

LITURGY FOR THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

When John baptised by Jordan's river
in faith and hope the people came,
that John and Jordan might deliver
their troubled souls from sin and shame.

They came to seek a new beginning,
the human spirit's ageless quest,
repentance, and an end of sinning,
renouncing every wrong confessed.

There as the Lord, baptised and praying,
rose from the stream, the sinless one,
a voice was heard from heaven saying,
'This is my own beloved Son.'

There as the Father's word was spoken,
not in the power of wind and flame,
but of his love and peace the token, seen as a dove, the Spirit came.

O Son of Man, our nature sharing, in whose obedience all are blest,
Saviour, our sins and sorrows bearing,
hear us and grant us this request:

Daily to grow, by grace defended, filled with the Spirit from above;
in Christ baptised, beloved, befriended,
children of God in peace and love.

GLORIA

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-11

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you. Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts. Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*We shall draw water joyfully, singing joyfully, singing joyfully;
We shall draw water joyfully from the well springs of salvation.*

Truly God is our salvation; we trust, we shall not fear.
For the Lord is our strength, the Lord is our song;
he became our Saviour.

Give thanks, O give thanks to the Lord; give praise to his holy name!
Make his mighty deeds known to all of the nations;
proclaim his greatness.

Sing a psalm, sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds.

Make known his works to all of the earth;
people of Zion, sing for joy, for great in your midst,
great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING

1 John 5:1-9

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is - keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world - our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness - since the Spirit is the truth - so that there are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and all three of them agree. We accept the testimony of human witnesses, but God's testimony is much greater, and this is God's testimony, given as evidence for his Son.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:7-11

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.' It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

PREPARATION OF GIFTS HYMN

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. (2)
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us. (2)
Melt us, mould us, fill us, use us.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love.
Humble, caring, selfless, sharing,
Spirit of the living God, fill our hearts with love.

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 who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

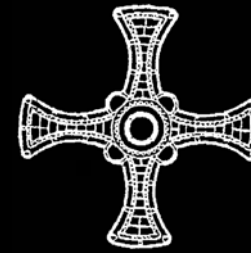
LAMB OF GOD

RECESSIONAL HYMN

I, the Lord of sea and sky

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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

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Email: info@olasc.org.uk

Web: www.olasc.org.uk

Church hall and bookings: Tom McCahill (882884)

Our Lady & St Cuthbert's, Maybole, a parish of the R C Diocese of Galloway. Charity number SC010576.

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil 5.30 pm. Sunday 9.30 am

Weekday Mass

Mon 9 am

Celebration of Word and Communion

Tue-Fri 9 am

Sacrament of Confession

After Vigil Mass and when requested

Mass intentions this week:

Sat: Alex McCahill (RIP)

Sun: William & Mary Dodd (Ann)

Mon: Robert Malone Snr (Ann)

Next Sat: Helen Macmillan (RIP)

Next Sun: Mary Malone (Ann)

Feastdays this week:

Tuesday: St Mungo

Saturday: St Anthony

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.

THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY 11th JANUARY 2009

The baptism of Jesus sets the scene for his public ministry. John the Baptist denied any claim to being the Messiah and proclaimed that he would be followed by a much more powerful person, who would baptize with the Holy Spirit, not just water. Today we hear both Father and Holy Spirit witness to the identity of Jesus as the Son of God. It is apt that this powerful revelation of Jesus' identity is made at his baptism.

Last week we celebrated the Epiphany of the Lord and acknowledged our duty to present him to our world. Today's gospel presents our mission in terms of adding our witness to Jesus as Son of God. Our baptism permeates us with the presence and guidance of the indwelling God. As we endeavour to follow Christ wholeheartedly, we are to become as fit and able as John to proclaim Christ. The question is "Are we willing and ready to do so in a largely hostile world?". We have a part to play in the revelation of Christ in the age in which we live.

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

Last week's collection: **£457.37.**
Thank you.

THE BABY GIFTS LEFT UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE



At this time of year we collect baby gifts to give to mothers in need, after bringing the best gift—the gift of human life—into this world. Jean Close from the ‘Society of the Innocents’ will come to Mass on Sunday 25th January and collect the gifts and pass them on to those in need. Gifts can still be left in the sacristy. Thank you for your kindness.

