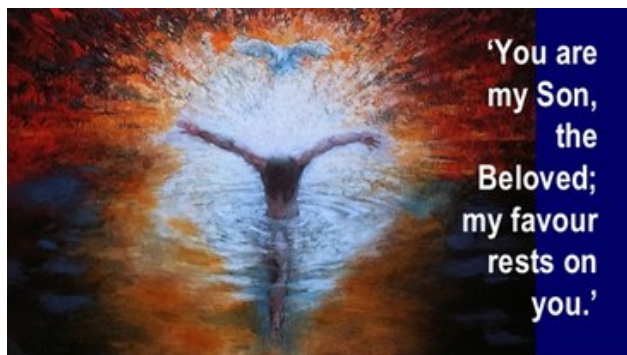


From Sunday's Gospel



'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

When John the Baptist was preaching he said, "Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the straps of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will

baptise you with the Holy Spirit." It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the River Jordan. No sooner had Jesus come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. Then a voice from heaven said,

"You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

(From the gospel for Sunday 10th January 2021, Mark 1:7-11

The Baptism of the Lord.)



St Gregory of Nazianzus writes, "My dear young people Baptism is God's most beautiful and magnificent."

Today's word is **Baptism**. IN this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is baptised. He begins his mis-

sion to the world when the Holy Spirit comes down upon him—the same Spirit we receive through Baptism and Confirmation. Baptism is the first of the seven sacraments in the Church. It is only after we have been baptised that we can receive the other sacraments. It is the beginning of a life long call to reveal God's Spirit to our family and community. When we are baptised we become a new creation, we receive the Holy Spirit, the same Holy Spirit who descended on Jesus at his baptism, to help us live like Jesus. This Sunday brings an end to the Season of Christmas and we might want to ask ourselves how can we live more like Jesus during the coming year? As we read Mark's Gospel each Sunday we will get to know Jesus better and be able to imitate him more closely.



Sacred Heart & St William

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Please visit the website above.

For Daily Mass Readings, Video reflections and any updates go to Sunday Mass in the Newsletter

The Baptism of the Lord

January 10th 2020 (Mark's Gospel)

PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED WHILE WE ARE IN LOCKDOWN

Fr Bernard will celebrate Mass each day without a congregation. Please watch this space for further information.

The intentions are as follows:

Sunday:	Geoff Haigh
Monday:	May Collins
Tuesday:	Eileen Markey
Wednesday:	People of the Parish
Thursday:	Louise McMahon
Friday:	Deceased members of the Keogh Family
Saturday:	Mgr Raymond Charlton
Sunday:	McKnight & Ray Families

Confessions by appointment

Contact Details:

Parish Priest: Fr Bernard Bickers Tel: 01457 872603

Permanent Deacon: Revd Peter Rudd Tel: 01457 876559

Safeguarding Officers: Mrs Tessa Spalding Tel: 01457 873515

Mrs Michelle Moore



The Baptism of the Lord

This feast of the Baptism of Jesus brings an end to the Christmas Season and on Monday 11th we begin what is called **Ordinary Time**. This year there will be five and a half weeks of Ordinary Time before we begin the **Season of Lent** on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. **Holy Week** begins with Palm Sunday on March 28th, and the **Triduum** begins on Thursday 1st April with the Mass of the Lord's Supper. **Easter Sunday** is on April 4th and the **Season of Easter** then will last until Pentecost on Sunday May 23rd.

Ordinary Time begins again on Monday May 24th, though the first time we celebrate a Sunday in Ordinary Time will be June 13th which is the 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time.



The Gospel of Mark will be our guide both on Sundays and for the weekdays until Lent. Mark was the first person to put into some order the stories about Jesus which were being handed down orally. With the deaths of the Apostles and those who had been companions of Jesus, it became necessary to have a written record of what Jesus said and did. Mark wrote his Gospel around the mid 60's, and he wrote it for those Christians who were suffering persecution under the Emperor Nero, who, without any evidence, blamed the Christians for the great fire of Rome, for which many historians believe he was responsible!

The Gospel is the shortest of the Four Gospels accepted by the Church and found in The New Testament. It had a great influence on Matthew and Luke who use it as well as other sources when writing their own Gospels. John's Gospel was the last to be written and is quite different in style from the other three 'Synoptic Gospels.' It is very fast moving, especially in the opening chapters which can leave us almost breathless. The opening words of the Gospel are 'The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God,' telling us from the outset that Jesus is both human and divine.

Requiem Mass for Mary (May) Collins



Lord,
for your faithful
people
life is
changed
not
ended.

There will be a Requiem Mass for May at 12.00 noon on Monday January 11th in the Church of the Sacred Heart & St William. The Government has put a limit of 30 people being able to be present at a Funeral Service. May was the Mother of 7 children, so the Family will take up all the places allowed which means that unfortunately other friends and parishioners will not be able to be present. Please do remember May and the family in your prayers at this time. **Eternal Rest give unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her, may she rest in peace.**

Church Closures in Saddleworth



Canon Sharon Jones emailed other Church Leaders in Saddleworth advising them that all the churches run by the Anglican Team will be CLOSED until further notice. The Ebenezzer church will also be closed for public worship. As yet there has not been any formal notice from the Methodists, but they are expecting to be closed as well. Once again I know that the closure of our own church, except for funerals, is a cause of disappointment but I remain convinced that it is the prudent thing to do.

Crib Offerings



This year Bishop Marcus asked that we once again send the Crib Offerings to The Friends of the Holy Land. Bethlehem in particular has suffered greatly this year and many Christians there are more desperate than usual. Given the restrictions on numbers able to attend church during the Christmas Season the offerings came only to £38.50. With the agreement of the Finance Committee a cheque for £185.00 has been sent.



"I hope for you in this New Year that you look in the mirror at least once a day and smile in happy amazement."

Joyce Rupp