



**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

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

## The Baptism of the Lord



**11th January 2026**



Click on the moneybox to make a  
secure online donation to the parish!

[St John Southworth's YouTube Channel](#)



Click link for live-streamed and recorded Masses.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The boy Jesus had an inkling that his 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 security of the Father's love, the call of Christ, 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 12th January 2026

Monday 12th Jan	Tuesday 13th Jan	Wednesday 14th Jan	Thursday 15th Jan	Friday 16th Jan	Saturday 17th Jan	Sunday 18th Jan
NO MASS	MASS C.C. 10.00 am	MASS H.S. 7.00pm	MASS C.C. 10.00am Exposition	MASS C.C. 10.00am	NO MASS	C.C. 9.30am H.S. 11.15am

Date	Reader 1	Reader 2
<b>This Sunday:</b> 11th January	Sarah Ellison	Joan Penny-Heys
<b>Next Sunday:</b> 18th January	Monica McArdle	Roger Lee

**Children's Church:** C.C. Siobhan & Margaret M

H.S. Anika, Amber / Monica, Doreen, Sammy

Eucharistic Ministry 2nd Sunday (C.C. and H.S.)	
Roger Lee	Barbara Martin
George Winkley	Christine Whalley
Amanda Duckett	Susanne Barnes
Bernadette Whittaker	Marie Parker
Emma Sutcliffe	Paul Stinchon

### MASS INTENTIONS

Kimberley McCabe, died recently.  
Gerard Haworth, anniv, 26th Dec (2011).  
Frances Leary, anniv, 26th Dec.  
Christine Black, anniv.  
Ann Mullarkey, anniv, 8th Jan (2025)

### Shirley Clegg, RIP

The funeral service for Shirley will take place at Christ Church this coming Tuesday 13th January at 11.30am. May she rest in peace.

### POUND DRAW WINNERS

£10.00 Frances Howarth  
£10.00 Eileen Spillane  
£10.00 Julie Taylor  
£10.00 Sarah Ellison

£80.00 towards parish funds

### BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Jan 13th Alfred Allen (1940)  
Jan 15th Kenneth Keating (2023)  
Jan 16th Rev William Brierley (1976)  
Paul Edmund Brady (1992)  
John D Hartley (2021)  
Francis Thornton (2024)  
Jan 17th Sean Maree (2013)  
Jan 18th Esther Rourke (1973)  
Brian Campy (2006)



### CAFOD UPDATE

Since the 16th November 2025 we have collected and sent off to CAFOD the following amount:

Holy Saviour's Tea and Coffee: £275.40  
Christ Church Tea and Coffee: £211.00  
Christ Church CAFOD Box: £81.00  
**TOTAL £567.40**



*Many thanks for such wonderful generosity in helping to support the poorest people in our world.*

### CHURCH COLLECTION

Standing Orders: approx: £685 p/w.  
4th Jan 2026: £341.90  
Many thanks!



### Welcome to Helen Gowling

On this feast day of the Baptism of the Lord, we have the great honour of welcoming Helen Gowling into full communion with the Catholic Church at Holy Saviour's church.

Helen will be confirmed and will make her first Holy Communion at the 11.15am Mass.

*We pray that we may be found worthy to receive her as a great gift to our parish family, and that Helen may be blessed by an experience of the peace that Christ gives to those who entrust themselves to his love.*

