



St Mary's Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 12th January 2020

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Psalter Week 1

The Great Mercy of Baptism

The **Catechism of the Council of Trent** (1556) urged pastors to instruct the faithful frequently on the **Sacrament of Baptism** and said it can never be spoken of often enough. With today being the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, it seems opportune to give a few points on this vital Sacrament and the great mercy God has shown us by instituting it.

Firstly, **Baptism is necessary for salvation**. This is an infallible teaching of the Church. Our Lord Himself told Nicodemus, *“Unless a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God”* (John 3:5). There is also **Baptism of Desire** and **Baptism of Blood**, but that is a topic for another occasion. But basically we need Baptism to be saved.

Baptism remits all sin, both original and actual. No matter what terrible sins a person may have committed, Baptism removes all of them. Babies haven't committed any actual sins, but they do have original sin. But when an adult gets baptised, all the sins of their past life are gone. So too is all punishment due to sin gone. If a person dies straight after Baptism, there will be no **Purgatory** to go through. They will go straight to Heaven. The soul of the newly baptised is also flooded with **sanctifying grace** and receives **supernatural life**. This is important, because to be able to live in Heaven we have to be *supernaturally alive*. If we die in this state of grace we can live in Heaven. If we die without it, we cannot. The **Sacrament of Confession** forgives sins committed after Baptism and restores sanctifying grace to the soul if we have lost it through **mortal sin**.

Baptism is so important that in an emergency (ie. when someone is dying who is unbaptised and no priest is available), **ANYONE** who has reached the age of reason may baptise them - even a non-Christian, provided they intend to do what the Church does. You simply take ordinary water, sea water, water from a pond or a fountain or even Holy Water (but it must be water) and pour it over the skin so as it flows, preferably on the forehead of the one being baptised while at the same time saying, **“I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”** That is all that is required. **ALL CATHOLICS SHOULD KNOW THIS** since we never know when we may be required to do it and the stakes are high! The same person pouring the water must pronounce the words. But we should not *randomly* baptise people – only when there is danger of death.

If you are a parent, to have your child baptised within a few weeks after birth is a serious duty. Don't wait years before getting it done saying that they can make up their own mind when they're older. The necessity of Baptism and its effects make the reasons obvious.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

MASS TIMES AT ST MARY'S

Sat	11 th	5.30-5.55pm	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	12 th	<u>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (FEAST)</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		11.00am	Parish Mass
		4.00pm	NO ITALIAN MASS **
		5.00pm	<i>Reception of Giuseppe Sacchetta RIP</i>
		6.00pm	Vespers and Benediction
Mon	13 th	9.15am	St Hilary
		12 noon	<i>Requiem Mass for Giuseppe Sacchetta RIP</i>
Tues	14 th	9.15am	Feria
Weds	15 th	9.15am	NO MASS **
		11.00am	<i>Requiem Mass for Giuseppe Calardo RIP</i>
		7.00pm	Latin Mass (old rite)
Thurs	16 th	9.15am	Feria
Fri	17 th	9.15am	St Anthony
Sat	18 th	9.15am	Saturday Mass of Our Lady
		10.00-11.00am	<i>Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions</i>
		5.30-5.55pm	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	19 th	9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		11.00am	Parish Mass

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Tues	14 th	6.45-7.15pm	Holy Rosary – Church
Sat	18 th	11.15am-12.15pm	Baptism Class by prior arrangement – Side Chapel

NB: Due to the government regulations regarding personal data (GDPR), we are only able to publicise the Mass intentions in the printed edition of the newsletter.

FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS: Just a gentle reminder that it would be an excellent resolution for the New Year to make *at least once* the devotion of the Five First Saturdays as requested by Our Lady of Fatima. She asked that on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, we go to confession, receive Holy Communion in a state of grace, recite five decades of the Rosary and meditate on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary for fifteen minutes, all with the intention of making reparation to her Immaculate Heart. This is Heaven's remedy for the evils of our time. Our Lady does not lie! We need more people to be doing this. Join us next month on **Saturday 1st February** for Mass at 9.15am followed by the other devotions. *Fr Paul*

GETTING MARRIED? If you wish to get married at St Mary's, you should give at least six months notice to the Parish Priest prior to the proposed wedding and should not make any other arrangements concerning the wedding until you have spoken to him. Any marriage involving a Catholic should be celebrated in their parish church. With the permission of the Parish Priest the marriage may take place in another parish. Any marriage involving a Catholic may only be celebrated in the Catholic Church unless a special dispensation is obtained from the Bishop. If you are Catholic and have been married outside of the Church, it may be possible to have the marriage convalidated. This means your civil marriage may be recognised by the Church. If you are in this situation please speak to me about it. *Fr Paul*

VESPERS AND BENEDICTION: **This Sunday evening** there will be **Vespers and Benediction at 6pm** for the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE: This is a voluntary role which urgently needs to be filled. Support will be provided for you by the Diocesan Safeguarding Office and training will be provided. You will give valuable support to Fr Paul by providing the safe recruitment of volunteers in the parish, and by verifying DBS applications to submit to the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory service. Please ask to see a role description if you are interested in helping in this way or contact Sue Clarke on 01509 267248.

