



St John Southworth's RC Parish
at Holy Saviour's Church, Vulcan St, BB9 8HE
and Christ Church, Carr Road, BB9 7JS
Nelson

Parish House: 5 Park Drive,
Nelson, BB9 0JY

Parish Priest:
Rev Gerard Kelly
Tel: 01282 614859

**If you would like to receive this
newsletter electronically, then
please email the parish.**

Email: stjohnsouthworthrc@gmail.com (click)

The Baptism of the Lord



12th January 2025



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Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The boy Jesus had an inkling that life was more mysterious than he had yet come to fully realise. He told his concerned parents that he must be busy with his Father's affairs. So, Jesus was to be found down at the Temple, "sitting among the doctors, listening to them and asking them questions." It would be many years later that Jesus would come to a full realisation of who he was called to be, and what he was called to do.

I'm reminded of St Paul who writes to the Corinthians, "When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me." St Paul, too, like Jesus, matured in his sense of self-identity and purpose." Just as with Jesus, Paul came to the overwhelming sense that he was called and chosen, and that he had an important mission to accomplish in his life.

The Baptism of the Lord marks that defining moment when Jesus, emerging from the waters of the Jordan, is now fully aware and empowered to take up, and live from, the fullness of his spiritual identity as revealed to him by the Father: "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

We can understand from these stories presented to us in the Scriptures that full Christian maturity takes us beyond simply human maturity. Of course, we need to grow up and take responsibility for our lives and try to make a contribution to our world like every human person. But, beyond all this, our baptism imparts to us a spiritual calling to share in the life of Jesus himself. This calling takes us beyond our natural human capacities and enables us to find a new home in the realms of faith. It is from this place—of a faith that is coming to maturity—that we experience the call of Christ, the security of the Father's love, and the empowerment of the Spirit.



It is from the ministry of Jesus that Christian community and parish life was first brought into being, and it's from the continuing presence of the gift of the Holy Spirit, who is given to each of us in baptism, that parish life can flourish and develop. My prayer is that as a parish community we can, each of us, grow beyond self-interest, and come to that maturity of faith which calls us to take responsibility, not only for ourselves, but for all our brothers and sisters in our parish family.

May God bless you and your families,
Fr Gerard

Mass schedule for week beginning Monday 13th January 2025

Monday 13th Jan	Tuesday 14th Jan	Wednesday 15th Jan	Thursday 16th Jan	Friday 17th Jan	Saturday 18th Jan	Sunday 19th Jan
NO MASS	Eucharistic Service C.C. 10.00am	REQUIEM C.C. 12.15pm Euch Service H.S. 7.00pm	Eucharistic Service & Exposition C.C. 10.00am	Eucharistic Service C.C. 10.00am	NO MASS	C.C. 9.30am H.S. 11.15am

Date	Reader 1	Reader 2
This Sunday: 12th January	Luke Mendoza	David Zycinski
Next Sunday: 19th January	Margaret Needham	Gerard Spain

Children's Church: C.C. - Siobhan & Molly

H.S. - Monica & Sammy / Amber & Annica

DIED RECENTLY

The Requiem Mass for **Esme Thornton** will take place on Wednesday 15th Jan at Christ Church at 12.15pm. I am grateful to Fr Job, assistant priest at the Parish of the Good Samaritan, who will celebrate this Mass in my absence.

In this last week we have received news of the deaths of **Ann Mullarkey** and **Maureen Waddington** who were both well-known parishioners of the parish. Funeral arrangements have yet to be announced.

We pray for the repose of their souls in thanksgiving for all they contributed to the life of the parish, especially in former days when St George's Church was the centre of the Parish of St John Southworth.

Eucharistic Ministry (C.C & H.S.) Week 2

Roger Lee	Barbara Martin
George Winkley	Christine Whalley
Amanda Duckett	Susanne Barnes
Bernadette Whittaker	Marie Parker
Emma Sutcliffe	Lisa Stinchon

CHURCH COLLECTION

5th January: £100 (snow week!)
Standing Orders: approx: £624 p/w
Many thanks!

POUND DRAW WINNERS

£10.00 Linda Goddard
£10.00 Barbara Broadley
£10.00 Tyrone McLaughlin



£70.00 towards Parish Funds, thank you!

MASS INTENTIONS

Mary Anne Jennings, anniv, 7th Jan
Sarah Farrelly, died recently.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Jan 13th Alfred Allen (1940)
Jan 15th Kenneth Keating(2023)
Jan 16th Rev W Brierley (1976)
Paul Edmund Brady (1992)
John D Hartley (2021)
Francis Thornton (2024)
Jan 17th Sean Marel (2013)
Jan 18th Margaret Mallinson (2020)
Bridget Doyle (1989)
Esther Rourke (1973)
Brian Campy (2006)



BIBLE STUDY

Friday 17th January at 11.00am in the lounge at Christ Church. Led by Ken Reid

On Monday of this coming week, I will be going into hospital for surgery on my left hand. The ring finger on my left hand is affected by a condition known as Dupuytren's Contracture which brings about a progressive bending of the finger towards the palm.

As I won't be able to drive or get my hand wet for ten days after the surgery, I will not be available for parish duties and will be resting up. You will see on the Mass Schedule that Eucharistic Services will be taking place, and Fr Job will be coming over from St John's, Ivy St, to take care of Wednesday's Requiem Mass.

Fr Ian Kelly will be taking the Masses next weekend.

Many thanks to those who will be leading the Services, and please do support them in this important ministry during this time.

Fr Gerard