



THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF OUR LORD & ALL SOULS



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A parish of the Archdiocese of Birmingham in collaboration with the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham

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SUNDAY 10 JANUARY 2021

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS: CELEBRATING, LIVING & SHARING GOD'S WORD

The Book of Numbers: the story of God's People in the wilderness

Where is it in the Bible? The Book of Numbers is the 4th book of the Old Testament and the 4th book of the Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Number, Deuteronomy).

Life after Egypt. God's people had been freed from slavery and oppression in Egypt; but they found themselves in an inhospitable wilderness and saved from starvation only by special divine intervention. The people complained to Moses, saying that they wished God had killed them in Egypt, where at least they had meat and other food to eat. God heard their complaints and told them that in the morning they would have their fill of bread so that they would know that he was the Lord their God. And, as promised, God provided quails and manna for them to eat in the desert (Exodus 16:11-16).

A freedom misused. God also provided his people with the Tabernacle to assure them of his presence. However, there followed a tale of consistent disobedience and rebellion against him and his servant Moses, and it culminated in the Lord's

decision to exclude the exodus generation from taking possession of the promised land of Canaan (Numbers 14:19-23). The freedom that was given to them and the defeat of the Egyptian army at the sea had been misused.

Theological history The book of Numbers is a history that is told with an eye to communicating what we believe about God. The key theme is the preparation of God's people for living in the Promised Land and the gradual fulfilment of the promises to Abraham that his descendants would be the people of God and would occupy the land of Canaan.

What is God saying to us? In this book and in the incidents concerning getting water from a rock, manna and quail, God is telling us that he always provides for us.

A well-known blessing "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26)

✠ WORSHIP THIS WEEK ✠

Sunday 10th	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD <i>(Christmastide ends today)</i>	10.30am MASS <i>For the People of the Parish</i> <i>Annie Turvey RIP (Fr Tim)</i>
Monday 11 th	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30am Mass <i>Intentions of Anne Varney</i> 11.00am Funeral Mass (Nancy Cairns RIP)
Tuesday 12 th	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30am Mass <i>Leslie Bonner RIP</i>
Wednesday 13 th	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30am Mass <i>Breda Mehlhorn & Carmel Murray RIP</i>
Thursday 14 th	Feria in Ordinary Time	7.30pm Mass <i>Daniel O'Hara RIP</i>
Friday 15 th	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30am Mass <i>Joan Hudgell RIP</i>
Sat 16 th	Our Lady on Saturday	9.30am Mass <i>Marie Lawton RIP</i> 10.30-11.30am Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation)
Sunday 17th	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.30am MASS <i>For the People of the Parish</i> <i>Patrick O'Malley RIP (Fr Tim)</i>

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for half an hour before Mass Monday-Saturday
Daily Evening Prayer (Vespers) via Zoom at 6pm (email Fr Paul to receive log-in details)
Confession is also available before Mass and by arrangement.

PROTECTING ONE ANOTHER

As a point of clarification, **everybody** coming into church – whether partially vaccinated, fully vaccinated or not vaccinated at all against covid-19 - is required to **sanitise their hands**, wear a **face covering** (unless exempt for medical reasons) and maintain **physical distance** from others. This is not just a parish requirement, but a stipulation of the national guidance on the safe use of places of worship. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter and for thinking of the welfare of others. Father Paul

EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING

Many valuable Catholic customs which once took the faith into our homes in a visible way have regrettably disappeared. The centuries-old custom of 'chalking' and blessing homes at Epiphany seems like a good custom to revive just at the moment. It invokes a blessing on all who enter our homes in the coming year. Blessed chalk is available in the exit porch today. A short rite for the blessing, which any member of the household may ask, is given below. A fuller liturgy is available on the sheets in the porch.

Bless, O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfilment of thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then using the blessed chalk write the initials of the three Wise Men, connected with crosses, over the inside of your front door (on the lintel, if possible). Then write the year, breaking up the numbers and the year so that they fall on both sides of the initials. It should look like this: 20 C+M+B 21, with the "20" being the millennium and century, the "C" standing for the first Wise Man, Caspar, the "M" standing for Melchior, the "B" standing for Balthasar, and the "21" standing for the decade and year. It is also popularly believed that the Kings' initials stand for "Christus mansionem benedicat" ("Christ bless this house").

The inscription also reminds us to adore Christ as the Magi did in our daily comings and goings this year.

LAMP BURNING FOR THE SICK A lamp is burning perpetually in Our Lady's chapel for all those who are suffering with covid-19 and for those caring for them. It symbolises both our prayer for them and our hope in Christ, "the Light of the World."

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY, 18-25 JANUARY

Each of the member churches of Churches Together in Earlsdon and Chapelfields will host Evening Prayer in turn on Zoom from Monday 18 to Friday 22 January in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It will be the turn of All Souls on Tuesday 19 January. More details, including login details, to follow.

PAX CHRISTI SECOND COLLECTION A second collection to support the work of *Pax Christi* will be taken at Masses in the week beginning 17 January. Despite the restrictions, *Pax Christi* continues to work across England & Wales with a small team of paid staff and volunteers promoting peace through outreach work, peace education in schools, presence on social media and the press, and through the production of useful resources (some available in church). Just as for other Catholic organisations, these are uncertain times as regards income. Therefore please give as generously as you able this year.

