

SUNDAY 12TH JANUARY 2020

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The First Reading: 'Here is my servant.' These opening words from the first reading are reflected in the words of the Gospel, when Jesus emerges from the waters of baptism: 'This is my Son.' And just as in the reading from Isaiah, where God describes the servant as 'the One in whom my soul delights,' in the Gospel the Father declares that Jesus, is 'the Beloved,' on whom his favour rests.

The Second Reading: 'God has no favourites.' All those who are in Jesus, the One on whom God's favour rests, find full favour with God the Father.

The Gospel: John the Baptist is, quite frankly, mortified. Jesus, the sinless one, is coming to him, seeking the baptism of repentance, while it is he who needs to be cleansed by Jesus. But God's righteous plan is being fulfilled as Jesus enters the company of sinners, taking their side, taking on their sins.

BAPTISM: The second class is on Tuesday 14th in the Parish Office, No5 Berrymead Gardens, at 7pm. The welcoming ceremony on Sunday 19th, and the Baptisms on Sunday 26th at 1.15pm.

ENROLMENT MASSES: on Sunday 19th January
First Holy Communion enrolment at 10:30 am Mass.
Confirmation enrolment at 12 noon Mass.

Please pray for our young people as they prepare for the sacraments.

CONFIRMATION MEETING: There will be a confirmation parents and candidates meeting on Monday 13th January at 7:30 in the Church Hall. We ask that all those interested in taking part in confirmation this year attend the meeting.

WESTMINSTER VOCATIONS DAY RETREAT: Saturday 25th January from 10am - 4pm. This day retreat is focused on young adults, but all are welcome. Come along to listen to stories of those being called to the Priesthood and Religious Life, and share your experience of what the Lord is doing in your life.

Taking place at SPEC, Waxwell House, 125 Waxwell Lane, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 3EP.

Please inform the organisers of attendance (for catering purposes) by emailing: vocationspromoter@rcdow.org.uk.

CONFIRMATION 2020: Confirmation application forms are available from the back of the church, next to the newsletters. Please read over, complete and return the forms to the Parish Office before Monday 13th January.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES start Saturday 18th January, all children must attend the Sunday 10:30 mass on 19th January. Parents are expected to attend one of the two parents' meetings on Tuesday 14th or Thursday 16th January at 7:30pm in the Hall.

WALK IN CLINIC: A qualified therapist will help ease your pain every Friday 9 – 12pm at No.3 Berrymead Gardens. Free of charge.

CAFOD SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS: Use your free time to inspire young people to build a fairer world - CAFOD is looking for volunteers who have a passion for, and experience of, working with young people. We need people who have a commitment to CAFOD's aims and values and an interest in sharing our work in primary and secondary schools through delivering assemblies or workshops. CAFOD will provide training and support, and expenses will be paid.

Volunteering assignments will be in local Catholic schools and you can either work on your own or as part of a team. None of our work is possible without you, so join us and put your faith into action.

If you are interested please email Chris Driscoll at wschools@cafod.org.uk or call 07776 493162

JOURNEYING WITH THE BIBLE: Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz PhD and Sr Monica Cardona PhD are running a series of talks through the Year of the Word on the Bible. The next talk is titled, '**What do we mean by Bible?**' exploring the origins and makeup of the Bible, on 14th Jan 7-8.30pm at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN. Suggested donation £5. Please register at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS SUNDAY REFLECTIONS: Meditate: At his baptism Jesus is revealed as the Son, the Beloved on whom God's favour rests. At the same time the Spirit is visible as a dove and the Father speaks. All of us have moments of light where God is close to us. We need to carry them within us so that when we go through darkness, we do not give up. **Act:** You could spend some time in prayer meditating the second mystery of light, thinking of those moments of light in your life which precede and support your mission and life.

JOY - THE INFALLIBLE SIGN OF GOD'S PRESENCE: The London Jesuit Centre has invited internationally-known speaker David Wells to give a talk on the liberating virtue of joy, which is much needed in our world today. Do come along and let's learn about it, reflect upon it, and pray for it. The talk is on Friday 17th January from 7-9pm, at 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH. The event is free. To book please go to www.eventbrite.co.uk and search 'London Jesuit Centre'.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: Following the parish stewardship campaign, if you requested new offertory envelopes these will be available for collection from the Sacristy from the weekend of 21 December. Please ask one of the priests if you would like to collect your new box of envelopes. Due to GDPR regulations it's not possible to leave the boxes in the side chapel for collection. Thank you and Happy Christmas from the Gift Aid Team.

TEA AND COFFEE: Tea and coffee will be served in the hall after the 9am and 10.30am Masses.