

Gospel Reflection

This is the first of three times in Matthew in which God expresses his direct approval of Jesus in these terms. In Matthew 12:14, conspiratorial forces surround Jesus and begin threatening his life. Jesus flees the threat but continues to heal everywhere he goes. 12:17-21 sees in all this a confirmation of the Isaianic oracle which is the first reading this Sunday. Once again, God's soul is pleased. Finally, God's voice again commends Jesus' fealty during the transfiguration scene (17:5). This is the consistent witness of God concerning the Son, a witness further confirmed in the resurrection and perpetuation of the body of disciples in all the nations.



John plays a dual role in these verses. Having proclaimed the power of the one who is to come, he is also faithful to concede to a baptism whose necessity he may not fully understand. In submitting himself to John, Jesus combines great power and acquiescence. Jesus is not a king who won't deign to tread the humble paths of his servants. Jesus' hold on his power is not so tenuous that he must zealously hold on to it at all times. For Jesus, power and humility, authority and submission, power and relationship are not at odds.

On a lighter note: Q. What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible? A. Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury. David's Triumph was heard throughout the land. Also, probably a Honda, because the apostles were all in one Accord.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to make preparations for your child to be Baptised you should telephone Fr Simon to arrange to see him after an 11am Mass on Sunday morning.

Following this there are Meetings on the first Friday of each month at 7:30pm. that you will need to attend, where you will meet Mrs Gerri Doherty and Deacon Tony Ford.

NEWSLETTER

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"United in conviction and united
in love, with a common purpose
and a common mind"
Philippians 2:2

12th JANUARY 2020 **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (CYCLE A)** **MASS & SERVICE TIMES**

Saturday 11th January	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Dennis Cole RIP
Sunday 12th January	9:30am 11:00am	Annie – Op recovery People of the Parish
Monday 13th January	9:30am	Service of Word and Communion
Tuesday 14th January		No service
Wednesday 15th January		No service
Thursday 16th January	9:30am	Service of Word and Communion
Friday 17th January		No service
Saturday 18th January	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Tracy Simpson RIP
Sunday 19th January	9:30am 11:00am	Liam O'Hare RIP People of the Parish
Monday 20th January	9:30am	Service of Word and Communion

This weekend we welcome back Father Colin whilst Father Simon is away

If Fr Simon is unobtainable and you urgently need a Priest please phone the parish mobile: **07548 222133** Please use this number for emergencies only i.e. where a priest is needed urgently.

200 CLUB DRAW

Winner: £40 Prize
This week – Mrs Ann Hayes

WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB AND HELP THE PARISH?

FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH

If you would like to make a donation for the flowers please add your name to the list in the porch and place your donation into the wall box.

Parish Register: If you are new to the parish – or if you haven't filled in one before - or if you have but your circumstances have changed – can you please pick up a Parish Register form from the shelves in the outer porch.

Please complete it and bring it back and drop it into the Box so that we have your up to date details.

Rest assured that this information will be kept in the strictest confidence.

Christmas Cards: When you have finished with your Christmas Cards (and any Birthday Cards) can you please bring them in and put them in the Box in the porch. One of our parishioners can put them to good use.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function, please contact Phil Martin on 07720 807162

Prayer for our Parish:

Father, pour out your Spirit upon the people of this parish
and grant us a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word
and a new consecration to your service,
that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come,
through Christ our Lord.

.....
St Joseph pray for us

Gospel Reading Matthew 3 13 – 17

Jesus then appeared, arriving at the Jordan River from Galilee. He wanted John to baptise him. John objected,
“I’m the one who needs to be baptised, not *you*!”



But Jesus insisted. “Do it. God’s work, putting things right all these centuries, is coming together right now in this baptism.” So John did it.



The moment Jesus came up out of the baptismal waters, the skies opened up and he saw God’s Spirit—it looked like a dove—descending and landing on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: “This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life.”

“Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words”

St Francis of Assisi

Coffee morning: Our next coffee morning is on Tuesday January 21st 2020, everyone is welcome.

Scam alert: There has been a recent case of an elderly parishioner being scammed out of £500 because they received an email which they thought was from their parish priest requesting her to purchase gift vouchers for his niece as he was too busy over Christmas.