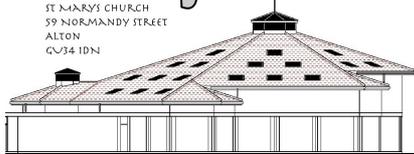


# St Mary's Parish Newsletter

ST MARY'S CHURCH  
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## MASS INTENTIONS

w/c Sunday 9th January, 2022  
**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

Year (C2) (Office Proper)

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Saturday       | of Christmastide after Epiphany  |
|                | 4.50pm Confessions   |
|                | 5.30pm Tom Willis, RIP & Esther Wood, RIP                                |
| Sunday         | <b>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>   |
| St. Lucy's     | 9.00am The People of The Parish  |
| St. Mary's     | 11.00am Orazio & Maria Vivolo, RIP                                       |
| Monday         | Beginning of Ordinary Time<br>Cycle 2 Psalter Week 1<br>Feria            |
| Anstey Convent | Community only<br>9.30am Intentions of Fr. James                         |
| Tuesday        | Feria<br>Private Mass Intentions of Fr. James                            |
| Wednesday      | Feria<br>9.30am Jim Elliot, RIP  |
| Thursday       | Feria  |
| St. Lucy's     | Community Only<br>9.30am Lenore Munson & Family                          |
| Friday         | Feria<br>9.30am Paul, RIP  |
| Saturday       | Our Lady on Saturday<br>4.50pm Confessions<br>5.30pm Michael Dalton, RIP |
| Sunday         | 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  |
| St. Lucy's     | 9.0am The People of the Parish   |
| St. Mary's     | 11.00am K & M O'Connor, RIP  |

Confessions: Please email or call the Parish office for an appointment

No Booking Required to attend Mass

Please continue to keep the Church COVID Safe by wearing a mask and sanitising your hands.

## Please remember in your prayers

Beryl & Ted Lewis, David Barron, Lesley Atkin, Eileen Bowler, Maureen Cole, Mary McGrath, Dorothy Harte, Jonathan Wiltshire, Jeanne Abraham, Elise Hobbs, Denise Graham, Mary Sturgess, Tom Barbour, Adi Morando, Brenda Gregory, Alex Smith, Kate Cradock, Rita Rawling, Lily Jones, Margaret Collins, Carol Conway, Annie Tomlinson Theresa Davies, Michael & Jo Rogers Flavia Stampa Gruss



LORD IN YOUR MERCY,  
HEAR OUR PRAYER

## The Baptism of The Lord—9th January, 2022

It may seem strange, but this is a Christmas Feast. Not if we think of Christmas only in terms of the Baby in Bethlehem, but if we have followed the ideas of the Feasts of Holy Family and especially Epiphany, and have seen the Season in terms of the growing manifestation or appearing of the Son of God: first to the shepherds and then to the wise men from the East. Now in the River Jordan, Jesus, Son of Mary, is revealed to all as the fullness of all God's promises:

This is my Son, the Beloved

On this day we stand before the revelation of God's love for us, such that he would send his only Son into the world. Christmas without the Baptism of the Lord, and the words that are spoken from heaven, would be incomplete, since it is only in them that we fully see the wonder of what happened in Bethlehem. As we come to the end of Christmas today, and look forward to hearing the Gospels in Ordinary Time, we do so having been shown who it is we listen to: the only Son of God, the Beloved.

**"While Jesus, after his own baptism, was at prayer, heaven opened."**

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Entrance Antiphon

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

The Gloria

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it.

Responsorial Psalm

**Bless the Lord, my soul ! Lord God, how great you are.**

Second Reading

St. Paul to the Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

He saved us by the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia !**

Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

**Alleluia !**

Gospel

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

While Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened.

