

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

12th January 2014

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Noticeboard

Sunday Masses

Vigil Mass, Saturday, 6 p.m.
Sunday, 10.30 a.m.

Weekday Masses

Monday, 10.15 a.m.
There will be no Mass on Tuesday and Wednesday
Thursday to Saturday, Mass at 10.15 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday
9.45 to 10 a.m. 4 to 4.30 p.m.
5.30 to 5.45 p.m.

Friday is the Memorial of St. Anthony of Egypt, the Father of Monasticism.

The **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** marks our transition from the Christmas Season to Ordinary Time. On Monday we are in the First Week of Year II. This year, Ash Wednesday is on the 5th March. After Lent and Eastertide we will re-join Ordinary Time in the second week of June and continue through to Advent.



We pray for the Faithful Departed. We remember especially **David McCook** and **Stephen Lauder**, both of whom died in that terrible accident near Spean Bridge last Saturday. May they rest in peace, and may the Lord comfort all the loved ones left behind. We pray also for those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Gerry Best, Annie McKinney, Mary MacDonald, Angus MacDonald, Daniel Doherty, Joan MacLean, Captain Donald MacIntyre, Josephine MacLaren, Gerald Mulrooney, Josephine Watters, Arthur Handy, John MacDonald, Peter MacLellan, Ronnie Harrison, Patrick Argue, James and Elizabeth MacDougall, and Peggie Smith**. May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins on Saturday. This year, St. Mary's has been asked to host the **Service of Unity**. It will take place next Sunday at 6.30 p.m. Do come along!

We will have our monthly **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** on Friday, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Our thanks to those who took down our **Christmas decorations and symbols**. All that remains are the five candles on the altar, and these will be removed after Mass this Sunday.

On the subject of candles, this year **Candlemas** falls on a Sunday. Candles have been ordered and will be blessed at both our Masses on the 2nd February. They bear an image of Our Lady and the Child and the name of our parish. These are to be taken home and perhaps lit on special occasions, a birthday or an anniversary, for example, or if you have a very special prayer intention

Thank you for your generous support of the Church's work in **Justice and Peace**. Last Sunday's collection came to a very respectable £371.41.

The back porch of the church needs some attention. It has recently been cleaned, but the birds nesting in the loft above will have to seek refuge elsewhere. Their droppings soon accumulate! The openings at the back will have to be filled in or covered with mesh. The porch is also used by one or two of the homeless, but they, too, leave evidence of their presence. While Fr. MacKinnon has great sympathy for them, we simply cannot let this continue. The mess is disrespectful to those entering the church on wheelchairs. Genuine tramps of the old school, who are just passing through and need a place overnight, can use the garage if need be. Fr. MacKinnon has contacted a company in Inverness that makes hinged gates, hoping to have these installed in the back porch. This company has still to get back to him.

Fr. MacKinnon will be taking a break from Monday to Wednesday.

Baptism: A Spiritual Event By Father Romano Guardini

Jesus arrives at the Jordan, the profound experience of childhood and the long process of maturity behind him. He is fully aware of the stupendousness of the task before him and of the powers that rise to meet from the depths of his being. Yet his first gesture, first words are an expression of deep humility. No claims to special privileges; no: that may be the law for others, but not for me! He goes up to John and asks to be baptized. To demand baptism implies readiness to accept the word of the baptizer, to admit oneself a sinner, to do penance, and accept willingly all that God sends, however difficult. No wonder John is startled and tries to dissuade him! But Jesus quietly takes his place in line. He refuses to be an exception; voluntarily, he places himself within the law that is valid for all.

This humble descent to the human level was immediately answered by an outpouring from above. Since the fall of man (and the resultant corruption of nature — Romans 8:20-22) a barrier had separated us from the beatific presence of the omnipresent God in his heaven. For a moment this barrier was removed. While Jesus stood there praying, writes Luke, stressing that it was a spiritual event, an infinite encounter took place: the illimitable abundance of the divine Father streamed into the Son's heart. Event "in the spirit" obviously; yet also an act as real, or more real, than any tangible reality.

The Holy Spirit lifts man beyond himself in order that he may experience God the Holy One and his love. We have already spoken of the mystery of Jesus' existence: he is the actual Son of God, bearer of the living godhead which streams through him, illuminating every cell of his being; yet he is also true man, like us in all things, sin excepted. In other words, he grows, he increases with the years in wisdom and grace, and not only in the eyes of the world, but also in the eyes of God... At this point the mystery deepens: Jesus is the Son of the Father. At all times "I am in the Father and the Father is in me." (John 14: 11-12). Yet it is also said that he "comes" from the Father and will return to the Father, and what is still more baffling, upon the cross he cries out in an agony of forsakenness (Matthew 27:46).

Jesus' every act is governed by the Father; hence the Spirit (through which the Lord was conceived and made man) is always with him, for it is the bond of love uniting Father and Son. Yet we read that the Holy Spirit "comes" over Jesus, just as one day, sent forth from the Father, it will come to all whom Jesus calls his own. The intellect cannot cope with such paradoxes, though it somehow senses the reality beyond all reality, the truth beyond all truth. Precisely here lies the danger. The mind must never allow itself to be misled into seeming 'comprehension,' into facile sensations or phrases with nothing solid behind them. The whole problem is a mystery, the sacred mystery of the relationship of the triune God to his incarnate Son. We can never penetrate it, and the knowledge of this incapacity must dominate our every thought and statement concerning Jesus' life.



A photo of Romano Guardini and a German stamp issued in commemoration of his life.

Those who do not know how to weep with their whole heart don't know how to laugh either.
(Golda Meir)

Life is eternal, and love is immortal, and death is only a horizon; and a horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight. *(Rossiter Worthington Raymond)*

Each day of our lives we make deposits in the memory banks of our children. *(Charles R. Swindol)*

Until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand. *(Irish Proverb)*

The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of confusion or despair, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing... not healing... not curing... that is a friend indeed. *(Henri Nouwen)*

Life is the childhood of our immortality.
(Johann Wolfgang von Goethe)

Humility is attentive patience. *(Simone Weil)*

Humility is really important because it keeps you fresh and new. *(Steven Tyler)*

I watch 'Batman & Robin' from time to time. It's the worst movie I ever made, so it's a good lesson in humility. *(George Clooney)*

If we believe in an all-powerful God, then we must then believe that God gave us this Earth, and we must in turn believe that God gave us its laws of gravity, of chemistry, of physics. We must also believe that God gave us our human powers of intellect and reason.
(Sheldon Whitehouse)

Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds? Lay first the foundation of humility. *(Saint Augustine)*

You may call God love, you may call God goodness. But the best name for God is compassion.
(Meister Eckhart)

A test of a people is how it behaves toward the old. It is easy to love children. Even tyrants and dictators make a point of being fond of children. But the affection and care for the old, the incurable, the helpless are the true gold mines of a culture.
(Abraham Joshua Heschel)

We may speak about a place where there are no tears, no death, no fear, no night; but those are just the benefits of heaven. The beauty of heaven is seeing God. *(Max Lucado)*

Man is a messenger who forgot the message.
(Abraham Joshua Heschel)