

The Baptism of the Lord

10 January 2016

Empowered

The baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of his formal mission on earth. It's the moment when he takes his first steps in response to his Father's commission and begins to preach about the kingdom that God wants to establish here on earth and for all eternity.

In future times of hesitation and difficulty Jesus would look back at his baptism and see it as the moment he was anointed to bring comfort to the afflicted and challenge to the affluent. It was the touchstone of his ministry.

It's easy for us to make the mistake of looking at our own baptism as simply a past event. We can imagine that it's something over and done with, something that was done to us as a child. This is because we tend to view baptism as being officially enrolled in the Church, as having our name written among those who are Christians.

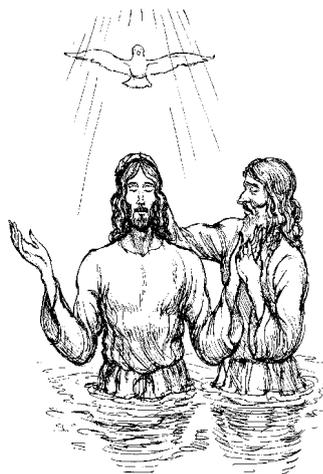
Baptism does indeed enrol; but more than that: it empowers.

Because we are baptised we have certain rights as Christians; we can take part fully in all that the Church celebrates, we can be baptised, married, buried etc. Along with these rights go certain responsibilities. We agree to live as members of God's people, to support

each other and all those who are in need, to deepen our relationship with God and to become mouthpieces for the Good News of Jesus Christ.

As one of the sacraments, baptism needs to be lived out each day or else it will wither. It's a dynamic thing. The grace of baptism empowers us to become witnesses. We claim that Christ's message offers us the chance of living life to the full, of getting the most out of life, and our baptism fires us up to spread the news to others rather than keeping it to ourselves. It makes us official spokesmen and women.

So if you're tempted to think that spreading the Good News is something for the professionals, for catechists and missionaries, then think again. You've been empowered by the grace of your baptism to be an effective witness to the force of God in your life. Make sure you do your baptism proud!



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Serving the Churches of:

St Marie of the Annunciation
Standish

www.stmariesstandish.co.uk

St Bernadette Shevington

www.stbernadetteshevington.org.uk

Parish Office at St Marie's:

Open Monday to Friday
from 9.00 am to 12 noon

jointparishes@gmail.com

www.twitter.com/stmstb

Baptisms: By prior arrangement. Information available at weekend Masses. All baptisms take place during Mass. St Bernadette's first Sunday, St Marie's third Sunday of the month.

Confessions:

St Bernadette's: Sun 9.10 - 9.20 am.

St Marie's: Tue 6.30 - 6.50 pm.

or by request.

Church opening: Please remember that St Marie's Church is open for private prayer during weekdays between 9.00 am and 12 noon.

Funerals and Marriages: By arrangement.

Visits to sick and housebound:

Please inform Fr John if you know of sick or housebound parishioners who would like Holy Communion.

Hospital Visits: If you wish to see a priest please let the hospital staff know.

Mass Requests: Place in an envelope and hand in to the Sacristy or to the Parish Office at Saint Marie's. Please indicate your preferred church, if any. Please also specify the reason for the intention, i.e. recently deceased, anniversary etc. For a particular day, please request early.

Newsletter Notices: Please e-mail to jointparishes@gmail.com or hand in to the Parish Office by Thursday morning.

Repository: Open at the back of church after each weekend Mass.

St Marie's Hall: All bookings for hall usage should be made in advance with the Parish Office during the parish office hours.

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Mass Intentions this week

Day	Church	Time	Intention
The Baptism of the Lord			
While Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him. (Luke 3:21)?			
Saturday	St Bernadette's	5.30 pm	Irene Prescott (Anniversary)
	St Marie's	6.45 pm	Tony Ledwith (Anniversary)
Sunday	St Bernadette's	9.30 am	People of the Parish
	St Marie's	11.00 am	June Danson (Anniversary)
Monday	St Marie's	9.15 am	Eucharistic Service
Tuesday	St Bernadette's	9.15 am	Eucharistic Service
	St Marie's	7.00 pm	Eucharistic Service
Thursday	St Bernadette's	9.15 am	Eucharistic Service
Friday	St Marie's	9.15 am	Eucharistic Service
Second Sunday of Ordinary Time			
People generally serve the best wine first and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now. (John 2:10)			
Saturday	St Bernadette's	5.30 pm	People of the Parish
	St Marie's	6.45 pm	Constance Groonell
Sunday	St Bernadette's	9.30 am	Margaret Swift (Anniversary)
	St Marie's	11.00 am	Doreen Fairhurst (LD)

This weekend:

Sunday after 11.00 am Mass: **Tea and coffee** in St Marie's Hall.

