



All Saints' weekly email: Baptism of the Lord

Dear Friends,

Last Wednesday a very polite non-believer happened upon us while out walking and stayed for noon Mass. He complimented us afterwards on the beauty of the building and our worship but asked pointedly whether I thought the world had in any way improved since Christ walked the earth (clearly inviting a negative). Thinking of life as a non-citizen in the Roman Empire I could only say I thought things were much better now. Even if you don't accept the contribution of Christianity to ethical, political and cultural life and leaving aside scientific and technological advances, one only has to think of slavery and the poor education, medicine and diet experienced by almost all the population 2000 years ago to make the case, but I couldn't persuade him. He left saying that while he saw no improvement (presumably he meant in people's behaviour?), he was hopeful, but not optimistic. And that is an important distinction: the Gospel deals in hope, as understood in the Judaeo-Christian tradition, rather than the mere optimism of Candide.

Still, celebrating the light of the Epiphany and preparing to celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, both feasts which proclaim the Gospel of light and new life, we can't avoid the contrast between this promise and the trouble we see around us, both as a result of the pandemic and the assault on democratic institutions we have witnessed in the USA this week. But I stand by what I said at Epiphany, that this season is a celebration of hope, potential and renewal. We must pray in that hope for the year ahead.

If you were watching the Epiphany Masses you will know that this year blessed chalk was offered to the congregation: it is traditionally taken home from Epiphany Mass to bless our houses. I'll leave some at the back of church on Sunday for any who might like to use it as a sign of thankfulness for blessings received and of our faith and hope for the future (if you can't come on Sunday and would like to bless your house in this way I can send you some instructions!).

While we are extremely grateful that communal worship is still permitted, at least for the time being, it seems prudent to scale back our liturgical offer a little further so as not to create too many opportunities for mingling. For this reason, after this Sunday's **3pm** service, Evensong and Benediction will be **not** be celebrated for the time being. Also the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (*Candlemas*) will only be celebrated with a single Sung Mass on **2 February** at **NOON**.

I have been asked to remind you that we are not supposed to linger after public worship. It seems hard, especially for a congregation which is largely made up of individuals gathering from a distance who naturally want to catch up with friends, but it would be a pity to jeopardise the permission we have been given by giving the impression that our congregation is infringing the rules.

Some of those who were here on Wednesday evening were able to pick up badges supplied by Paul Weston which we can wear to explain why we are out of our homes while travelling to Mass.



This seems an excellent idea: one of our number was stopped by the police and asked why she was travelling on Wednesday evening.

It is suggested that we ask for a donation of £10 for the badges as a fundraiser during this period when church income has been reduced. You can see a photo of the badge (and order one) [here](#). They will also be available at the back of church.

With renewed prayers and good wishes for the year ahead,

Fr Michael

Click on the following links for Sung Mass on SUNDAY at 11am:

[Propers for Baptism of the Lord](#)

[YouTube link for live stream](#)

and for Evensong and Benediction at 3pm

[Order of Service](#)

[YouTube link for live stream](#)

If you would like to have flowers in church to mark an anniversary or special occasion, please contact **Shawn Welby-Cooke** on

07988 287 663 or

shawnwilbe@outlook.com

This month's **Walsingham Devotion** will be offered tomorrow, Saturday 9th January at 1130 - Rosary, followed by Mass of the BVM at noon.



Prayer list

Prisoners and captives:

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, Ismaeil Maghrebinejad, Nasrin Satoudeh, Ahmed Almour, Mayshee Eyob, Maira Shabhaz.

The sick:

David Fettke, Joan Cooper, Vallery Tchukov, Sara Vice, Katherine Lee, Nicky Yeo, Lorna Smith, Beth Klausning, Hilary Porter, Keith Peers, Bruce Ross-Smith, Benjamin Woolf, James Shrimpton, Tony Rodger, Rachel Pereira, Victor Sharp, Fr Michael Gudgeon, Audrey Williams, Chris and Carole Radley, Fr Harry Hodgetts, Rosemary Orr, Andrew Rodger, Martin Berka, Bishop Mano Rumlshah, Barbara Schiefer, David Aspenal, Margaret Feaviour, Sybil Priestnall, John Mather, Joan Anna SLG, Barbara June SLG, Tim Little, Elizabeth Dennis, Lorna Sargaison.

Those known to us recently departed:

Jean Baarson

Jean Claxton

Miles

Elaine Bullock

Robert Greene

David Palmer *Pr*

Evelyn Born SLG

Anniversaries of death:

10th - Vera Freeth, Hermia Mills, Ann Ind, Jack Finnie, Katherine Humphries, Michael Fleming, Anthea Candlin, Richard Candlin, Frank Hawkins *Pr*

11th - Eric Bailey *Pr*, Sophia Wickenden, Beryl Peryer

12th - Charles Backus

13th - Dorothea Graham, Vivian Curson, George Currie

14th - Alfred Stephens, Ethel Hewelson, Hugh Shepheard, Lyn Jones, Mavis Mercer

15th - John Spencer 16th - Margaret Henwood, George Haines, Dennis Black, Claire Browne



Supporting All Saints

Parish Giving Scheme:

Thank you to all who give in various ways to support the work of All Saints. While we regret that the previous online registration facility for the Parish Giving Scheme is no longer available, our Treasurer recommends that this remains our preferred option for giving: it allows contributions to be anonymous and deals with GiftAid, which saves our office a lot of time.

It is no longer possible to register for the scheme online.

There are now two options, for each of which you need the parish code: 230623075.

You can join the scheme either

by phoning 0333 002 1271 and quoting the code

or

by requesting a form from the parish office.

The following link will take you to a page which explains how the scheme works:

www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/how-it-works

Donations for general Church purposes: To give by BACS please use the following details, advising the Administrator to collect Gift Aid:

PCC All Saints (*Charity # 1132895*)

Sort Code 60-09-15

A/C 04559452

Parish Legacy Policy We are always delighted to hear from anyone who wants to support us with a donation. Our PCC Legacy Policy encourages people to leave bequests specifically to one of our two related charities to be used for purposes of lasting value (rather than day to day costs):

All Saints Choir & Music Trust (Charity # 802994) or

The All Saints Foundation (Charity # 273390).