

**PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY, PULBOROUGH**



# **THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

**(The First Sunday of Epiphany)**

**10<sup>th</sup> January, 2021**

**THE PARISH EUCHARIST**

**Links to a video of this service can be found on the church website and Facebook page.**

# Welcome to our Parish Eucharist

**Celebrant: Fr. Paul**

**Preacher: Fr. Jack Mulder**

**Organist: Tony Hancock**

## *Prayer of Preparation before the Holy Eucharist*

***Almighty God,***

***to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,***

***and from whom no secrets are hidden:***

***cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your***

***Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you,***

***and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord.***

*Opening Music*

**Opening Hymn: NEH 52 John Samuel Bewley Monsell  
(1811-1875)**

- 1 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!**
- 2 Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**
- 3 Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:  
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

4      **These, though we bring them in trembling  
and fearfulness,  
he will accept for the name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

5      **O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!**

### **The Gathering**

✠ In the name of the Father, and  
of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **The Greeting**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ be with you.  
**and also with you.**

*Fr. Paul introduces the day's celebration*

### **The Act of Penitence and Dedication**

God of truth,  
you are faithful to the covenant you have made with us;  
look in mercy on your people.  
From all our sins, O Lord: **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

We have broken the pledges of our baptism,  
and failed to be your disciples.  
From all our sins, O Lord: **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

Though we are saved by Christ  
and dead to sin through the deep waters of death,  
we have not witnessed to his grace by our manner of life.  
From all our sins, O Lord: **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

We have shown indifference to those in need  
and have been afraid to stand up for justice and truth.  
From all our sins, O Lord: **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

We have been slow to forgive, and have failed to remember  
your repeated forgiveness of our sins.  
From all our sins, O Lord: **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

Today we rejoice and give thanks  
because your Son humbled himself to be baptized in the Jordan.  
Through the waters you have given us the mystery of baptism  
for the remission of our sins.  
From all our sins, O Lord: **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

Through water and Spirit  
you give us new life as the people of God,  
and pour out upon us the gifts of your new covenant.  
From all our sins, O Lord: **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

May almighty God have mercy on *us*,  
forgive *us our* sins,  
and bring *us* to everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The 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.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away  
the sin 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.**

### **The Collect for the day**

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **The First Reading: Genesis 1. 1-5**

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**Gradual Hymn: NEH 55 James Montgomery (1771-1854)**

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
Great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
To set the captive free,  
To take away transgression,  
And rule in equity.**

**He comes, with succour speedy,  
To those who suffer wrong;  
To help the poor and needy,  
And bid the weak be strong;  
To give them songs for sighing,  
Their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying,  
Were precious in his sight.**

**He shall come down like showers  
Upon the fruitful earth;  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
Spring in his path to birth;  
Before him, on the mountains,  
Shall peace the herald go;  
And righteousness, in fountains,  
From hill to valley flow**

**O'er every foe victorious,  
He on his throne shall rest;  
From age to age more glorious,  
All-blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove;  
His name shall stand for ever,  
That name to us is Love.**

## The Gospel Reading: Mark 1. 4-11

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

### The Homily

*For those who cannot access Fr. Jack's sermon, a short reflection is offered here:*

Starting a new job or taking on a new role will inevitably have its challenges and marks the beginning of a new chapter in the story of our life's journey. As today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus we might describe this as Jesus' commissioning, the point at which his work as the Messiah ie 'The Anointed One' really begins..

In Mark's gospel there is no account of Jesus' birth and early life as his Gospel really begins with Jesus' baptism. It is at this point that Jesus' public ministry commences and no new job or new role comes any bigger or more significant than this. Literally the future of humanity hangs on the effect of the work that Jesus will be doing.

