

St German's Church

12 January 2020 - The Baptism of the Lord



IN THE Orthodox Church calendar, the Baptism of Christ is the central focus of Epiphany. Jesus's baptism is the occasion of a second, and more dramatic, manifestation (*epiphaneia*) of his glory. Like the visit of the Magi, it foreshadows his paschal sacrifice and triumph. John's baptism resembled the practice of proselyte baptism for Gentile converts (the word *baptizein* meaning to make someone or something go down into water). In extending this practice to the Jewish people and their leaders, John was "in effect declaring that everyone stands in need of conversion, signalling their repentance and turning to God" - Anna Case-Winters, *Belief — A Theological Commentary on the Bible: Matthew* (from this week's Church Times).

Parish Notes:

Nightshelter - Has now begun and we thank all those who helped last night and this morning. Rota for January 2020 has now been sent out. If you would like to help in any way please contact Fr Phelim. Please pray for our guests and helpers.

Year of Pilgrimage 2020 - Launches this afternoon in Llandaff Cathedral. It would be good if St German's was represented. It starts at 3.30pm. Please let Fr Phelim know if you are able to attend and be a representative for our community.

PCC etc - The next PCC meeting is on Monday 10 Feb after the 6pm mass in the church. There will be a brief meeting of the social committee after next Sunday's mass and the finance team next meets in the vicarage on Monday 20 Jan at 7pm.

Foodbank - Current urgent items: Tinned Fruit, Long life fruit juice, UHT milk, Rice Pudding, Sponge Puddings. Tinned potatoes. (Most food banks reopen from 6 Jan)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020 - this year's theme focuses on the hospitality of God 'Unusual Kindness'. This year we hope to have a nightshelter based joint service. The week of prayer is from 18-25 January 2020. The joint service will be in St German's on Wednesday 22 January at 6:30pm.

I Ffordd Tangnefedd - (Into the Way of Peace from Luke 1:79) - Starts on Sunday 26 January 2020. A new contemplative service to begin in St German's on Sunday evenings. Services will begin with coffee at 6pm followed by a time of reflective prayer and then, hopefully, involve a visit to a local pub for fellowship.

Recently Departed: David Pugh, Joan Irene Grady, Kenneth Vivian Parry, Fr Graham Francis *RIP*.

This week:

Sun 12: Baptism of the Lord

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;

St German's:

8am Nightshelter Mass

11:00 am Sung Mass

Mon 13:

6pm Mass (St G)

1pm Funeral (St S)

Tues 14:

10am Mass (St

S)

Wed 15:

10am Mass (St G)

Thur 16:

5:45pm Mass (St S)

Fri 17:

No Mass

St Antony, Abbot

Sat 18:

11am Requiem Mass

(St S)

Sun 19: Epiphany 2 (OT2)

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;

St German's:

8am Nightshelter Mass

11:00 am Sung Mass

Parish Priest:

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READINGS THIS WEEK

Isa 42:1-4, 6-7

Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3b+9b-10

Acts 10:34-38

Matt 3:13-17

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Isa 49:3, 5-6

Ps 40:2+4, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10

1 Cor 1:1-3

John 1:29-34

PSALM RESPONSE

The Lord will bless his people with peace.
(vv.3)

Today's hymns: 117 Come Holy Ghost our hearts inspire; 114 Come down O Love divine; 9 Alleluia, alleluia hearts to heaven; 332 I the Lord; Mass Setting: Rizza (955).

COLLECT

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant that we who are born again by water and the Spirit may rejoice to be called your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

This is the word of the Lord.

Isa 42

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

O give the Lord, you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court.

The Lord's voice resounding
on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity
of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord,
full of splendour.

The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the
flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. *R/*
Psalm 29

SECOND READING

A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about

doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.

This is the word of the Lord.

Acts 10

GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Matt 3