YEAR OF THE WORD: Day of Prayer: The Nottingham Diocesan Spirituality Network is holding a day of prayer at St Peter's Church, Hinckley, LE10 1LW on **Saturday 18th January** entitled: Encounter Jesus and be Missionary Disciples through St Matthew's Gospel beginning at 10 am with arrivals from 9.30 and finishing at 3 pm with Liturgy. Refreshments provided, please bring a packed lunch. All Welcome. Details of future events coming up on notice board.

THE DIRECTORS OF ST THOMAS AQUINAS MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST are seeking to appoint a new headteacher (primary) at St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Leicester. Further details are available at: <https://www.aquinas-cmat.org/vacancies/>. Closing date: 10am, **Wednesday 22nd January 2020.**

PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died: Giuseppe Sacchetta, Giuseppe Calardo, Sister Mary Peter, Brian Smith and Dorothy (Bubbles) Boyce. **May they rest in peace**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Armando Zollino, May Adam, Montague McArdle, Laurie Devaney, Mary Brookes, Margaret Woodhouse, baby Thomas Walsh, Bill Davey, Clarice Ryder, Amelia Blake, baby John Angrave, baby John Kirk, baby Kenneth Jarram, Michael Robinson, Annie Heath, Ian North, Paul Turner, Eamon Keating, baby Anna Sepede, William Hodgson, Albin Topolewski, Nora Cunningham, baby Pasquali Palladino, baby Alan Offiler-Russell, Frank Church, Kathleen Gratland, Henry Reed, Bogdon Wozniak, Justina O'Donoghue, Mary Connell, Thomas Jones, Rev Fr Joe Mullen and Rev Fr Eugene Monaghan.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

LEADER: Please kneel for our prayer for vocations. Let us ask God to give worthy Priests to His Holy Church and Brothers and Sisters to Religious Orders.

ALL: O God, we earnestly beseech You to bless this diocese with many priests, brothers and sisters, who will gladly spend their entire lives serving Your Church and making You known and loved.

LEADER: Bless our families. Bless our children.

ALL: Choose from our homes those who are needed for Your work.

LEADER: Mary, Queen of the Clergy!

ALL: Pray for us. Pray for our priests and religious. Obtain for us many more. *Amen.*

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL: Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. *Amen.*

FROM THE SAINTS: “Baptism should be conferred even on infants who are yet unable to commit any sin personally, in order that, having been born without supernatural grace, they may be born again of water and the Holy Spirit to divine life in Christ Jesus.” (*Pope St Paul VI, 1963-78*).

THIS WEEKEND being the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we will have the Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling of Holy Water at all Masses.

ITALIAN MASS: There will be **no Italian Mass** this or next weekend. The next Italian Mass will be on **Sunday 26th January** at 4pm.

NEWSLETTERS: May we remind you to please send all newsletter items to **BOTH newsletter@stmarysloughborough.org.uk and office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk** to guarantee safe receipt, in case either Louise or Marion is away.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS: A big thank you for your very generous donations to the Joseph's Storehouse food bank collection. The response from St. Mary's was tremendous and very much appreciated by all. The food bank is ceasing its operations for the time being, but the Carpenters' rehabilitation organisation is still welcoming weekly donations of non perishable groceries so we will keep the rota going to benefit the Carpenters' Arms. Huge thanks to all involved.
Jane Monaghan

101 CLUB: December and January winning numbers: **14** and **73**.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION: What can we do as a parish to address some of the problems facing our local community? Grub Club and more. Come and join us, 7pm in the parish hall, **20 January**.

PARKING THIS WEEKEND: Unfortunately it will not be possible to use the school playground for parking **this weekend only** due to ongoing work and machinery being left there.

Next Second Collection: 18th/19th January – Sick/Retired Priests' Fund

LAST WEEK'S FINANCE	
First Collection: £ 907	
Standing Orders: £ 635 @ 30/11	<i>Thank you</i>