

HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH, MARPLE

Holyspiritmarple.com

Fr.Bill Fitzgerald 427 4922

8th January 2023

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Online Donations

First Reading: (Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7)

Here is my servant in whom my soul delights.

Second Reading: (Acts 10:34-38)

God anointed him with the Holy Spirit.

Gospel: (Matthew 3:13-17)

As soon as Jesus was baptised he saw the Spirit of God coming down on him.

Pope Francis's prayer intention for January: That educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Sunday 4pm Vigil 9am	8th January The Baptism of the Lord Peter McDonald Parishioners	Thursday 10am	12th January Mary and John Downs
Monday	9th January NO MASS	Friday	13th January NO MASS
Tuesday	10th January NO MASS	Saturday	14th January NO MASS until 4pm Vigil
Wednesday	11th January Catherine & James Beirne	Sunday 4pm Vigil 9am	15th January John & Imelda Kirrane Mandi Rees Parishioners

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions	Last Saturday of the month 10.30am-11.30am or by arrangement
Baptism/Marriage	By appointment
Sacrament of Reconciliation	As above

THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Please pray for Bill Davies, Christopher Brown, Stuart Madden, Christopher Clifford, James Tanner, Annie Shufflebotham, Marie Sidebottom, Nina Noworyta, Kathleen Williams, Ruth Grace Crosby, Jarek Tomaszewski, Emily Small, Ann Crossley, Kathryn Smith, Steven Platts, Fr.Kevin Gradwell, Kathleen Jones, Father Pat Munroe, Renata Broda, Cyril Nield, Neil Timperley, Isaac Iqba, David Froggatt, Pat Owen, Jonathan Davison.

A warm welcome to everyone. If you are new to the parish, please fill in a card and give it to Fr Bill. We shall be glad to visit you and make you as welcome as possible

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity No.234025

Data Protection Privacy Notice. The Parish of Holy Spirit, Marple sometimes collects personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice

A/C DETAILS: Name "Holy Spirit Development Account" Account No.58710368 Sort Code 30 15 52

SOCIAL

With the "Feast of the Epiphany" on Friday last, the Festive Season 2022 is nearing its end, In that time we have stepped over the threshold into a "New Calendar Year 2023. The beginning of New Year 2023 gave more people a chance to celebrate the "Feast of Mary Mother Of God" as it fell on a Sunday. This was a lovely way to enter the New Year under the patronage on Our Blessed Lady. The children have another week's holiday to enjoy, before returning to school, on January the 9th. We return also to the "Liturgy of "Ordinary Time" for a period before we come to the season of "Lent."

We have families enquiring about "First Sacraments" and quite a number of these families are not Mass goers, something they are going to have to remedy, before they register their child for "First Sacraments" Fr. Bill finds it unfair to have to register children who never attend Mass alongside those children who make a genuine attempt to be part of our Parish by attending Sunday Mass. Fr. Bill will deal individually with all Candidates and their families who apply to be registered for this coming year 2023 for "First Sacraments" Fr. Bill hopes to begin preparation for "First Forgiveness" in early February and the "Registration Forms" will be available on the last weekend in January. The start of 2023 is a great opportunity for Parents and Families to make a fresh commitment to attend Sunday Mass, especially for those families who have a potential candidate for "First Sacraments."

Fr. Bill has been monitoring recent "Church Heating Bills" and so far while bills have increased substantially, with the prudent use of "Church Heating" here at Holy Spirit there is no alarm about excessive bills. The cost of "Energy Bills" will increase during the coming months, which can often be the coldest time of the year, so Fr. Bill's aim is to continue with the prudent use of heating. There will not be any need for a heating collection as some Parishioners had suggested. We are in a similar situation also at St. Bernadette's in Brinnington, where with the prudent use of heating, we have managed to keep "Heating Bills" at an acceptable level. We hope here at "Holy Spirit" that our "Church Boiler" frail though it is, will see us through until the late Spring. Thank you to all who continue to support our "Parish Finances" via the Offertory / Monthly Building Fund and the Contactless Plate, it is all appreciated in these difficult financial times.

The "Annual Church Unity Service" will take place at Marple Methodist Church on Sunday 22nd January at 4:00pm it would be good to have a number of our Parishioners present as Tony Baron, takes over the Chair from Fr. Bill.

SCRIPTURE READINGS — BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The liturgy of today's feast brings to a formal end the Liturgical Season of Christmas. It is a feast of transition from the hidden life of Jesus to that of his public life and ministry and also echoes the theme of Epiphany in that the Baptism of the Lord is yet another manifestation, announcing Jesus' divinity to all his followers and to John's disciples.

Firstly we remember that Jesus did not need the "Baptism of John." John's Baptism was a call to interior repentance, and Jesus had no need of repentance. Despite this, Jesus came to John, who resisted at first, but then gave in to Jesus' request. By being baptised by John, he is confirming all that John had preached and done in his name. The Baptism of Jesus is a bridge between the Old Testament and the Old Testament Prophets, of which John The Baptist is the last, and the new era of Grace and Truth. By entering "The Waters" Jesus sanctified water, and poured forth his Grace making all water the future source of all Grace. As Jesus emerges from the waters, God the Father pronounces his love for his only begotten Son, which also announces the start of his "Son's earthly Ministry" which will herald the introduction of the new era of Salvation.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - A WEEK OF ACCOMPANIED PRAYER - Saturday March 18th to Saturday 26th March with Prayer Guides available to you in the mornings, afternoons or evenings. Full information will be given at all Masses on January 28th-29th.