



**TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK**

<b>First Sunday after Epiphany - Baptism of the Lord</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>	10.00am	Mass – Int. Thanksgiving and private intentions
Monday Feria – Year 1 – First Week on Ordinary Time	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Tuesday Feria	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Wednesday Feria	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Thursday St Anthony, Abbott	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Friday Feria	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Saturday Feria	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confession
SUNDAY 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan. <b>Second Sunday after Epiphany</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the parish

**LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN**

During 10am Mass, we invite our younger children (approx. aged 3 to 7) to attend their own Liturgy of the Word in the Guild Room. **Parents are encouraged to join their children.** We welcome more help from those who seek to be leaders and support in this ministry to the children of our parish. **Thank you to Tasha and Grant for all they do to prepare and lead these children's sessions throughout the year.**



Our sympathies and condolences to the family of **Margarite (Rita) Reece**, latterly a resident of The Croft, died on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019. Her funeral will take place at Our Lady's Church at **11.30am on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019.** May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

**Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition**

The Gospel on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord shows God's love for his Son, who is about to take up his ministry. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains: "The baptism of Jesus is on his part the acceptance and inauguration of his mission . . . The Father's voice responds to the Son's acceptance, proclaiming his entire delight in his Son. The Spirit whom Jesus possessed in fullness from his conception comes to 'rest on him.' Jesus will be the source of the Spirit for all mankind" (536).

John tells of Christ baptising with the Holy Spirit and fire, and many visualise the Holy Spirit in the tongues of fire in which he descended on the Apostles at Pentecost (Acts 2:3). In describing the term "fire," in the Holy Spirit's work signifies birth and the fruitfulness of life given in the Holy Spirit, fire symbolises the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit's actions" (696).

**Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2019. Thank you to parents and children for attending the meeting last month. The children will be presented to the parish at the 10am Mass early in the New Year.** In the meantime, our children and their families will continue begin to work through the activities in the I Belong books they received last Sunday. They will bring these books along to Mass and follow the prayers and the Bible Readings.

**WHITE FLOWER APPEAL** – the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal today. SPUC is currently campaigning to stop the decriminalisation of abortion, which means taking abortion outside the law. This is the most dangerous threat to unborn children and their mothers in decades. Please be generous as you can to help defeat this latest attack on unborn babies and their mothers, and to stop abortion getting even worse in this country by decriminalisation.

**PEACE SUNDAY – 20 January 2019** The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Our vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, we work with all who share our values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice.

**Lectionary for Mass**

On the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, today's Scriptures invite us to be confident in and mindful of the presence of the divine in our midst.

In the First Reading (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11), the prophet urges personified Jerusalem to shout out from its place on the mountaintop, "Here is your God," because its people's long exile in Babylon is about to come to an end. Note that God is depicted as a shepherd carrying the lambs in the fold of his garment, close to his heart (Hebrew *cheq*, meaning "at breast"), and carefully leading the nursing ewes (Hebrew *ul*, meaning "to give suck") as they make their way to God's holy city.

Today's Gospel (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22) juxtaposes John the Baptist with Jesus in a most remarkable scene. The crowds were listening to John, who was preaching a baptism of repentance, and were eager to learn whether he might be the messiah. Yet John tells them that he is only the messenger. Someone greater was coming, he said, one who would baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire. The scene quickly shifts to the crowd, who had participated in John's ritual of repentance and to one in their midst who is manifest to the world through a heavenly voice and a descending Holy Spirit as God's beloved Son.

The Second Reading (Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7) invites us to reflect on our Baptism, which the author describes as a "bath of rebirth" and a "renewal by the Holy Spirit." He reminds us that it was given to us as grace (Greek *charis*, meaning "kindness" or "gift"), not because we earned it, but because God is merciful, generous, and loving.

**Liturgy and Life**

- (1) How might your spiritual life be enriched by imagining God as a shepherd feeding his flock and leading them with care?
- (2) The Second Reading states the Lord saved us because of his mercy. How is that mercy reflected in your life?
- (3) When you are praised, do you give thanks for the work God had done in your life?

**THE GOSPEL OF LUKE: A Four Week Course at St Joseph's Church** led by Fr Matt Blake, OCD: This short course is open to anyone who attends Sunday Mass and is ideal for those involved in the Liturgy (readers, children's liturgists, music leaders, etc). The aim is to enable participants to deepen their understanding of the context, meaning, significance and message in Luke's Gospel. By helping us to read and thereby enter more deeply into this gospel, our experience of the Liturgy will be enriched and we will see how meaningful it is for our lives today. The **four sessions** will run on **Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings** commencing on **Wednesday 16 January at 7:45pm or Thursday 17 January from 9:30am.** Please bring your bible with you to each session. Pick up a flier from the Church porch. The course is free **but contact** the Parish Office on **01753 886581 to sign up by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> Jan.** 'Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?' (Luke 24:32)

**PRAYER SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:** Bishop Peter Doyle will lead an evening of prayer at the **Bridgettine Convent, Fulmer Common Road, Iver Heath, SL0 0NR on Friday 25 January at 6pm.** Ecumenism is the main Charism of the Bridgettine Order and the Sisters invite you to join them for this service, followed by refreshments, as we mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. *All are most welcome.*

**YOU CAT for Kids Sessions 2019**

Following the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the *Youth Catechism* (YOUCAT) a wonderful new resource aimed at younger children, **YOUCAT for Kids** is now available. This is a great new tool for catechists, and for parents and carers as they pass on the faith to children. **YOUCAT for Kids sessions** will take place on **Friday 1 February 2019, 7.30pm-9pm** at **St Aidan's Church Hall, Little Chalfont.** During this 90 minute session there will be the opportunity to:

- Browse the YOUCAT for Kids
- Be guided through a method of using the YOUCAT for Kids
- Have the opportunity to purchase a copy of the YOUCAT for Kids at the reduced price of £10 (please bring £10 cash or a cheque made payable to R.E Service).
- Hear about support and training for catechists.

There is no charge for the event itself. Booking however is essential as capacity is limited. Please book early to secure your place. Booking forms are on church porch noticeboard.

**Money Matters**

Last Sunday's Offertory Collection – £242.94

**SECOND COLLECTION – TODAY:  
SPUC 2019 WHITE FLOWER APPEAL**

**NEXT WEEK – PAX CHRISTI PEACE SUNDAY**

*Thank you for your generosity*

**The JANUARY 2019 edition of The Vine**

*The Diocese of Northampton newspaper is now available. It's free of charge!*

**Are you new to the parish?**

*If so, you are very welcome! Do introduce yourself to Father Andy after Mass, and please complete a parish registration form.*



Tea, coffee and cold drinks are served in The Guild Room after both of our Sunday Masses. *All are welcome!*

**Infant Baptism and Marriage.** By appointment with Fr Andy after completing the necessary preparation. **The Church requires** notice of at least six months prior to the Sacrament of Matrimony being celebrated.