

St Mary's Parish, Drogheda

Sunday 10th January 2021
The Baptism of the Lord

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Hospital Visitation: is not possible at the moment, however please continue to inform Fr Phil or Fr Ciprian if a relative is ill or in hospital.



Come to the water

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, the moment when God reveals who Jesus is. Our readings are rich with water imagery. Water is a powerful symbol throughout the Scriptures, from the story of creation and the crossing of the Red Sea, to the wedding feast at Cana and Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well. It is a symbol of life and newness, an opportunity for God to reach out to us, be present with us and teach us something, as well as an opportunity for cleansing and a fresh start.

Our gospel today tells of Jesus being baptised by John in the river Jordan. This immersion in water marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry.

By approaching John for baptism, along with all the others, Jesus is identifying with the people and allowing himself to be counted among sinners. It is a sign that he is submitting to God's will. At this crucial moment, as soon as he emerges from the Jordan, Jesus sees the heavens open and the voice of God confirming him as 'Beloved Son'. It is a moment of divine approval, confirming Jesus' identity and launching him on his new mission.

The baptism of Jesus is a reminder of our own identity and mission. We are beloved daughters and sons of God, sisters and brothers of Jesus, members of God's family. In today's first reading we are invited: 'Come to the water all you who are thirsty'. We are called to the water, to that moment when we recognise who Jesus is, who we are, and our mission to live as children of God.

'In order to live a life of holiness, we must first receive new life from God — we must be born from above.'

J. Vernon McGee

Mass Intentions for week beginning Sunday 10th January, 2021

Sunday 10th Jan.	10:00am	Dottie O'Brien <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Cormac Rowley; Michael, Mary-Kate & Mena Rourke; John, Gerry & Della O'Brien, Pat & Kathleen O'Brien; Jim, Jennell & Paul Byrne, Eamon McDonagh & deceased family members; Deirdre & Richard O'Brien; William Connor, Frank & Maura Darcy; Vida Tuite
Monday	10:00am	Jack & Mary Dalton, Mary Connell; Raisa Scukina
Tuesday	10:00am	Margaret Merrett; Paddy Fallon
Wednesday	10:00am	Special Intention
Thursday	10:00am	Margaret McEvoy
Friday	10:00am	Maureen & Oliver Halpin
Saturday	10:00am	Special Intention
Sunday 17th Jan.	10:00am	Mary McDermott <i>First Anniversary</i> ; Angela Rogan; Michael, Mary-Kate & Mena Rourke; Dolly Caffrey; Bridget Cooney



St Mary's Schedule (On webcam only.)

We earnestly hope that in 2021 we will find ourselves vaccinated, going back to work or finding new jobs, heading back to school, and breathing a sigh of relief. We all look forward to a resumption of our visits to our elderly in our nursing homes and those who have been confined to their homes. Our prayers are with those families who lost loved ones during the course of the pandemic.

Yet, like we do in the seasons of Advent and Lent, we must stay alert and prepare for whatever may lie ahead.

We want to say a very special thank you to so many of our parishioners who volunteered to help out in so many ways in the past few months. We have a wonderful team of parishioners who have helped to keep our church safe for everyone.

Mass will be celebrated privately each day at 10:00am and will be available via webcam. You can join us by going online to our website live stream.

The Church will be open each day from 11.00am to 4.00pm so that people can call in to say a prayer or light a candle.

Adoration in the main Church Monday to Friday 11:00am to 4:00pm. Copies of the parish bulletin will be available in the Church.



Feast of the Baptism of our Lord.

To mark the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord this year we will bless Holy Water and the straw from our crib at the 10:00am Mass this Sunday. We will leave the container of Holy Water and the blessed straw in front of the main altar.

We invite you to take some Holy Water and some straw to bring blessings to your homes and families at this difficult time.



Parish Envelopes

The Parish envelopes will be ready to be distributed to your homes this week. We – your continued support and generosity. May God bless you all in 2021.



A prayer for those who died...

Leo Silke, Dublin Road, Drogheda & Artane; Phyllis Monk (née Corrigan), Five Oaks & Laytown
Gerard Scullion, St. Mary's Villas, Drogheda
Paul Briody, Cavan & Dublin
Christy (Kit) Thornton, Hand Street & Rathmullen;
Sr Paul Mary (Máire Patricia Supple), Monastery of the Visitation, Stamullen.

May they rest in peace

Supporting Our Parish:

Parishioners can leave their envelopes or a donation to the parish in the boxes at the back of the church or you can now use the **donate** button facility on our website. Any contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks. Keep safe and well.