**SAINT CUTHBERT'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
ENROLMENT OF PRIMARY 1 PUPILS TO START IN AUGUST 2009**

Enrolment for new primary 1 pupils to begin school in August 2009 will take place in St Cuthbert's Primary School, Kirkland Street, Maybole on
Monday 12th January
Tuesday 13th January
Friday 16th January
each day from 10 am until 2 pm.

Please bring your child's birth certificate, Baptism certificate (if available) and proof of your home address on the day of enrolment.

If you would like further information about the school, or would like to make an appointment to enrol your child, please contact the school on 882349 and the staff will be only too pleased to help.

Sounds of Praise
WEST SOUND
LWS UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF SCOTLAND
Come and join our 100 strong choir with organ and Belmont Academy Praise Group singing your favourite traditional and modern hymns and featuring Alastair MacDonald
Presented by the "Sunday at Seven team" of West Sound
Conductor, Peter Black.
Tickets £5.00
Available from West Sound Reception, 54 Holmston Road, Ayr
Tel: 01292 283662
MACKAY MUSIC, 3 Cathcart Street, Ayr KA7 1BJ
Tel: 01292 289562
Ayr Town Hall
Saturday 21st February 2009 7.00pm
Cheques payable to RPAG

This is my beloved Son

Beginnings are important. The start of Jesus' public ministry, which we joyfully celebrate today, was well planned by God the Father. Mary had been masterfully prepared, most notably in the Immaculate Conception, to be a worthy vessel through which God's only-begotten Son would embrace our human condition. John the Baptist's entrance into the world was prophesied and carefully brought about so that he could fittingly herald the coming of the Messiah.

Jesus Himself spent 30 years in the home at Nazareth preparing for the three years of public ministry that would change the world forever. The time was now for Our Lord to reveal His true identity and prepare His followers to embrace Him and His mission. So, we come to the river Jordan for an historic baptism.

In an instant, the identity and mission of Our Lord are revealed to the world. The Jewish people anxiously await the coming of the Messiah, the anointed one. The Messiah, according to the prophets, would be known because he would be anointed by the Spirit of God. When the Spirit is seen coming down upon Jesus at His baptism, it is a clear sign that God has finally sent the Messiah. But, God is always more generous than we can imagine, so He has a surprise to offer.

The Messiah is no ordinary human raised up by the hand of the Father to fulfill this role; rather, the Messiah is also God's own beloved Son. This is a reality, a mystery that goes way beyond the wildest hopes of the people of God. Jesus is more precious than any of the prophets had foretold. God held this card close to His chest, but today He reveals to the world the treasure that He bestows upon us.

There is another very important revelation made this day. God wants the world to know from the start of Jesus' public life that His saving work is a united effort on the part of the Holy Trinity. Because God is one, the three Persons always work in unison. The Father sends the Son to do His work in the power of the Holy Spirit. Consequently, the baptism of Jesus is an occasion where the one God clearly reveals Himself as a Trinity of Persons: the Spirit descends in the form of a dove and the voice of the Father proclaims to Jesus, "You are my beloved Son." In addition to revealing the mission and identity of Jesus Christ, the Father crystallizes the mystery that He had slowly been revealing throughout the Old Testament: The one God consists of three divine Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The event at the river Jordan also reveals a new and deeper dimension to the mystery of the Incarnation. At His birth in Bethlehem, Jesus proclaims the humility and love of God who stoops down to untie our sandal strap. God crashes through the barrier of time and space and, in His infinite wisdom, takes on our humanity. He becomes a man like us in all things but sin to save us from sin and restore us to the fullness of life. This truth is almost too good to be true; it is impossible to comprehend without the gift of faith.

But at His baptism, Jesus reveals a deeper dimension to His mission. He makes it clear that there is nothing superficial about His embrace of our human condition. In fact, He dives deeply into it. Although sinless Himself, Jesus takes on the pain and brokenness that result from our sin. His baptism represents His desire to fully embrace our sinful human condition in order to redeem it. St Paul describes this reality when he says, "For our sake he (the Father) made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor 5:21).

While this event at the river Jordan was rich in revealed truths, it was also a promise and a prophecy. All that happens on this day points to the cross and to Easter morn. It is on the cross that the self-emptying of Christ would reach a crescendo, and it is on the "third day" that Jesus' mission as Messiah and Saviour would be fulfilled. The shadow of the cross was present throughout Jesus' life on this earth.

While John carries out the monumental task of heralding the coming of God's chosen One, God the Father does the heavy lifting at Jesus' baptism. The Father reveals that Jesus is not only the Messiah but also His own beloved Son. The Father swiftly yet deftly manifests the mystery of the Holy Trinity. The Father makes clear from the start that His Son came to fully embrace our human condition in order to set us free from sin and death.

