

LITURGY FOR THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

When Jesus comes to be baptised, he leaves the hidden years behind, the years of safety and of peace, to bear the sins of all mankind.

The Spirit of the Lord comes down, anoints the Christ to suffering, to preach the word, to free the bound, and to the mourner, comfort bring.

He will not quench the dying flame, and what is bruised he will not break, but heal the wound injustice dealt, and out of death his triumph make.

Our everlasting Father, praise, with Christ, his well-beloved Son, who with the Spirit reigns serene, untroubled Trinity in One.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-4.6-7

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, top free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from dungeon.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: *The Lord will bless his people with peace.*

O give the Lord you children 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.

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-38

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.'

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:3-17

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said, 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replies, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should in this way, do all the righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him. As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the beloved; my favour rests on him.'

PREPARATION OF GIFTS HYMN

Christ is my light, lights up my days, fills me with joy, shows me the way. Fills me with hope, fills me with peace, fills me with love that is gentle and free.

Christ is my guide, he leads me on, fills me with strength when things go wrong. Fills me with hope, fills me with peace, fills me with love that is gentle and free.

Christ is my sight, helps me to see, fills me with truth, makes me believe. Fills me with hope, fills me with peace, fills me with love that is gentle and free.

HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, O blessed is he, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

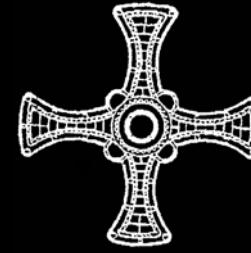
When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory, until you come in glory.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Abba, Father

96

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Parish of Our Lady and St Cuthbert

The Catholic faith community serving North Carrick



Parish Priest: **Father Stephen G McGrattan**

Our Lady and St Cuthbert's Presbytery, 28 Dailly Road, Maybole, KA19 7AU

Telephone: 01655 882145

Fax: 01655 882173

Email: info@olasc.org.uk

Web: www.olasc.org.uk

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil 5.30 pm. Sunday 9.30 am

Weekday Masses

Mon 7.00 pm; Thu 9.00 am

Celebration of the Word and Eucharist

Tue, Wed, Fri 9.00 am

Mass intentions this week:

Sat: Robert Malone Snr (Ann)

Sun: Eileen Hand (RIP)

Mon: Stanley Bone (Ann)

Thu: Mary Dodd (Ann)

Sacrament of Confession

After Vigil Mass and when requested

Sacrament of Baptism

Forms available at the back of the church

Sacrament of Marriage

At least six months notice is required

PARISH PRAYER

Lord our God,
we the people of Our Lady and Saint Cuthbert's Parish
offer ourselves to you to be your people in this place,
to be your Church in this community,
to be agents of peace and forgiveness and love.
Help us to face what the future holds,
and to make new beginnings in your name.
Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord, make me a better person: more considerate toward others,
more honest with myself, more faithful to you.

Help me to find my true vocation in life and grant that through it
I may find happiness myself and bring happiness to others.

Grant, Lord, that those whom you call to enter priesthood
or religious life may have the generosity to answer your call,
so that those who need your help may always find it.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY 13TH JANUARY 2008

All of the Trinity appear in today's dramatic gospel passage – a significant presence to announce the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus, the first definitive step in his messianic mission, which will lead him to the cross. We see Jesus in humility accepting baptism from John, the Holy Spirit as a dove and the eternal voice of the Father testifying to who Jesus really is. It is a historic occasion and a profound moment of divine revelation.

This meeting of John and Jesus recalls their very first encounter when John jumped for joy within his mother's womb as she met her cousin Mary, who had just conceived the infant Jesus. The Holy Spirit now enables the adult John to recognise Jesus as Lord, the one who should baptize him, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. John's prophecy looks towards Calvary, towards the redemption of the whole world. As we reflect on the passage, we begin to grasp the immense truths which it contains for us all. We thank God that we are baptised into the death and resurrection of Jesus

Items for inclusion in this newsletter should be given in writing to David Kiltie (882644 or david.kiltie@virgin.net)

Collections: Last Sunday £474.16; Justice and Peace: £179.00. Thank you.

SOME MORE PHOTOS FROM THE SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS LUNCH, 30 DECEMBER



Some more going-on at the annual Christmas dinner for senior citizens are pictured here. Thanks again to all who made the day possible. Special thanks to the Fire Service for their donation, which together with that of the Police, helps cover the costs of this lunch.



THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD — WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord which we will celebrate this Sunday is one of the greatest feast days in the Church's calendar but also one of the least understood. Although Baptism speaks to us of washing or cleansing, in the instance of Our Lord, there was no need for Him to be cleansed of sin. We look at this feast day, instead, as the celebration of the consecration of His human nature for the mission of salvation.

The Lord's Baptism follows the Epiphany; in the former, He was manifest as a "light to the nations," but light does not save souls in and of itself. In the latter, He becomes the effective channel through which all nations may access the Throne of Grace. We can say that this was the "ordination" of Jesus as High Priest of our faith.

The High Priest's humanity was not anointed with the sacred chrism oil made by human hands but rather by the "oil of gladness," i.e., the Holy Spirit, the eternal Sanctifier. This scene is a completely Trinitarian event in which the Father pronounces His deepest *delight* in the Son while the Holy Spirit descends as a dove to inaugurate the Reign of Peace over all men at that precise moment.

Jesus was thus consecrated for His mission of salvation. Immediately after that, the High Priest went out into the desert to engage in *mortal combat* with the devil and began to systematically undo his reign of terror over the whole human



race. Undoubtedly, the consecration of Christ's humanity made Him heal and preach and cast out demons as signs that the Kingdom of God was breaking into the world.