As Jesus receives his commission as 'the Messiah' or 'the Christ' to begin his ministry among the people, so the church has understood Christian baptism as a call to ministry; as a call to action through which the work of Christ is continued. The Church's ministry: that is my ministry, your ministry, our ministry is in fact Christ's ministry and he is seeking to use us with all the skills, gifts, insights and opportunities we have at our disposal. As this is true for each of us individually, so it must be true for us in our life together as part of the Universal Church; the Body of Christ now on earth. As St Teresa of Avila puts it:

*"Christ has no body now on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours.*

*Ours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out on the world. Ours are the feet by which He is to go about doing good: ours are the hands by which He is to bless His people, now and to the end of the ages. Christ has no body now on earth, but ours.!"*



**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came  
down from heaven, was incarnate from  
the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is  
worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of  
sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

## The Prayers of Intercession

*Pray for the leaders of the nation, governments of the world and all managing the affects of the present pandemic and all those engaged in medical research. We pray for those who are overseeing and administering the vaccines across this country and in the wider world.*

*We pray especially for the President-Elect of the USA*

*We especially pray for those working and living in our local Care Homes: Hillside Lodge, The Anchorage, Petworth Cottage Nursing Home, Rotherlea and Barlavington Manor*

*Those who are in particular need of healing:  
Andrew Nairn and Margaret Olver,  
Those who are in need of continued prayer:  
Ron Jones, Betty Miller and Ryan Nichols*

*Pray to rest in peace: Joyce Rule, Ronald Symonds, Olive Jones and Sue Higham*

*Anniversary of death: John Dunphy, Skye-Maria Nichols, Emma Ireland, Marjorie Jennings, Bethany Jupp, Doreen Thompson, Ida Miles*

*Together with other Churches in the village we pray for those who work for the London Road (from St Mary's to the railway bridge) Chestnut Walk, Bell Close, Spiro Close, New Place Road, Aston Rise, Nutcroft, Collingwood, Cousins Way, Orchard Way*

*The following response is said:*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

*The Intercessions conclude with the following*

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

### The Peace

*Fr. Paul introduces the Peace*

God has made us one in Christ.  
He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what  
is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.  
Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

Pray my dear brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and  
yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands,  
for the praise and glory of his name, for our good,  
and the good of all his holy Church.**

*The Prayer over the Gifts is said*

Open the heavens, Lord our God,  
and send your transforming Spirit  
on us and on these gifts.  
May we who are baptized into Christ  
be ready to share his cup of suffering  
and strengthened to serve him for ever. **Amen.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts  
**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
**It is right to give thanks and praise**

*Fr. Paul continues with the prayer until say together:*

**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.**

*Fr. Paul continues until the following is used:*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**Dying you destroyed our death  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory**

*Fr. Paul continues and leads into the conclusion of the prayer  
to which all say:*

**Amen**

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## The Breaking of Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## Act of Spiritual Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**



*The following words are used as an invitation to make an act of Spiritual Communion.*

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you.  
Since I cannot at this time receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Amen**

## The Prayer after Communion

Lord of all time and eternity,  
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father  
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:  
by the power of your Spirit  
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth  
through the waters of the new creation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

Final Hymn: O&N 45  
Martin Nystrom, based on Psalm 42. 1-2

- 1 As the deer pants for the water  
So my soul longs after you.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship you.  
*You alone are my strength, my shield,  
to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship you.*
- 2 I want you more than gold or silver,  
only you can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy-giver  
and the apple of my eye. *Refrain*
- 3 You're my friend and you are my brother  
even though you are a king.  
I love you more than any other,  
so much more than anything. *Refrain*

**The Blessing**

The Lord be with you.  
**and also with you.**

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water  
welling up to eternal life,  
perfect in you the image of his glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**The Dismissal**

We have come to Christ, the living water.  
Go in peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Church and Liturgical Diary**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January - *Feria***

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January - *Feria***

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January: *St. Hilary, Bishop and Teacher***

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January: *Feria***

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January: *Feria***

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January: *Feria***

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January: THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**

Readings: 1Samuel 3. 1-10 and John 1. 43-end

### **Public worship at St. Mary's Church**

Although communal worship is still permissible, in the light of the government's announcement on a national lockdown and in the interests of safety, we have reluctantly decided to suspend public worship for the time being. This will be continually reviewed in line with our assessments of the risks involved.

**Please do regularly check our website.**

However, we will be resuming our recording of the Sunday liturgy for people to view via the church website, alongside a downloadable service booklet. **[www.stmaryspulborough.org.uk](http://www.stmaryspulborough.org.uk)**

**The church will be open for private prayer on Tuesday and Thursdays from 2-4pm and at other times by arrangement.**