

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY
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10 January 2021
The Baptism of the Lord

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WATER MADE HOLY

THIS SUNDAY, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, marks the end of the Christmas season in our calendar, although like many other churches we keep the crib in place, this year in front of the altar, until the feast of Candlemas at the beginning of next month. This might seem strange at first sight: in the space of a few days we shift rapidly from the Magi coming to Jesus on the feast of the Epiphany last Wednesday to Jesus as a



grown man, being baptised by his cousin John the Baptist in the river Jordan. As it happens the feast is fairly recent - formerly the feast of the Epiphany, in the Mass texts used, marked the event of the Lord's baptism together with the coming of the Magi. Both feasts now are about Jesus being revealed in his glory as the Son of God: the beginning of Jesus' adult ministry completes the process of his revelation begun at the Epiphany.

A good day for baptisms, then, though not so easy this year for obvious reasons. Normally today the Holy Father baptises a number of babies at Mass in the Sistine Chapel (at the time of writing I don't whether it's happening this year, but I suspect not). The quick move to Our Lord's adulthood takes us into the narrative of his teaching and proclaiming God's kingdom which we encounter in the liturgy and scripture readings at Mass from now on.

The event we celebrate is rich in meaning. Normally we see baptism as something which cleanses us from Original and actual sin; as Jesus was sinless he didn't need it; in fact the theological meaning is a reversal of this. Instead of being cleansed in water, the sinless God incarnate sanctifies the element of water in which he is baptised; it is a triumphant act, and has at times in Christian history been portrayed as a joyful dance. The Word made flesh glories in the water, the element made by God which all living creatures need for survival. That is why one of the many ceremonies carried out at this time is the blessing of waters - such as the Eastern Orthodox ceremony in which a cross is thrown into the sea and retrieved by swimmers. The material world, the created world, is made holy and sacred by God. The event of the Lord's baptism is dramatic, recalling the creation of the world.

Pope Francis in his prophetic teaching ministry during this terrible pandemic has often linked the rampant progress of the Covid-19 virus to our abuse of creation. Viruses shift between

species because of the violence we do to the ecology of the world God has created; the pandemic is not only a 'wake-up call' in relation to poverty and inequality in the world, but also how we treat the world itself. In his landmark 2015 encyclical on creation, *Laudato Si'*, the Holy Father stresses how water is central to the created order; at one point he quotes the great hymn of St

Francis of Assisi: '**Praised be you, My Lord, through Sister Water, who is very useful and humble and chaste**' - and throughout the letter he points to how access to decent drinking water has to be seen as a basic human right; also those of us who may not think we're short of water need to learn not to waste it. Water, like the rest of creation, is not a tool for humanity to abuse and exploit; rather it is gift from God, intended by him to sustain all living creatures.

When we use holy water in church - and we're not doing so very much at the moment - we remind ourselves of our baptism, which links us to the baptism of Jesus which we celebrate today; we affirm our identity as missionary disciples of Jesus, baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity. It also reminds us of the sacredness of water itself, made so by God's creating act and by the Lord's baptism in the Jordan: so we treat water with respect. Final words from the pope towards the end of *Laudato Si'*: '**Water poured over the body of a child in Baptism is a sign of new life. Encountering God does not mean fleeing from this world or turning our back on nature. This is especially clear in the spirituality of the Christian East. "Beauty, which in the East is one of the best loved names expressing the divine harmony and the model of humanity transfigured, appears everywhere: in the shape of a church, in the sounds, in the colours, in the lights, in the scents". For Christians, all the creatures of the material universe find their true meaning in the incarnate Word, for the Son of God has incorporated in his person part of the material world, planting in it a seed of definitive transformation**'.



THANK YOU

A big 'thank you' to the singers and musicians who added so much to our Christmas services.



And once again we acknowledge all that we owe to our stewards who have stood out in the cold taking names and phone numbers, directed parishioners to their seats, shepherded them up to communion, led them out of the church and then thoroughly cleaned chairs, switches, doors, etc. Without their willing assistance our church would have remained shut. We owe them a great debt. The vigil Mass on Saturday is in thanksgiving for their service.

Stewardship Is...



Love in Action

A MESSAGE FROM DEACON DUNCAN

'I want to thank everyone who kindly sent me cards and gifts at Christmas it was very kind and thoughtful.'



SOUTHWARK DIRECTORIES

We have received the Southwark Directories for 2021. Will those who wish to have a copy please make their payment of £3.50 either by BACS, or by cheque or cash posted through the office door. When we have received payment we will deliver your copy to your home address.

