**REFLECTION** Baptism

Baptism was not over and done with the day we were taken to the font. We are baptised by all that happens to us in life. We are baptised by hardship; in its turbulent waters we are purified of all that is false and useless. We are baptised by suffering; in its murky waters we grow in humility and compassion. We are baptised by joy; in its gurgling waters we experience the goodness of life. We are baptised by love; in its singing waters we blossom like flowers in the sun. Baptism is like the planting of a seed. It will take a lifetime for this seed to grow and ripen.

**SCRIPTURE NOTE** The account of the baptism of Jesus in Mark, the earliest gospel, is also the simplest. In Mark the Voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus himself, and there is no sign that others heard it; it is an experience of Jesus: ‘You are my Son’. In Matthew the Voice is addressed to the bystanders: ‘This is my Son’. This makes the private revelation into a public scene, a declaration that Jesus’ work is about to begin. In the same way our baptism is a public scene, a declaration that we are committed to Christ in his Church – even if we don’t remember it! Matthew also records the little dialogue of John’s unwillingness to baptise Jesus. Why should Jesus enter into the community of repentance which John was forming? He was no sinner! However, it was a gesture that Jesus was entering fully into the condition of all humanity. He shared fully in human nature, the nature of a humanity which had fallen even though he himself was sinless. At the outset of his ministry Jesus must reveal the fullness of his humanity, for only so could he redeem the fallen human race. Jesus is not merely passive, for he himself joins with John in making the positive step: ‘We must do all that righteousness demands’

A quick review: what difference has baptism made to my life?

**AN EMMAUS PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, look with love on our parishes as together we walk with you.

Inspire us with your Spirit that we may approach the future with discernment and generosity.

Make our hearts burn with love that we may be heralds of the Good News, reaching out to those around us.

We place our hope in you, who live and reign for ever and ever.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: pray for us

St Francis of Assisi: pray for us

St William of York: pray for us

All Holy Men and Women: pray for us

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| St Francis logo | FranciscanChurch of St. Francis of Assisi277 Sandygate Road, Sheffield S10 5SDTelephone 0114 263 0383Email: stfrancisrcsheffield@gmail.comparishcouncil26@yahoo.co.ukWebsite: [www.stfrancisrc-sheffield.org.uk](http://www.stfrancisrc-sheffield.org.uk)Registered Charity No. 512021Parish Priest: Fr Kevin ThorntonParish Deacon: Stephen ParkerYear A - Psalter Week 1**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**Mass book pg 118. Preface pg 68. |

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| Sunday | 12th | 11:00 am | (People of the Parish) |
| Monday | 13th |  | No Mass |
| Tuesday  | 14th |  | No Mass |
| Wednesday | 15th |  | No Mass |
| Thursday | 16th |  | No Mass |
| Friday | 17th | 1:00 pm | Funeral for Tricia Crehan |
| Saturday | 18th |  | No Sacrament of Reconciliation |
|  |  |  | No Mass |

Thank you for last week's **OFFERTORY COLLECTION**.

Next Sunday is the **DAY OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE**. There will be a basket in the narthex if you wish to support the work of Pax Christi.

The Week of Prayer for **CHRISTIAN UNITY** will run from Saturday 18th January to Saturday 25th January. Next Sunday, the Christian Churches in Crosspool will exchange preachers. We will welcome Rev Iain Lothian from St Columba Church.

**PLEASE PRAY** for Father Kevin, Ann Bright, CC, Dennis Gerrard, Elizabeth Meara, Grazyna Swales, Jean Fahy and Pam Harris, who are sick, for Robert Claytor, lately dead and for all whose anniversaries occur about this time.

**SACRED SPACE** at St. Columba’s Church will be at 7pm TODAY. The aim of SacREd Space is to provide a quiet space to let go of your 'to do' lists, your anxieties and your preoccupations and rest in the silence, music and stillness provided. All welcome.

The next **ALIVE! PRAYER TIME** at St Marie's Cathedral will be from 7pm to 8pm on Wednesday 15th January. If you want to deepen your faith, open your heart more to the Lord, and become more active in the Church, then prayer is an excellent place to start. Everyone is welcome.

