



St Peter's Church, Biggleswade
Weekly Newsletter

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Sat 11th January / Sun 12th January 2025
The Baptism of The Lord.

Deacon Rev. John Lang
Safeguarding Officer: Catherine Spencer
Weekday Year 1, Sunday Year C

WORSHIP TIMES

Sat 11th Jan/ Sun 12th Jan
2025

The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday 11th January
Confession 5.45pm to 6.15pm
Mass at 6.30pm
38th Wedding Anniversary of
Gill and Paul Kemp

Sunday 12th January
The Baptism of the Lord
Mass at 11am
Bernard Gurney RIP

Monday 13th January
*St Hilary of Poitiers – Bishop and
Doctor of the Church*
Service of Word and Communion
at 9.30am

Tuesday 14th January
Feria
No Mass

Wednesday 15th January
Feria
Mass at 9.30am

Thursday 16th January
Feria
No Mass

Friday 17th January
St Anthony of Egypt - Abbot
Service of Word and Communion
at 9.30am
Adoration 7pm

Saturday 18th January
Confession 5.45pm to 6.15pm
Mass at 6.30pm
Gerry Hardy RIP

Sunday 19th January
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mass at 11am
Denis Featherstone RIP



Weekday Masses

There will be Mass at 9.30am on Wednesday this week.
Many thanks to Father Chris and Father Emmanuel for their Masses.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU)

.....takes place this year from 18th to 25th January. It is an international ecumenical celebration. As we celebrate 1700 years since the council of Nicaea, the worship service has at its heart – the Nicene Creed. Reflecting this, the scripture readings for this year focus on belief. We are invited to reflect on the story of Martha's confession of faith in Jesus as narrated in John 11: 17-27. Each is called to sit with Jesus' provocative question to Martha: "Do you believe this?"

Please join with other churches in the villages where you live for a week of prayer for Christian Unity services.

There will be a Word Service for Christian Unity at St Francis, Shefford on Wednesday 22nd January at 7.30pm.

Sunday of the Word of God

This year, the Sunday of the Word of God falls on **26th January**. It is devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God.

Bishop David will lead a liturgical celebration in our Cathedral at 3pm on this day. All those who proclaim and/or teach the scriptures are invited to pray together and be commissioned for their ministry and are welcome to attend either in person or virtually – via live-streaming.

Priest Calendars

We have 5 calendars for sale from the foyer at £5 each – please see the Greeters or Lilly Worthy. All funds raised go to support vocation promotion across our diocese and Fr Pius, our Vocations Director, is very grateful for your effort.

We Believe Festival

'We Believe' is a festival set to take place at St Mary's College, Oscott, from 25th to 28th July. Families and individuals, clergy and laity are welcome to attend. More information can be found here: <https://www.webelievefestival.com>

From the Society of St Gregory

Please see the poster in the foyer for an online course of six modules running from January to November.

Why do we sing at Mass? Why we should all sing at Mass!

Why do we sing so much at Mass? Hymns, prayers, psalms, responses almost everything apart from the homily can be sung in the Mass. What's the deal with this?

The Second Vatican council's constitution on the Sacred Liturgy says this:

"The purpose of sacred music ... is the glory of God and the sanctification of the faithful".

We sing to give God glory and we sing so that through our participation in the work of God in the liturgy we might become holy.

And the song we sing is not something we make up on our own. When we come to Mass, we come to something that we've received as part of a tradition of thousands of years of worshipping God. For example, we still sing the Psalms which were composed almost 3000 years ago! We also enter into the song of the angels and saints in heaven. Some of the words we sing are taken directly from the lips of angels:

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will (Gloria, and Luke 2:14)

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory!" (Sanctus, Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:8)

To take things back even further, we enter into the song of love and praise of the Trinity, which has taken place and will take place for all eternity: "Christ Jesus, high priest of the new and eternal covenant, taking human nature, introduced into this earthly exile that hymn which is sung throughout all ages in the halls of heaven." Jesus has taken on our humanity and brought us to share in the life of God. And at Mass, Jesus "joins the entire community of mankind to Himself, associating it with His own singing of this canticle of divine praise" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy). All of this brings up an important distinction: We don't sing at Mass, we sing the Mass. That is, we don't just happen to add songs in at Mass as if they were something extra, we sing the words given to us by the Church and so enter into what God is already doing. Our singing is a participation in the very life of God, singing a song of love with Jesus, in the Holy Spirit, to the Father. For this reason, the Church emphasises that our singing is a "necessary or integral part of the solemn liturgy."

As St Augustine says: "Only the lover sings". We sing because we love, because God loves us and because we seek to love Him in return.

Mass Rota			
Date	Ministers of the Word	Ministers of the Eucharist	Greeters
11 Jan	A Eglan / L Graves	C Spencer / N Spencer	The D'Almeida Family
12 Jan	K Mansford / C Neville	M Leer / M Evans	P Smith / F Blake
18 Jan	C Spencer/N Spencer	L Bastien / TBC	J Smith / A D'Souza
19 Jan	S Buchan / M Gurney	P Affoh / C Tracey	K Mansford / A Hankin
25 Jan	J Hardy / P Day	C Spencer / N Spencer	R Williams / R Cowley
26 Jan	C Tracey / M Evans	B Gurney / M Leer	G Payne / M Payne
1 Feb	E da Costa / M Gleeson	L Bastien / TBC	P Day / F Day
2 Feb	T McCarthy /G McCarthy	M Evans / P Affoh	M Choonara / R Cowley

The Rosary

The Rosary will be said at each weekday Mass starting just after 9am

Collection w/e 5th Jan: £384.64.

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Registered Charity number 234091