Heavenly Father, stir up the gift of your Holy Spirit given to us at our baptism so that we may believe with deep faith that Jesus is Lord and Saviour.

CATHOLIC DIARIES for 2009 are still available free of charge from the back of the church.

PARISH COUNCIL: There will be a parish council meeting on Sunday, 11th January, at 6 pm, in the parish house.

HOLIDAY: Fr Stephen will be on holiday from Monday 12th to Tuesday 20th January. Should you need a priest in an emergency please contact Fr McGee in Girvan on 01465 713331.

WEEKDAY SERVICES: Weekday services this week will take place at 9 am from Monday to Friday. Next Monday, 19th, the Monday service will also be in the morning.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: 6th-13th July 2009 led by Bishop John Cunningham. Direct flight from Prestwick. Prices (based on 2 people sharing) are £750 for the Hotel Paradis, £683 for the Hotel St Louis; and for the Hospital £661. Price includes return flight, Lourdes airport transfers, courier service and full board. Insurance £31 extra. Sick pilgrims should make an initial application to Miss Janie Agnew (07531 017206). Leaflets and booking forms may be obtained from your parish priest, or direct from Mancunia Travel (0161 790 6838 www.mancunia.com).

THINKING ABOUT ADOPTION? St Margaret's Children and Family Care Society would like to express our thanks to your parish community for your continued support over the years, and especially during the past year which has been a testing year for our agency. We continue to offer a Catholic response to the need for adoption in keeping with Catholic moral and social teaching. We are currently recruiting adoptive parents for children over two, sibling groups, and children with special needs. If you would like to know more please contact us by telephone on 0141 332 8371, or via www.stmargaretsadoption.org.uk

MOTHERS PRAYERS will recommence meetings on Tuesday 20th January at 2.00 pm at 7 Kildoon Drive. Please call Ellen Hawkes on 01655 882747 if you need further information.

CHILDREN OF FAITH will not take place next Sunday — sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. The next meeting will take place on February 15th.



Pope Benedict XVI is praying for families this month, and particularly that they become founts for the transmission of the faith.

The Apostleship of Prayer announced the general intention chosen by the Pope: "That the family may become more and more a place of training in charity, personal growth and transmission of the faith."

The Holy Father also chooses an apostolic intention for each month. In January, he will pray "that the various Christian confessions, aware of the need for a new evangelisation in this period of profound transformations, may be committed to announcing the Good News and moving toward the full unity of all Christians in order to offer a more credible testimony of the Gospel."

"Incline your ear and come to Me." If you think you may be called to serve as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, please speak to your parish priest or to the Diocesan Vocations Director, Father Stephen Latham, stephen.p.latham@btinternet.com or visit the Priests for Scotland National Vocations website at www.priestsforscotland.org.uk

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

	READER	PRAYER BEFORE MASS & BIDDING PRAYERS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	PASSKEEPERS	ALTAR SERVERS	MUSIC	SUPERVISOR FOR YOUNG LIT	BELL RINGER	COUNTERS
Sat 10 Jan Baptism of the Lord	Matthew Reilly	Jim McDermott	Maureen Hay Margaret Reilly	David Malone Snr. Jim Hawkes	Owen, Connor, Phoebe, Ronan, Emily	Nicola Lawrence		Robin Donald	Jim McDermott Irene Hewitt Wilma Valdrighi
Sun 11 Jan Baptism of the Lord	Roddy Wright	Elizabeth Meek	Cindy McEwan Betty McCaffery	Chic McDermott Dennis McCaffery	Liam, Amy, Deáglan Dara, Roisin	Maria Newlands	Gerry Murphy	Laura Kiltie	
Sat 17 Jan Baptism of the Lord—Youth Mass	Caoimhe Hunter Blair	Phoebe McDowall	Danielle Connolly Niamh Hunter Blair	Paige Campbell Patrick Mccallum	Kyle, Ross, Kieran, Patrick, Ciera	Youth		David Malone Jnr.	Doreen Donald Robin Donald
Sun 18 Jan Baptism of the Lord	Jim McDermott	Matthew Reilly	David Strang Dennis McCaffery	Tony Kerrigan Jim Campbell	Rachel, Rebecca, Justin, David, Suilven	Maria Newlands	Roddy Wright	Laura Kiltie	