



# Our Lady Help of Christians

## Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

10<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

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Sunday, 10 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b>	<b>Sat evening Vigil: 5.30 pm</b> <b>Sun morning: 11.00 am</b> <b>2.00 pm Baptism</b>	<i>Catherine and Robert Carr (Intentions)</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i> <i>William Peter Wilson</i>
Monday, 11 <sup>th</sup> January	No Mass Today	
Tuesday, 12 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Op. Memorial of St. Aelred of Rievaulx</i>	9.15 am Mass	<i>Helen Towey</i>
Wednesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Optional Memorial of St. Hilary, Bishop</i>	No Mass Today	
Thursday, 14 <sup>th</sup> January	No Mass Today	
Friday, 15 <sup>th</sup> January	6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Josie Coughlan (Intentions)</i>
Saturday, 16 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Sat evening Vigil: 5.30 pm</b>	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Sunday, 17 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <b>Peace Day</b>	<b>Sun morning: 11.00 am</b>	<i>Joyce &amp; Dolores Connolly (Intentions)</i>
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday, 6.00-6.45 pm		

**Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians for Mass today.**

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, and Christmastide ends this evening.

Tomorrow we return to "Ordinary Time" in the Church's Year.

Sunday Mass readings are taken from Cycle B, and Weekday readings are from Year 1.

**The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Anne Delaney.**

**The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for the French Family.**

**Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for our Priests and Religious, past and present.**

**St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for the Davies Family.**

**St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Fr. Kieran Anderson.**

### Prayer at the end of Mass:

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O merciful, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! *Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen*

Here is a prayer, **an Act of Spiritual Communion**, which you can say as you watch a Livestream Mass:

*"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 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."*

**Please pray for those we know who are sick, especially Dermot Carroll, Bernadette Allsworth and Grace O'Rourke.** If you or family members are ill and you would like to ask for prayers on this newsletter, let me know (in writing, please). Thank you.

**Please pray for Helen Towey, Winnie Gildea** and all who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. John Cregg, Canon Matt Corrigan, Frs. Philip Wyles, Patrick Farrelly, Peter Tuite, James Bromley, Patrick McSwiney, Robert Kirby, Benedict O'Gorman, Gerard Peuleve, Cyril Bennett, Deacons William Murphy, Thomas Mark Carter, and Brian Dockerty and also Veronica Khan, Colleen Surman, James O'Brien. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

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## Commemorative Sanctuary



**Candles.** For £5 you can buy a candle that will burn in the sanctuary or by the statues of the Sacred

Heart, Our Lady, St. Joseph, or St Don Bosco, for any week of your choice during the coming year. It can be for any reason you want: for example, to remember a loved one, or a special intention.

**Peace Sunday.** Next Sunday is a day of prayer for peace on earth.

**The assisted suicide lobby are currently running a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide.** Thankfully, the

Government has so far resisted these attempts and emphasised their commitment to neutrality on this issue. The Church holds that it is important that the Government continues to hold strong against pressure from assisted suicide campaigners and rejects their demands. Right To Life UK has set up an easy-to-use tool to enable you to email your MP asking the Government not to give in to the demands. It only takes about half a minute to email your MP. Go to <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.** The traditional time for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> January, the days between the feasts of St Peter and St Paul. This year the theme is based on *John 15:1-17: Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit.*

## Christmas Decorations.

Christmastide in the Church's calendar finishes this evening. I had meant to take the crib and decorations down by now, but as you can see they remain in place for today. Thank you to everyone who put a prayer bubble on the tree as a symbol of love. It helped us to appreciate the coming of Jesus, the love of God made visible. And thank you to everyone who helped to make the church so beautiful and prayerful for us this Christmastide.

## *Behold, I tell you a mystery!*

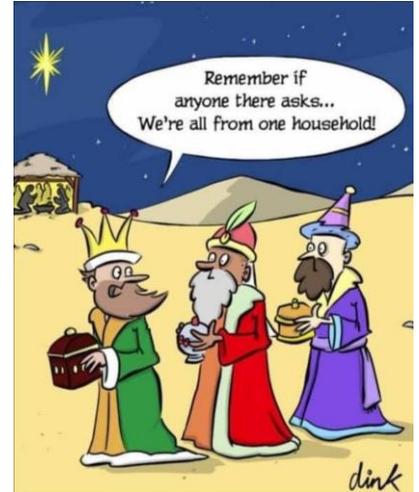
Well, here we are in lockdown again. I think we saw it coming, but it is still hard to take. However, there are two key differences this time. The first is, as we have all heard several times already, this time we have hope that the new vaccines will help to bring an end to the worst of the pandemic. Our exile will come to an end in the foreseeable future. The second is that so far churches have not been closed. Although we are told to stay at home, we can come out for communal worship. If we take the precautions that we have become used to – masks, sanitising and social distancing – we can gather in church for Mass.

To help protect us I have invested in a “fogging machine”. It's very exciting! It doesn't replace our very good cleaners (whom I should like to acknowledge and thank), but after Mass, when the church is empty, I can go in with this machine and disinfect the building by blowing a cloud of disinfectant over all the surfaces of the church. I did have visions of emerging from a fog, like people on TV when they step out of a cloud of dry ice, so I was a bit disappointed to find that the fogging machine only produces a mist, but it does the job. I shall go round fogging – or more accurately, mistifying – each week, and I hope this will give you a bit of confidence to come to the church for Mass.

If you are unable to come to church – and if you are in any doubt, then please stay away – you can still join in with the Mass through our livestreaming service. Our camera is live and can be viewed at <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/our-lady-help-of-christians> If you haven't tried it yet then I recommend it. If you want to have a chat with me – and it doesn't have to be about religious matters – then please call me on 01865 770910.

**Baptism.** Today we welcome William Peter Wilson into the family of the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please pray for him and his family.

**Don Bosco Today and the Salesian Calendar 2021** are available after Mass today.



**Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of Jesus.** It is a good day to reflect on our own Baptism. In our Diocese today we pray for parents and grandparents as they witness to the love and mercy of God in their families and teach their children the faith. I invite families to repeat this action described by Pope Francis.

*“What can be more beautiful than for a father and mother (grandfather, grandmother) to bless their children at the beginning and end of each day, to trace on their forehead the sign of the cross, as they did on the day of their baptism? Is this not the simplest prayer which parents can offer for their children? To bless them, that is, to entrust them to the Lord.”*

**Tailpiece:** A mother was watching her two little boys through her kitchen window as they played outside. Suddenly the elder of the two grabbed his sibling by the back of his head and pushed his face into a puddle in a pothole. She ran into the yard in a panic. “What on earth were you doing?” she demanded as she dried the younger child. “We were just playing Church, Mummy,” the offender explained. “I was baptising him ... in the name of the Father, and of the Son and in the hole-’e-goes.”

**May God bless you and all those who are dear to you**  
**Fr. Harry**