

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

YEAR A

11 JANUARY 2026

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

1. 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 aloud ... Faithfully he brings true justice .. I the Lord have called you to serve the cause of right ..."

Psalms 29 : 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 - the 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. BAPTISM: We welcome into the Divine Mercy community Alexander Javio Kelshaw who was baptized in the Parish last weekend.

4. DIOCESAN ALMANAC: on sale at the back of each church. Wirebound copy - £6.00; Plain copy £5.00.

5. CORPUS CHRISTI A TEAM CLEANING: Spring Schedule; 19 Jan, 2, 16 Feb, 2, 16, 30 March. New volunteers are always welcome. It only takes 45 minutes and we always have a cuppa & cake to finish.

6. CORPUS CHRISTI PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES:

These are now available at the church entrance. These commence this Sunday for one year until the end of December 2026. They are free to collect and use. Although numbered 1-25, their contents are not recorded and are simply to enable parishioners to put their collection offering in a sealed envelope before they attend Mass weekly. Gift Aid envelopes in boxes are due out in March.

7. RELICS OF ST CARLO ACUTIS TO VISIT DIOCESE OF SALFORD:

In January 2026, the relics of St Carlo Acutis will be hosted at two Diocese of Salford churches over five days, during which time the Diocese will welcome schools, parishioners and people from all over for veneration.

Carlo is the first millennial saint, and is celebrated for his profound faith and his use of the internet to log Eucharistic miracles from around the world. He was passionate about spreading the teachings of the Catholic Church up until his death from leukaemia at the age of 15.

The relics will be presented at St Mary's Church, Burnley from 28-29 January 2026 before they travel to St Patrick's Church, Collyhurst from 30 January to 1 February 2026. More information will be shared soon with parishes and on the Diocesan website and social media channels.

8. CORPUS CHRISTI CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

Lessons will resume Sunday, 11th January, in the house. New children 3/4 yrs old are welcome with parents alongside until they know the routine. There will be a short staff meeting in the house during the coffee morning this Sunday please. New teachers and helpers are welcome to join us for this Spring term. Pass your name & mobile number to one of the Welcomers please.

HYMNS

CORPUS CHRISTI: Entrance: 314 ; Offertory: 630 , 175 ; Communion: 628; Recessional 297: .

ST HERBERT'S: Entrance: 536; Offertory: 362; Communion: 723 , 630; Recessional: 290.

9. SAINTS OF THE WEEK

St Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot – Jan 12: born in 1110, died on this day in Rievaulx (Yorkshire) in 1167. He was educated at Durham and in the King's household in Scotland. He entered the Cistercian monastery at Rievaulx in 1134 and was eventually elected Abbot. He is remembered for his spiritual writings, above all on the gift of friendship.

St Anthony, Abbot – Jan 17: inspired by the word of Jesus which he heard proclaimed in the Gospel at Mass, retired to the Egyptian desert at the age of twenty. He attracted many to the monastic life, dying in the year 356.

10. SCHOOL NEWS

St Herbert's: We returned to school this week to the great excitement of snow ! not sure the staff were excited !

It was lovely to see the children all eager to share news about their Christmas holidays.

On Wednesday the whole school came together with the parish family to celebrate Mass for the new year and new beginnings. As usual the children were wonderful. On Thursday we held an open evening for prospective Reception parents. There was a good turn out and they enjoyed looking around the school. We hope you all had a Happy and Holy Christmas with your families.

As we face the new year we ask Our Lord to stay with us on our journey.

11. SUNDAY SMILE: Last Tuesday afternoon, in the icy weather, there was another accident on Broadway when a lorry full of snooker equipment overturned. Police had to deal with cues on both carriageways.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

MONDAY:	Both churches closed.
TUESDAY:	St Herbert's: Requiem Mass for SHEILA JOYCE at 10.30 am Corpus Christi: Private Prayer at 6.30 pm; Mass at 7.00 pm
WEDNESDAY:	St Herbert's: Divine Mercy Prayer at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am
THURSDAY:	Corpus Christi: Private Prayer 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 OR AFTER MASS ON REQUEST	

MASS REQUESTS

Missa pro populon

Lately Dead: Margaret Hemsall, Sheila Hollis, Ron Coy, John Goggins.

R.I.P: Mary Booth, Members of the Geraghty and Ryan Families.

Anniversary: Frank Carlisle.

PRAYER FOR SICK & HOUSEBOUND

Father, we place before you all the sick and housebound of the parish:

Noreen Butterworth, Margaret Lawless, Sheila Cavey, Stuart Williams, Peter Stone, Luke Burke, Mary Gowran, Angela Delph, Nancy Pinto, Mrs H Fallas, Anthony McDermott, Jean Winterbottom, Maxine Bennett, Dominic Boardman, Angela Fairgrieve, Peter Wooldridge, Pauline Powell, Phillip Lees, Andrew Lees, Mary O'Connor, Louise Knotman, Heather Matson, Christopher Ward, Mary Prince, Ann Muldoon, Boe Heppel, Harry Kynaston, Shirley Kynaston.



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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.