COVID 19 - A VERY CHALLENGING TIME FOR MANY MARRIAGES

So much uncertainty around, health, income, employment, vulnerable family members, children, housing. Different ways of seeing things, coping with change, managing fears can be a source of conflict and stress. It is difficult to talk, to listen to support and comfort when there is so much uncertainty. Being together all the time, brings even more challenges. You just can't cope, would you be better apart you wonder.

Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage and you don't need to leave home, it comes to you!

For confidential information about Retrouvaille, or to register for the next programme, a Virtual Weekend commencing on **25-28 February** call or text 0788 7296983 or 0797 3380443.

email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com
or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk



ONLINE PARISH ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Thank you to all who watched our Parish Advent Carol Service online on 12 December and all who donated to the Justgiving page. We are delighted to let you know that £500 was raised and has been sent to St. Christopher's Hospice.



GLOBAL CATHOLIC CLIMATE MOVEMENT

THE GLOBAL CATHOLIC MOVEMENT INVITES YOU TO 'GLOBAL HEALING'

Six Thursdays from 18 February – 25 March
7.30pm – 8.30pm

To register please click [HERE](#) or email jane@catholicclimatemovement.global

Since Pope Francis published *Laudato Si'* in 2015, millions of people have joined the global movement to address the environmental crisis our world is facing. This Lent, we are inviting YOU to join us for a series of reflective evenings with speakers, prayer and discussion, using the film-based resource "Global Healing". These engaging documentaries will inform and challenge people to respond to Pope Francis' call to Care for Our Common Home.

"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience... Truly, much can be done!" (Laudato Si', 217, 180)

Hosted by GCCM Laudato Si' Animators in the UK.

Q BAR & KITCHEN'S KINDNESS CAMPAIGN

We know that these times have been difficult for a lot of families. We want to provide local support to as many as we can of those children and families who need it the most during this time of national lockdown and school closure by offering them a fresh, hot meal.

Throughout January, from our Beckenham branch, we expect to serve as many free meals to children as necessary and will be offering the following as part of our kindness campaign:

1. Free Cup of Tea for All
2. Free Children's Meals
3. Free Adult Meals

We will provide children under the age of 11 with a meal completely free of any charge when accompanied by an adult. There are no minimum spend requirements or restrictions on the number of children in a family or group that can take advantage of this offer.

All you need to do is come to the restaurant between 2pm and 5pm and request your free tea or meals. There will be a choice of two hot meals for kids and adults. One free item will be given per person. You must pick the food up in person as we will be unable to take any orders over the phone. Please remember to stay 2 metres apart and wear a mask when you come to the restaurant. We will be taking orders over the terrace as no one is allowed inside.

With best wishes,

The team at Q Bar and Kitchen Beckenham

159 High Street, Beckenham, BR3 1AE
Tel. 020 8658 1014

www.qbarandkitchen.com/beckenham/

IN THE CHURCH

Our church is closed for the safety of our parishioners. All services are live-streamed and can also be viewed as a recording.

Sunday 10 January 6.00 pm vigil (Saturday) 9.30 am Church 5.30 pm Church	The Baptism of the Lord Ed Haliburn RIP The Stewart, Elena & Sullivan families Bessie Boudville RIP
Monday 11 January 9.30 am 10.00 am Church 6.00 pm Church	Feria Rosary Francesca Fear - for the safe delivery of her child For the intentions of our Stewarding Team
Tuesday 12 January 10.00 am Church 6.00 pm Church	Feria (St Aelred of Rievaulx) Ellen Keane RIP Geoffrey & Frances Sisley & their dec'd relatives & friends
Wednesday 13 January 9.30 am 10.00 am Church 6.00 pm Church	Feria (St Hilary, Bishop) Rosary Ints of Raphael Fleming Alfonso Nesti RIP
Thursday 14 January 10.00 am Church 6.00 pm Church	Feria Ints of Mary Bradford Monica Grima RIP
Friday 15 January 9.30 am 10.00 am Church 5.00 pm Church 6.00 am Church	Feria Rosary Douglas Arthur RIP (8th anniv) Benediction Dan Edwards RIP
Saturday 16 January 10.00 am Church 6.00 pm vigil "	Feria (The Blessed Virgin Mary) May & Sharon O'Reilly RIP For the wellbeing of Patricia Akongwale & her family
Sunday 17 January 9.30 am Church 5.30 pm Church	Second Sunday Peace Day Margaret Baker RIP Richard Graves RIP

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is on the webcam each weekday from 11.00 am until 5.00 pm.

