

CATHOLIC PARISH OF WESTBOURNE NEWSLETTER



9th January 2022

The Baptism of the Lord

Baptism of faith

Today we celebrate the feast of the baptism of Jesus. It is a good day to reflect on our own baptism and its significance for us. The day of Jesus' baptism was a watershed in his life; it was a day of new beginning. On that day he began his public ministry during which he gave himself fully in the service of God and all of God's people. From that day Jesus launched forth as the one who came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. As he set out on that momentous journey for all of us, he was assured of God his Father's favour, *'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you'*, and he was empowered by the Holy Spirit, who descended upon him like a dove.

Even though Jesus was baptised by John as an adult and we received Christian baptism as children, our baptism was also a day of new beginning for us. On that day we were launched on the great adventure of becoming disciples of Jesus in our own time. On that day, we too were given an assurance of God's love and favour, and we too were empowered by the Holy Spirit for the journey ahead of us. On that day we were caught up into Jesus' own very special relationship with God and we became a member of Jesus' family of disciples, the church.



In a sense we spend the rest of our lives trying to catch up with that day of new beginning. We are baptized as children but it is as adults that we confirm our baptism for ourselves. It is as adults that we say our own adult 'yes' to the Lord who said 'yes' to us as young children on the day of our baptism. It may be in our late twenties or our thirties or forties or even later that we come to say that 'yes' with all our heart and soul and mind.

The Lord keeps calling out to us from the moment of our baptism. Our response to the Lord's call, the Lord's word, can be slow in coming, but his call, his word, remains powerfully creative and will in some way or other make of us what God wants for us.

Visit our website: www.catholicwestbourne.org

MASS TIMES

Sunday 9th January, THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

9.00am

11.00am

Tuesday 11th January, NO MASS

Wednesday 12th January, FERIA

10.00am

Thursday 13th January, NO MASS

Friday 14th January, LITURGY OF THE DAY

6.00pm - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7.00pm

CONFESSIONS: After Mass or by appointment.

OUR PARISH

**OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH
SEAMOOD ROAD, WESTBOURNE,
BOURNEMOUTH, BH4 9AE**

Parish Priest: Fr Leslie Adams

Telephone: 01202 764027

Email: ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

*(Baptism, Marriages, Sick Visits,
Funerals and Confessions)*

Parish Office

General enquires and hall bookings

Telephone: 01202 760640

Email: oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer: Matthew French

Email: mail@matthewfrench.net

SUNDAY READINGS

Entrance Antiphon - Cf. Mt 3: 16-17

After the Lord was baptized, 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.

Gospel Acclamation - cf. Lk3:16

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

Communion Antiphon - Jn 1: 32, 34

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

PARISH NEWS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Thank you to all those parents who joined me yesterday to discuss their children's First Holy Communion. Further details to follow.

REFRESHMENTS: Tea, coffee and soft drinks are provided in the hall after the 9.00am Mass on Sunday and 10.00am Mass on Wednesday. Please do join us if you can.

SUNDAY OBLIGATION: As the Sunday Obligation to attend Mass remains suspended, please continue to attend Mass when you feel confident to do so. The Sunday Obligation remains 'stretched' across the weekdays so if you find Sunday Mass too daunting at this stage then consider attending a weekday Mass when there are fewer people present.

PRAYER OF BLESSING: If you're not a Catholic, please feel free to join the procession for Holy Communion to receive a blessing. Slightly bow your head and place your hand on your chest, so the minister/celebrant will know. All are welcome.

VOLUNTEERS: I would be very grateful if one or two volunteers were able to undertake some sacristy duties. This would involve opening and closing the church and helping me to prepare for Mass.



FAMILY PRAYER: Father, bless our family and keep us safe in your loving care. May Mary our Mother give us the wisdom to see You in our joys and sorrows, our triumphs and failures. May Jesus your son help us to support one another and heal us of any wounds and hurt that become part of family life. Keep us true to your Son Jesus in the practice of our faith and in our love for one another. In the fullness of time O Lord, unite us with our deceased family members in Your eternal home. Amen

EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR AFGHANISTAN: The need is urgent to prevent mass deaths. Go to cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergency/DEC-AfghanistanCrisis-Appeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

You can donate directly into the bank account:

**PRCDTR Bournemouth
Our Lady Immaculate**

Sort code: 309304 Account: 00875075

Thank you for your continued support.

PRAYERS PLEASE

Please remember all the sick and housebound of our parish especially:

Marianne Copp, Patricia Kowalewska,
Win Sheridan, Kathleen Wood,
Phillip Rockford, Germain McAulay,
Geoffrey Dixon, Joe Bonnici,
Marjorie Lee

Someone is coming...

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, *'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'*

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, *'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'*



IMPORTANTOMICRON VARIANT PRECAUTIONS: In view of the additional precautions announced by the government due to the spread of the Omicron variant of coronavirus the following arrangements are in place.

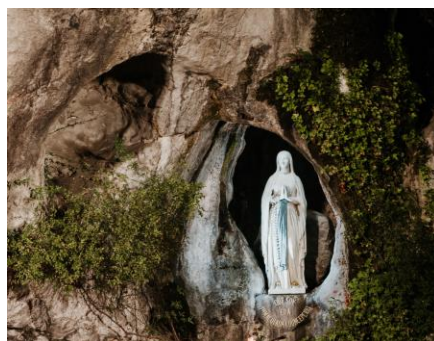
The wearing of face coverings is now compulsory in places of worship except for those with medical exemptions.

Anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church to worship in person. All visitors should use the hand sanitiser provided on entry to our church. Hand hygiene is extremely important.

Please wrap up warm as the doors will be open to provide good ventilation throughout the church. You are encouraged to take up the offer of a vaccine and booster jab if possible.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in these still difficult times. Your support is much appreciated.

YOU ARE INVITED



DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: 18-22 July 2022. You are invited to join Bishop Philip as pilgrim or as a youth pilgrim. Leaving from Bournemouth Airport and staying at Hotel La Solitude. For more information, please email Canon PJ Smith: lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk