

Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
8th January 2023

Fr Michael Fitzsimons Tel. 0151 936 7688

Parish Office Tel. 0151 489 1802

Email: cjf@rcaol.org.uk

Website: www.columba-johnfisher.org.uk

Baptising In the Jordan

We know from our Gospels that Jesus was baptised by St John. This was not in some nice ornate font but in the River Jordan. If you are lucky enough to go to the Holy Land there are a number of sites along the river that claim to be the place where Jesus was actually baptised.

At the more popular sites you can hire a minister (usually an evangelical American!) who will baptise you, or re-baptise you in the river. Everyone puts on long white gowns and then you enter into the river and you are tipped backwards with a full immersion and everyone claps and prays aloud. Of course in the Catholic church we only have the one baptism and this is usually as a child or baby too and we do not allow rebaptism. So certainly as a priest I really would not be allowed to have such a ceremony but I have to admit I am sorely tempted - I

would really see it as a renewal of my Baptism but if I am honest I would also enjoy it and like the photo opportunity for my own entertainment! But I still have to say I do like the dramatic nature of it all - it would stick in your memory. Do you know the date of your Baptism ?

Continued over page



Continued from front page

I can take a guess at the month and year of mine but have no memory of it as I was a little baby so I am a little jealous of such a marked celebration on offer at the River Jordan.

I think it really highlights the dramatic change we experience in Baptism - whether we receive this as adult or a child - nothing is the same for us ever again, we become a child of God, a child of light and a life-long follower of the Lord. It really is a serious moment.

So today on this feast let us give thanks for our own Baptism and the change and difference it makes in our lives. We may not have the high drama of being baptised in the river Jordan but our Baptism marks a complete change in our lives as we received the grace and love God and the many gifts that we can use as a follower of Jesus in our daily lives.

Peace Sunday

Sunday 15th January, is Peace Sunday and this year the message from Pope Francis tells us: 'No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace'.

He asks us: 'What did we learn from the pandemic? What new paths should we follow to cast off the shackles of our old habits, to be better prepared, to dare new things? What signs of life and hope can we see, to help us move forward and try to make our world a better place?'

A vaccine has been found for Covid-19, says the Holy Father, but we still need to tackle the virus of war, and of inequality, and this can only be done together.

In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi, which aims at working together to promote peace through parishes, schools and social media. Our own Archbishop Malcolm is the president of Pax Christi and is very familiar with their work. Their website suggests ways we can all become better peacemakers. There are activities for families to do at home, including a peace liturgy for young children. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2023> There will be a second collection to support the work of Pax Christi next weekend.

Masses & Services This Week

Weekend 7th/8th January - The Baptism of the Lords

Saturday 5.30pm Mass at St JF (Deceased

Priests of Parish)

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (People of the

Parish)

Tuesday 10th January

9.15am Mass at St C (Tommy Kirwan)

Wednesday 11th January

9.15am Eucharistic Service at St JF

Thursday 12th January

9.15am Eucharistic Service at St C



Next Weekend 14th/15th January

Saturday 5.30pm Mass at St JF (Fr Michael and Family)

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (People of the Parish)

Confession - available before and after Mass or by appointment

Collections: Weeks 1st Dec - 31st Dec TOTAL £1925.58
including Christmas offerings.

Please note there will be a second collection next week to support the work of Pax Christi.



Pope Emeritus Benedict VI RIP

Archbishop Malcolm will celebrate a Mass for the repose of the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict in the Cathedral on Tuesday evening at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

Re Gifting for Nugent

At Christmas we sometimes receive a gift that was given with love but it is something we will never use or just don't want, or we get two of the same thing. It may be a toiletry set that we don't use, two separate gifts of a pair of slippers or just a gift that we know we will never use. A great way of continuing the spirit of the Christmas gifts is to pass them on to Nugent where they will be sold in the charity shop or used directly in their services. I think it's a great way of honouring the original gift giver and continues the joy of Christmas.

Also at this time we have received new gifts and sometimes are sorting out space in our cupboards and shelves and now have donations of clothes, books, bric-a-brac etc. So once again please bring in your unwanted gifts and good quality spare items and we will donate them to Nugent. Just hand them in at the back of either church and we will arrange for a general central collection by Nugent.

Fr Anthony

Fr Anthony will be returning to Ghana this coming week and we wish him a safe journey and blessings in his ministry in Ejisu with the seminarians and students..



Please pray for the sick of our parish:

Kathy Molloy, Les & Mary Orritt, Joan Haigh, Norma Pritchard, Loretta McDonnell, M. Rivi, Thomas Hopkins, Amy Murphy, Joseph Cameron, Sharon Whitting, Rowan Sanderson, Claire L Walker, Karen Duffy, James Murphy, Betty Stewart, Elizabeth Jones

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are

Jan Box 0151 548 5268 and Colette Murphy 07796291485

Please contact them if you have any concerns relating to the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults in our parish.