

PARISH NOTICES

Welcome to St John's If you are new to the church, please make yourself known to one of the clergy or the welcomers. After the Parish Mass refreshments will be served at the back of church. Please stay if you can.

The Baptism of the Lord At the beginning of the Parish Mass today, in place of the usual confession water will be blessed and we will be sprinkled with it as a reminder of our own baptism. The response is *Cleanse and bless your Church, O Lord*. And during the sprinkling we sing hymn CHE 401

Today's readings In the 1st reading today the prophet Isaiah has words of hope for his people. Their time of exile to a foreign land, Babylon, is coming to an end: God is forgiving their faithlessness. The prophet gives them a picture of their route home - a 'straight highway' across the desert back to their homeland and the focus of their religion, the Temple at Jerusalem.

The second reading begins with verses we have heard recently - at the Midnight Mass of Christmas. Then we were rejoicing in the birth of God's Son, his gift of love to his people, the gift of one who would, as the angel revealed to Joseph, 'save his people from their sins'. Now the apostle asks us to understand what this means for those who 'turn to Christ' (as we did at our baptism): God's love is at work in us, renewing us with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

When St Luke tells of the baptism of Jesus he doesn't give an account of the actual event (as Matthew and Mark do), he simply tells us what happened immediately afterwards: that Jesus 'was praying'. As he prayed, the Holy Spirit, revealed in the form of a dove, descended on him and a voice from heaven identified him as God's Son, his beloved. Those words expressed the Father's approval of his Son's intended course of action: 'That is what it means to be my Son, to be my anointed One, to be my Servant.'

Please pray for Ella Ree Garcia, daughter of Reycie (who cleans the hall and the church) and his wife. Ella was born 2 months early; still in hospital, but doing well.

Parish Bible Study All are welcome tomorrow (Monday), 3 pm in the café area in church, to study the scriptures for next Sunday, the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time:
Isaiah 62: 1-5 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11 St John 2: 1-11

To contact the clergy:

Fr Roger 01903 268295 07814 765990 burmateak@aol.com
Deacon Rachel 07810 350098 rachelbennett@talktalk.net

THE PARISH OF ST JOHN THE DIVINE, WEST WORTHING

12th January 2025

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

8.00 am Mass

10.00 am Parish Mass (Hymns CHE 241, 331, 661, 804, 718) Intention: The Parish

6.00 pm Evening Prayer and Benediction

Monday 13 th January <i>St Hilary</i>	10.00 am Mass	Faithfulness to the Gospel
Tuesday 14 th January <i>Feria</i>	6.30 pm Mass	The mentally ill
Wednesday 15 th January <i>Feria</i>	11.00 am Mass	Vocations to ordained ministry
Thursday 16 th January <i>Feria</i>	9.00 am Mass	The marginalised and rejected
Friday 17 th January <i>St Anthony</i>	10.30 am Mass at St Andrew's	Religious orders
Saturday 18 th January <i>Feria</i>	9.30 am Mass	The unity of the Church

Next Sunday: Mass at 8 am; Parish Mass at 10 am; Evening Prayer & Benediction at 6 pm

Please pray for:

The sick: Wendy Oakeshott, Jack, Reg Parker, Ros Cole

The recently departed: Kenneth Jeffrey, *priest*, Shauna Lovey

Those whose anniversaries occur this week:

- 12 Roger Corless, Maude Trist, Violet Whittaker, Donald Lambert, *priest*
- 13 James Dowie, Alice Bartlett, Joe Postles, Barbara Cullen, Kathleen Brown
- 14 Joseph Downes, Eleanor Spencer
- 15 Bernard Head, Jim Cooper, Constance Oddy, Josephine Flinn
- 17 Edith Ray
- 18 Harry Williams, Aileen Findlay, Joan Townsend