEBOUND

Father, we place before you all the sick and housebound of the parish:
 John McCarthy, Gerard Healey, Mary Gowran, Margaret Lawless, Edith Hamilton, David Roberts, Agnes Conroy, Mrs Monica Anne Turner, Angela Delph, Jean Allen, Dorothy Buckley, Nora Hickey, Sheila Cavey, Nancy Pinto, Mrs H Fallas, Anthony McDermott, Jean Winterbottom, Maxine Bennett, Dominic Boardman, Angela Fairgrieve, Jack Hulme, Peter Wooldridge, Nikki Winnard, Pauline Powell, Phillip Lees, Andrew Lees, Mrs Lewandowski, Mary O'Connor.



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ARE YOU...

- New to the Parish?
- Know someone who is sick or in hospital?
- Can you help the parish or us you?
- Like a visit from the priest?

Please speak to Fr Lawrence after mass or at any convenient time.