There will be Benediction every Friday at 5.00 pm and on the last Sunday of every month (tbc)

READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

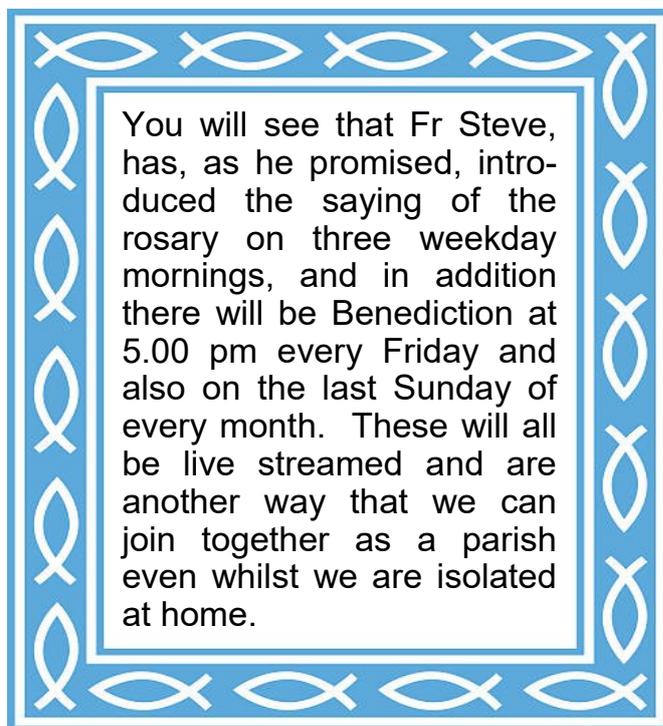
Year B Cycle 1 Psalter Week 1

1 Samuel 3:3B-10, 19
Psalm 40
1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20
John 1:35-42

Your Christmas offerings for the priests of our parish amounted to £14,279.25

Our priests are very grateful to you for your generosity. Thank you.

To make your regular donations electronically, please click here <http://saintedmunds.net/index.php/donations/> or to set up a standing order. Our bank details are:
St Edmund's Church Sort Code: 60-02-12
a/c no: 14282887



We pray for those who have died recently: Tessa Gould, Fr Michael Boland, Fr George Webster, Ted Northwood, Norman Potter, Denise Ricketts, Rosi Baruffi, David Patterson, Fr Mike Gwinnell, Rowland Jenkins, Marie-Christine Kerr, Clautilda Binang, Canon Frank O'Sullivan, Fr George Webster, Fr Patrick Nwokeji, Maria Muoghalu.

We pray for those whose anniversaries are this week: Anna Belfourd, Muriel Goffart, Teague McGinley, Frank Penston, John Goodwill, Sr Laserian Fleming, Michael Fitzpatrick, Harry McGuigan, Jean Harrigan, Carol Williams, Kathleen Bryon, Agnes Burns, Leo Carroll, Lucy Denne, Sharon Oates, James O'Reilly.

We pray for the sick: Angela, Evelina Armani, Rob Burns, Carmel Cardiff, Chant, Christine, Mark Clapson, Jorge Corrigan-Zorilla, John Crouch, Sorcha Davis, Niamh Dawson, Giacomo Dillon, Bridget D'Souza, Joshua Dunford, Nicholas Dunford, Alex Dufort, Cecil Dutton, Suzanne Eilbeck, Antonio Ferrara, Felicity, Mary Flood, Flora, Sarah Gallagher, Erika Geddes, Gaetan Goa, Tony Hallett, Hans Halpin, Margaret Halpin, Michael Harper, Eve Harrison, John Harrow, Pauline Hatfield, Eileen Hayes, Kathleen Hayes, Lesley Hill, Glen Jack, Rosemary Jackson, Peter Anthony Jones, Catherine Kelly, Eileen Kelly, Antony & Richard Kirin, Andrew Kuzan, Rosy Lobo, Rose McDonnell, Mary McGrath, Paul McIndoe, Eddie Mitchell, Salvador Moreno, Barbara Moyce, Eva Perjesi, John Quaife, Brian Russell, Brigitte Savreux-O'Driscoll, Margaret Pietrzyk, Mary Shipsey, Coleen Shroeder, David Silk, Siobhan, John Stokoe, Philippa Tolley, Pauline Ulisak, Deborah Walcott-Grappie, Joan, Alfred, Susan & Wendy Waller, Jimmy Walters, Patricia Weal, Sue Wingfield and Charlie Wynn.