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord this Sunday, let us reflect on our own consecrations. The blessing of the Holy Spirit comes to each one of us for the first time at our own baptism when we are anointed with the oil of chrism. In this ceremony, we are not only cleansed from Original Sin but also initiated into Christ's saving mission and given the spiritual gifts of faith, hope and charity to carry it out effectively.

Then, sometime after we reach the age of reason, we receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and are consecrated again with the same oil of chrism. The graces that were given to us as little children in Baptism are now able to be *personally assimilated, chosen and strengthened* in the young person who accepts a new role in this mission.

How much spiritual wisdom is contained in the Baptism of the Lord! Fundamentally, the Lord Jesus' consecration with the oil of gladness *makes all other consecrations possible*. On this special feast day, let us rejoice that we are "beloved sons and daughters" of the Father and that we are consecrated for the most important mission of all — salvation. All He requires of us is that we "remain in him as that anointing has taught us" (1 Jn 2:27).

ABOUT THREE MILLION PEOPLE VISITED POPE BENEDICT XVI IN 2007



During 2007, almost 3 million faithful and pilgrims participated at public gatherings with Benedict XVI at the Vatican and at the papal summer residence at Castel Gandolfo.

The figures, released by the prefecture of the Papal Household, show that 2,830,100 people were present at the Wednesday general audiences, special audiences, liturgical celebrations and at the Sunday recitation of the Angelus.

There were 729,000 faithful who were present in St. Peter's Square or in the Paul the VI Hall at the 44 Wednesday general audiences in the last 12 months. In 2006, the figure was 1,031,500. There was one less Wednesday audience in 2007 than in 2006.

The figures for the traditional Wednesday audiences refer to the number of tickets distributed without taking into account the people who entered without tickets.

For the recitation of the Sunday Angelus, in the course of 2007, there were 1,450,000 persons who went to St. Peter's Square -- 155,000 more than last year. There were 442,000 faithful who participated in the liturgical celebrations.

Last April, a record-breaking 130,000 attended the Wednesday audiences, and 250,000 attended liturgical celebrations.

JUNIOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Will Junior Parish Council members please meet in the parish house today, Sunday 13th, at 5.00 pm.

MUSIC MINISTRY DAY: A music ministry day is being held on Saturday 19th January 2008 at St Andrew's Church hall, Dumfries, from 10 am (for a 10.30 am start) to 3.30 pm. The main part of the day will be spent looking at music for Lent and Easter. See poster for more details. Booking forms are available from Nicola Lawrence.

THANK YOU FOR LEAVING THE BABY GIFTS UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE? Mrs Jean Close from Girvan will come next Sunday, 20th January, to Mass to collect the gifts on behalf of the Society of the Innocents and hand them on to people who can make good use of them.

CATHOLIC DIARIES: 2008 diaries, personalised to Our Lady & St Cuthbert's, are now available at the back of the church for £1. They have Mass times for this parish and contact telephone numbers for all the local parishes.

DRUMS: Because of a lack of space, the drums that were at the back of the church are available to a good home. They

need two cymbals and sticks to complete the set. Otherwise they are in fine working order. A small donation to parish funds would be requested.

DO YOU HAVE AN OLD MOBILE PHONE? Old mobile phones can be recycled to raise money for charities. Please give them to Bennett or Denis Ward.

RCIA GROUP MEETING: The next meeting will be on Monday 14th January after 7.00 pm Mass in the parish house.

CHURCH STUDENTS' FUND SPECIAL COLLECTION: Next Sunday, the annual Special Collection for students training for priesthood will take place. Galloway diocese has one student, Paul Chapman of Irvine, in his third year at Scotus College preparing for priesthood. Deacon Philip Kitchen is finishing his preparation for priesthood and, God willing, will be ordained a priest in July this year. Please pray for our students and for more people to answer the call to be priests of God. **When giving in this special collection please use the giftaid envelopes which will be provided. This allows the diocese to claim an additional 28 p for every pound given.**

MINISTERS FOR SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS OF THE EUCHARIST THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

Please arrange a substitute if you are unable to minister at a Sunday Mass. All ministers are asked to gather in the sacristy five minutes before Mass for a moment of prayer together.

| | READER | BIDDING PRAYERS | EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS | PASSKEEPERS | ALTAR SERVERS | MUSIC |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Sat 12th Jan <i>Baptism of Lord</i> | Eileen Hamilton | Ellen Hawkes | Jim Hawkes John Malone | David Malone Alex Kelly | Niall Murphy, Kieran Porte, Ross Malone, Rachel Campbell | Nicola Lawrence Choir |
| Sun 13th Jan <i>Baptism of Lord</i> | Tom Dowman | Eileen Hamilton | Betty McCaffery Dennis McCaffery | Jim Campbell Cindy McEwan | Amy Malone, Connor Menzies, Ali Roy, Jonathan Lewis | Maria Newlands Choir |
| Sat 19th Jan <i>2nd Sun in OT Youth Mass</i> | Amy Strang | Gillian Thomson | Danielle Connolly Alice Mackie | Paige Campbell Rhian Collins | Kyle & Ciera Campbell, Owen McDowall, Brit-tany Campbell | Youth Choir |
| Sun 20th Jan <i>2nd Sun in OT</i> | Ellen Hawkes | Robert Malone | Irene Hewitt Margaret Kiltie | Jim McDermott Kate Sprott | Jonathan Lewis, Maeve Murphy, Patrick & Roisin McCallum | Maria Newlands Choir |

New rotas for January and February are available at the back of the church. Please remember to take one if you are involved in parish ministry. Thank you for your support.