The Creed

Communion Antiphon

**Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.**

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The next PPC Meeting will be held on

**Monday, 24th January at 7pm.**

If you have any items for the Agenda, please submit them, in writing, by **Friday, 21st January.**

## GIFT AID DONATIONS—A REMINDER

If you are using the Gift Aid Envelopes provided at the back of the Church please remember to **enter either your Gift Aid Number or name** on the envelope. If you are not a member of the Gift Aid Scheme and are a UK Tax Payer then please complete one of the forms available at the back of the Church or from the office

## Cheques made out to the Parish

The correct name is **P.R.C.D.T.R Alton St. Mary**

### **Reflection on the Sunday Gospel Reading**

#### **Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In today's Gospel, as in the other Gospel accounts of Jesus' baptism, we hear John the Baptist address the confusion of the people who thought that John might be the Messiah. In response, John contrasts the baptism that he performs with the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that someone will come and baptize with the Holy Spirit. The type of baptism that John performed was not yet a Christian Baptism; it was a preparation for Christian Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, it was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. The Evangelists Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. Compare this to Matthew's Gospel in which the voice from heaven speaks to everyone. In Luke, however, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus during his time of prayer after his baptism. Through his Gospel, Luke will show Jesus to be a person of prayer who withdraws regularly from the crowds and his disciples to pray to his Father.

The baptism of Jesus is considered a manifestation of God in Jesus, another "epiphany." On this, the last day of the Christmas season, our Gospel reveals to us Jesus' relation to God: the son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. In Luke's Gospel, all three members of the Trinity are manifested here: God the Father in the voice, the Holy Spirit descending, and Jesus the Son. At the beginning of his Gospel, Luke is communicating to us important information about the identity of Jesus. In the verses that follow, Luke lists the genealogy of Jesus, tracing Jesus' ancestry back to the first person, Adam, who is also identified as the son of God. We, the children of Adam and Eve, are again made children of God through Baptism.

For those who were unable to attend Mass on Thursday, The Epiphany, the live stream is still available to watch

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQm0AflgS6wBFM4F331oXWA>

Or via the St. Mary's website.

**Due to the current Covid situation and some being rather hesitant about attending Mass, we will continue to stream the main Sunday Mass .**

### **Looking forward to 2022**

#### **Last Saturday of each month**

Continuing 29th January

**10—10.30am Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament and Confession if required**

**Wednesday**

**The next Session of the Cafe Course—**

**The Big Picture**

Starting 23rd February (To be confirmed)

#### **First Friday of each month**

Starting 4th February

**Coffee and cake in the hall following the 9.30am Mass**

**Fish & Chip lunch—12 noon**

#### **Second and Fourth Monday of each month**

Starting 14th & 28th February

**Knit, Natter and Craft from 2—4pm in the Parish Hall**

#### **Every Tuesday 9—12 noon**

Starting 4th January

**Alton Clothing Bank opens the doors to the Parish Hall for anyone in need of clothing to come along and help themselves.**

### **Marian Antiphon until the Presentation**

**Loving Mother of the Redeemer,  
gate of heaven, star of the sea,  
assist your people who have fallen,  
yet strive to rise again.**

**To the wonderment of nature  
you bore your Creator,**

**Yet remained a virgin, after, as before.**

**You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting,  
have pity on us poor sinners.**

**V. After childbirth, O Virgin, you remained inviolate**

**R. O Mother of God, plead for us.**

Let us Pray.

☉ God, Who by the fruitful virginity  
of blessed Mary has given to mankind  
the rewards of eternal salvation:

grant, we beseech You,

that we may experience her intercession for us,

by whom we have been made worthy

to receive the Author of Life,

our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,

who lives and reigns with You

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God,

world without end. **R. Amen.**

### **Wednesday 12th January—Feria**

#### **Entrance Antiphon**

**Upon a lofty throne, I saw a man seated, whom a host  
of angels adore, singing in unison; Behold him, the  
name of whose empire is eternal.**

**First Reading** *Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20*

*Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.*

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

**Here I am Lord ! I come to do your will.**

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia !**

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home  
with you; through him give thanks to God the Father.

**Alleluia !**

**Gospel** *Mark 1:29-39*

*He cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another.*

#### **Communion Antiphon**

**With you, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in your  
light we see light.**

**All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.**

### **Friday, 14th January, Feria**

#### **Entrance Antiphon**

**Upon a lofty throne, I saw a man seated, whom a host  
of angels adore, singing in unison; Behold him, the  
name of whose empire is eternal.**

**First Reading:** *Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22*

*You will cry out on account of the king you have chosen for yourselves, but God will not answer you.*

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

**I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.**

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia !**

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the  
eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call  
holds for us.

**Alleluia !**

**Gospel:** *Mark 2:1-12*

*The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.*

#### **Communion Antiphon**

**With you, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in your  
light we see light.**