This week:

Wednesday: **Standish Churches Men's Fellowship** meeting at the Globe Inn, Standish at 7.00 pm comprises a talk by Graham Stirrup on "Life in the 1950's", a buffet and raffle prize draw. £10. Ladies are invited to attend. Please give your support. All profit goes to local charities. Contact Joe Fairhurst, 402185 for more details.

Next weekend:

Sunday after 11.00 am Mass: **Tea and coffee** in St Marie's Hall.

Thank you for your offerings
£1,606.94.

Bonus Ball

No.52 - Jan Critchley - £41.

At the back of church...

- 2016 calendars and diaries.

Aladdin

The coach for the parish trip to the pantomime at Wigan Little Theatre on Tuesday, 19 January will pick up at St Marie's Church at 6.40 pm and St Bernadette's Church at 6.50 pm. Tickets will be distributed on the night.

Prayer Group

The monthly meeting of the Prayer Group will take place in St Marie's Hall on Monday, 18 January at 7.30 pm. This is an open meeting. All are welcome.

Asylum Seekers

The next meeting to see what can be done to help asylum seekers will be held at Christ Church, Newburgh (rear of Post Office) on Thursday, 21 January at 8.00 pm.

Holy Rosary

As part of the Year of Mercy, the Holy Rosary will be led by the Knights of St. Columba on the first Tuesday of each month before the evening Mass Service at St Marie's.

Development Fund/200 Club

Parishioners are reminded that Development Fund subscriptions for 2016 are now due and can be paid at weekend Masses in January. Thank you for your continued support.

Baptism of the Lord

This weekend, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. Originally, the baptism of Christ was celebrated on the Solemnity of the Epiphany. Over time in the West, however, the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord came to be commemorated as a distinct feast from Epiphany. It is celebrated on the first Sunday following the Epiphany of Our Lord.

Something to pray about

We can join Pope Francis in his prayer intentions for January:

Universal: That sincere dialogue among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice.

Evangelisation: That by means of dialogue and fraternal charity and with the grace of the Holy Spirit, Christians may overcome divisions.

CAFOD

Thank you to all who supported the January self-denial. At St Bernadette's, the total raised was £301.38 of which £140.84 was gift aided giving an extra £35.21 and a grand total of £336.59. At St Marie's, the total raised was £249, of which £203 was gift aided, giving an extra £50.75 and a grand total of £299.75.

A cheque for £1,000 is being sent to CAFOD from St Bernadette's for water projects around the world. This amount includes £157 donated by family and friends, in loving memory of the late Mrs Marian Moore and £37 from the Children's Liturgy Group, the proceeds of their Nativity Play.

Appeal for the Needy

Thank you to all who generously donated food, underwear and toiletries for the homeless and needy in our area. These have been distributed to The Brick, safe haven and drop-in for the homeless, four Refuges/Hostels, Coops Foyer for 16 to 25 year olds, a mother and baby unit, and Embrace, a charity helping families with disabilities. More information is on the notice-board.

Thank you also to all who donated clothes, footwear and toys etc. for the asylum seekers.

Marriage matters

Being what we promised to be.

Today's feast tells us who Jesus really is; it calls us to be what we promised at our wedding – a sign to the world of God's love for all of us. At the core of this commitment is the undertaking to trust our spouse with who we really are – feelings, thoughts, ideas; all that makes us who we are today.

Gift Aid

The parish received gift aid tax refunds totalling £15,656.64 from H.M Treasury for the tax year 2014/15. Thank you to all who gift aid their offerings. Anyone who pays tax on their wages, pension or savings can join the gift aid scheme, by signing a form. It doesn't cost you anything and the parish receives an additional 25% from H.M.R.C.

Please remember that for parishioners who have signed up to the gift aid scheme, all donations to the parish can be 'gift aided'. As well as the weekly offerings in the envelopes and standing orders, these can include Mass offerings, sanctuary lamp intentions, special collections & one-off occasional gifts. Please notify the parish office when making the donation.

For more information, please contact the parish office or call Clare on 253775.

Vocation Discernment

The next day of recollection to support those exploring Vocations to the Priesthood in the Archdiocese will take place on Saturday, 6 February at St. Charles' Presbytery, 224 Aigburth Road, Liverpool. For further information, please contact Fr James Preston, at frjamespreston@gmail.com or tel. 0151 727 2493. Regular updates will be posted on the Facebook page: Archdiocese of Liverpool Vocations.

Catholic Pictorial

Free copies of the January edition of the Catholic Pictorial are available at the back of Church.

Dates for your diary

Thursday, 28 January: **Joint Parishes Working Group** at St Marie's at 7.30 pm.