CHRISTMAS CRIB OFFERINGS Today is the final opportunity to make crib offerings for **Friends of the Holy Land**. These should be placed in the wall slots near the exit.

Please place any further **Food Bank** items in the box near the crib. The Food bank helps local people in need. The crib will remain in church until Candlemas on 2 February, which brings the Christmas cycle to a close.

JOB OPPORTUNITY – FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND. This Christian Charity is seeking an Office Administrator. The salaried position is important for our future growth and directly supports the Office Manager. Duties include maintaining the database, responding to enquiries, managing post/emails and sending out materials. The successful candidate will have good verbal and written communication skills, a strong ability to multi-task and be comfortable with using IT (particularly MS Office). The hours of work are negotiable – minimum 20 hours per week, between Mon-Fri. In the current pandemic, some work can be done at home. Normally, the work is conducted from our Kenilworth office. Please contact Jen Hill with your CV, office@friendsoftheholylord.org.uk

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED Of your charity pray for the repose of the soul of **Anna (Nancy) Cairns** whose funeral takes place on Monday 11 January, and for **Marilyn Walker**.

GROWING FAITH

Week 9: Finding true Freedom

To help sustain our faith during the challenging winter months, we are providing parishioners with a weekly link to resources from Sycamore, a Catholic course aimed at helping people mature in their faith. The main feature is a 30 minute film.

This week's session is entitled Finding true Freedom. Simply follow the link, press play and enjoy the video:

<https://www.sycamore.fm/videos/session-9-finding-true-freedom/>

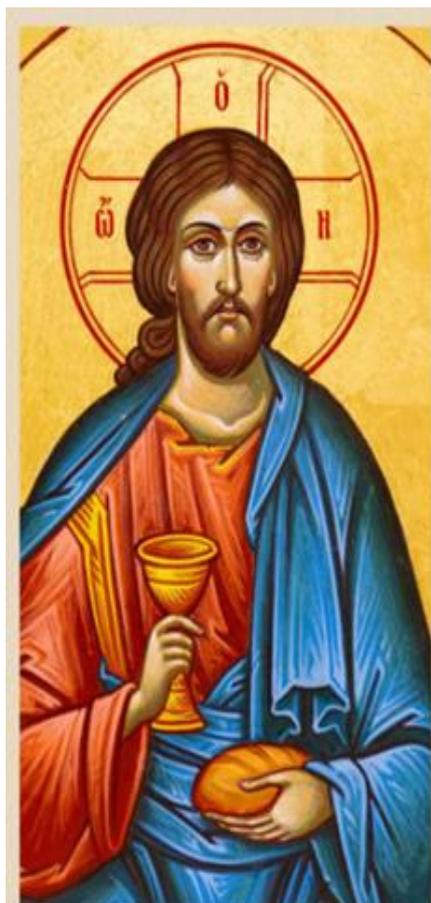
Those receiving the link by email will also find an attachment with some material for reflection.

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD Pope Francis has decreed 24 January to be the Sunday of the Word of God. "Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world." (Pope Francis). We will mark the day in three ways:

- 1 Invite everyone to **bring a Bible to Mass** that day or another day during the week to be blessed.
- 2 Re-commission and ask God's **blessing of our readers**, whether they are able to be present physically at the Mass or not.
- 3 Encourage parishioners to **begin a journey through the whole Bible** in a 7-week course written by David McLoughlin entitled *Echoes of God: Journeying with the word of God*. These weekly reflections are perfect for us to read through and chew over at home during this period of lockdown. Each week takes a fundamental core teaching of scripture and together the sessions help us get a sense of the Scriptures as a whole; to see the unfolding of God's liberating and creative love in the history of Israel and in the Church. The materials, which are very easy and enjoyable to read, will be included in successive weekly newsheets, but you can access the materials any time at <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/sunday-of-the-word-of-god/echoes-of-god-journeying-with-the-word-of-god/>

For a heavily discounted 2021 Sunday Missal (just **£1.99**), which contains all the Sunday readings and Mass propers, go to: <https://go.pardot.com/e/520051/cts-sunday-missal-2021-/3r1qcr/549061324?h=AGaduhHL79o-Oa-jsrOphbO2Gqov6Tf92xggaEx1sss>

Prayers for Spiritual Communion



Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the
Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive
You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this
moment receive You
sacramentally, come at least
spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were
already there and unite
myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be
separated from You.

Amen.

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me
Body of Christ, save me
Blood of Christ, inebriate me
Water from the side of Christ,
wash me
Passion of Christ, strengthen
me
O good Jesus, hear me
Within thy wounds hide me
Permit me not to be separated
from thee
From the wicked foe defend me
At the hour of my death call me
And bid me come to thee
That with thy saints I may praise
thee
For ever and ever. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to
your disciples, 'I am with you

always'. Be with me today as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep us all in your care. Amen.

O God, help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Conclude with the following:

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life. Amen.