**AFTERNOON TEA** will be served on Tuesday 21st January between 12.30pm and 3pm. All ages are welcome. If you would like to come please phone Anne-Marie on 2630351.

A new **ALPHA COURSE** will be starting at St Marie's Cathedral on Tuesday 21st January. It will take place at 7pm every Tuesday until the end of March. It is an opportunity to find out more about Jesus and the fundamentals of Christian faith through a series of talks and discussions! If you are interested, please send an email to stmariesalpha@gmail.com.

The next **JUSTICE AND PEACE MEETING** will be at 8pm on Wednesday 29th January) in the Presbytery. New members are very welcome.

The sensational dance show, **MUSICAL MAGIC**, will be performed on Thursday 6th February at 8pm, Friday 7th February at 8pm and Saturday 8th February at 2pm and 6pm. Tickets are £7 for adults and £4 for children aged 3 to 12. The show is in aid of CAFOD's relief work for the major food crisis in Zambia and Zimbabwe. Tickets will be on sale soon or you can order them from Grazyna on 2308196. Raffle prizes will be very welcome.

The St Vincent's Church Pantomime, **SLEEPING BEAUTY**, will be on Friday 7th and Saturday 8th February.

Talk on **PROPHETIC IMAGINATION** on Saturday 15th February at Hinsley Hall, Leeds. David McLoughlin, Emeritus Fellow of Christian Theology at Newman University, Birmingham will talk about the relationship between theology and everyday life. Lunch, talk and afternoon workshops for £55. Contact Mike Campbell on 2301837 or Lindsay Reynolds on secretarycpw@gmail.com for more details or visit [www.catholicpeoplesweeks.org](http://www.catholicpeoplesweeks.org) for information on the whole weekend and bursaries.

The third **ST WILFRID’S SLEEP OUT** will be at Bramall Lane on Friday 13th March. Visit [www.stwilfridscentre.org/events/st-wilfrids-centre-sleep-out-2020-at-sufc-1](http://www.stwilfridscentre.org/events/st-wilfrids-centre-sleep-out-2020-at-sufc-1) to register to take part or see the poster in the narthex for more details.

Bishop Ralph will lead a **PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND** in 2020, departing from Manchester on Wednesday 18th March and returning on Wednesday 25th March. Cost £1449 per person sharing (single room supplement £265). See poster in narthex for more details or contact Joe McNally on 2364076 or joegmcnally@btinternet.com.

The Hallam Diocesan **PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** will run from Sunday 28th June to Friday 3rd July. Flying from Doncaster with five night's full board for £740. Contact hallamlourdespilgrimage@gmail.com or call 01302 247910 for more information.

**TEA AND COFFEE** is available in the Assisi Hall after Sunday Mass. Everyone welcome.

There are still some spaces on the **READING, WELCOMING AND TEA/COFFEE ROTAS** in the narthex. Please sign up if you can help. If you are a new volunteer, please provide an email address.

The Diocese wants to recruit a new **SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR.** The closing date for applications is Wednesday 29th January. For further information, see the poster in the narthex or contact jpearson@hallam-diocese.com or 2566453.

There are new **CONFESSION TIMES AT ST MARIE’S CATHEDRAL** - 11.30am to 12.15pm and 4.45pm to 5.15pm every Saturday.

**THE GOD WHO SPEAKS - THE YEAR OF THE WORD**. This year's Mass readings are mostly from St Matthew’s Gospel. The Bishops are encouraging us to read this Gospel day-by-day. Copies which will fit in a pocket or handbag are available after Mass for £1.50.

The **POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION** for January is for the promotion of world peace - we pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.

Please donate more **TEA, COFFEE AND SUGAR** for St. Wilfrid's Centre. Thank you.

Please leave your donations for the **S2 FOODBANK** in the narthex. Visit <https://s2foodbank.org.uk/> for a list of suggested items.

There is a small bookcase near the door to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, containing a number of books about the Church, Saints, etc. These are available for **YOU TO BORROW** and take home to read. There is a red book on the nearby table for you to make a note of the title of the book, your name and the date you take (and return) it.