

BLESSED JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

KNUTSFORD ROAD, WARRINGTON, WA4 1JE

SERVING: LATCHFORD, GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL

SOUTH WARRINGTON AND LYMM LPA



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Weekly Bulletin

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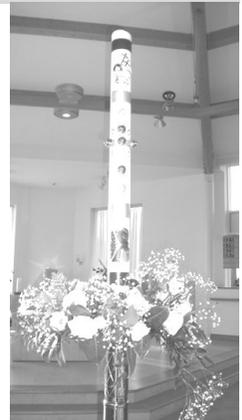
At one of his weekly talks on the theme: *Take the Grace of Baptism and Become a Light for All* (Nov 13, 2013) Pope Francis explained that our Baptism "is the point of departure for a journey of conversion that lasts our whole life." His "glimmers of light" signify the light of Christ that enlightens every person:

The star appearing in the sky kindled in their minds and in their hearts a light that moved them to seek the great Light of Christ. Baptism illuminates us from within with the light of Jesus. ... In virtue of this gift, the baptized are called to become "light"—the light of the faith they have received for their brothers, especially for those who are in darkness and do not perceive glimmers of light on the horizon of their life. ... You must take the grace of Baptism that is a gift, and become light for all!

John Henry Newman prays:

Stay with me O Lord, and then I shall begin to shine as you shine: so to shine as to be a light to others. The light, O Jesus, will be all from you. None of it will be mine. It will be you who shines on me and upon others. O let me thus praise you, in the way you love best, by shining on all those around me. Give light to them as well as to me; light them with me and through me. Teach me to show forth your praise, your truth, your will. May I preach you without preaching – not by words, but by my example and by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what I do – by my visible resemblance of your saints, and the evident fullness of the love which my heart bears for you.

Amen



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For early Christians, the thought that their Lord had himself undergone baptism was disturbing, embarrassing and even scandalous. Could the Immaculate Lamb, the altogether holy Jesus, really have submitted to an act of ritual purification? Could he have admitted by implication that he too was part of unclean, guilty, sinful, human-kind? It says a great deal for their honesty that they did not attempt a cover-up, but left this seemingly controversial episode as it stood in the Gospel tradition.



But soon enough, Christians came to glory in the paradox of the Baptism of Christ: the moment when the Sinless One came to a sinner to be washed. They gloried in it because they saw it as an expression, in the life of Jesus, of the stooping down of God in loving-kindness to human-kind, his condescension to the level of this world. The way they gloried in the paradox was by stressing at one and the same time the humiliation it involved for the Saviour and also his undiminished Godhead.

What is the rationale for this paradoxical act? We look back from the vantage point of the Paschal Mystery, of Eastertide, and we can see why. The Cross and Resurrection show how the generosity of God is total in his self-giving; it went to the lengths of the Cross and the descent into Hell. That is how the apostolic letters can re-define God in terms of love. But if analogy from our side is worth anything at all, it is, surely, characteristic of love – above all, of perfect love – that it does not hesitate before risk. When it comes to the aid of the beloved, it does not wait to see whether it might be misunderstood or compromised. It cares not a fig for these things. It makes itself vulnerable and if necessary accepts the hurt.

At his Baptism, the Saviour chooses to be with us where we are, to enter into solidarity with us, sinners as we are. In so doing, he laid himself open to the malicious tongue, the wagging finger. What, in this perspective, makes the Baptism great as a festival of the Church is that in this way it is the preamble of the Crucifixion. The whole destiny of Jesus is contained within it. It is the culmination of Christmastide because it is the source of the impetus that will carry us on to Easter.

Fr Aidan Nichols OP

THIS WEEK		
Sun 13 Jan	Refreshments - Team C	After 9.00am Mass
Mon 14 Jan	Sacramental Preparation Session	5.00pm
COMING UP		
Mon 21 Jan	Mass and Supper for Saint Joseph's Family Centre	7.00 pm
Sun 20 Jan	Refreshments - Team C	After 11.00am
Mon 4 Feb	Baptism Preparation Meeting	7.00pm

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (see John 17.21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. The event that touches off this special experience is the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, traditionally the celebrat-

ed between 18-25 January, leading up to the feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul. The theme for the week of prayer in 2019, **"Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue ..."** is inspired by Deuteronomy 16:18-20. The prayer resources for the week have been prepared by members of different churches in Indonesia. We are hosting the Christian Unity Service for the Latchford Churches next Sunday at 4 pm. Please come along if you can.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 4-11th Nov 2019 - all those intending to take part are reminded that the deposits and booking forms need to be with the travel company by Friday 25 January.

MONEY MATTERS

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity No. 234025

Collection W/E 6.1.19 - £873.00 (Plus £334.13) in Standing Orders

200 Club Winner - 6.1.19 - to be advised

Please note that cheques for Mass Offerings, Donations etc should be made

payable to *Blessed John Henry Newman Parish*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY

TO THE PARISH, ITS CLERGY AND TO THE CHARITIES WE SUPPORT

Mass Times and other Services



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Sat 12 January	5.30 pm	Ron Coyle RIP
Sunday 13 January	9.00 am 11.00 am	A Margaret McClean RIP B John Turner <small>Special Int</small> Fred Gatley RIP
Monday 14 January	8.45 am 9.00 am	Morning Prayer Parishioners' Intentions
Tues 15 Jan		No Services Today
Wednesday 16 January	8.45 am 9.00 am 10.30am	Morning Prayer Peter King RIP Funeral Service for Winnifreda Butler RIP
Thursday 17 January	6.30 pm 7.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Zena Worsley RIP (Anniversary)
Friday 18 January	8.45 am 9.00 am	Morning Prayer Vera Whitham RIP

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sat 19 January	5.30 pm	Enid Thompson RIP and Eileen Potter RIP
Sunday 20 January	9.00 am 11.00 am	A Brian Neil RIP (Anniversary) B Mary Cornelia RIP (Anniversary) All Parish children (with love from Sister Catherine)

Kindly remember to pray for: Laurie Gilfedder who died recently, all the faithful departed, those living with or recovering from illness or undergoing medical treatment including: Sister Catherine, Vera Allen, Marc Bailey, Mary Birks, Amanda Bradbury, Vera Bradbury, Kath Bradley, Dawn Brindle, Archie Brocklehurst, Barbara Carter, Jack Child, Ethan Connolly, Catherine Coyne, John Daintith, Monica Dixon, Jimmy Evans, Larry Finn, Claire Hogan, Philip Gater, , Maureen Gingell, Teresa Glover, Enid Graham, Jamie Graham, Chris Haynes, Helen Holdbrook, Mary Howard, Graham Hutson, Joan Johnson, Lilly Kelly, Diana Kerr, Wendy Kirkpatrick, Bet Leigh, Esther Lloyd Jones, Maria Mahon, Renaldo Marcella, Lynda McCloud, Abigail McNicholas, Fred Mouldsdale, Eileen Moyse, James O'Hara, May O'Rourke, Charles Pendry, Margaret Pickup, Brian Porter, Tony Potter, Fionuala Price, David Prince, Margaret Quinn, Joan Riley, Christine Rowe, Shelley Scott, Anthony Sharkey, Darcie Sharp, Hazel Sudell, Michael Swift, Howard Tomlinson, Eileen Trantum, Coen & Zion Unruh, Pamela Verdon, Ken Wainwright, Ben Watson, Ann Weiss, John Williams & Colin Wright.