



THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS,
NORTH HILLINGDON UB10 9BT
+
~SERVING THE LOCAL
COMMUNITY~
+
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
(YEAR B)
+
10 JANUARY 2021

The current Government health regulations allow churches to remain open for public worship.

*However, we still need to take very **great** care, not least by maintaining **social-distancing** both inside and outside All Saints’.*

You also need to continue to wear a face-covering in church (unless you have a definite exemption from doing so).



A thought for this Sunday:

It may seem strange, but this is a Christmas Feast, but not if we think of Christmas only in terms of the Baby at Bethlehem. We need instead to move our focus to the ideas found in the Bible readings of the Feasts of Holy Family and (especially) of the Epiphany and see the Christmas season in terms of the appearing of the Son of God, first to the shepherds and then to the Wise Men from the East. Now in the River Jordan, Jesus, Son of Mary, is revealed to all as the fullness of all God’s promises: ‘This is my Son, the Beloved’. On this day, we stand before the revelation of God’s love for us, such that he would send his only Son into the world. Christmas without the Baptism of the Lord, and the words that are spoken from heaven, would be incomplete, since it is only in them that we see, fully, the wonder of what happened at Bethlehem, that we understand fully the reason for the joy, with which we have celebrated Christmas. As we come to the end of the Christmas season, we do so having been shown who it is we listen to, namely Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, the Beloved.

Introit: When the Lord had been baptised, the heavens opened and the Spirit came down like a dove to rest on him. Then the voice of the Father thundered: ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’

Collect: Let us pray (*that we will be faithful to our baptism*): Almighty, eternal God, when the Spirit descended upon Jesus at his baptism in the Jordan, you revealed him as your own beloved Son. Keep us, your children born of water and the Spirit, faithful to our calling. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

TO-DAY’S BIBLE READINGS

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (42:1-4 & 6-7): *Here is my servant in whom my soul delights.*

Thus says the Lord: ‘Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit, that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.’

The response in the Cantic (Isaiah 12:3) **is:** *With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (10:34-38): *The Lord had anointed him with the Holy Spirit.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: ‘The truth I have now come to realise,’ he said, ‘is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality, who fears God and does what is right, is acceptable to him. It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.’

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! John saw Jesus coming towards him and said: ‘This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.’ **Alleluia!**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark (1:7-11): *You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.*

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said: ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his



sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.' It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

AT THE INTERCESSIONS

Intercessor: Holy Trinity, one God:

All: hear us and help us.

We pray: for our parish and for its needs; for parishioners currently shielding or self-isolating; for the staff of the local ambulance service; for all who keep our essential public services running; for members of the Armed Forces stationed in Uxbridge; for athletes; for gardeners; for those running local 'off-licence' shops.

We commend to God our Father the sick, the housebound & others in trouble or need: Peter Bennett, Lesley Carrington, Helen Dey, Lorraine Dixon, Karen Harle, Mike & Evelyn Kirby, Brian Measures, Phil Parris, Stephen Patrick, Marc Pooley, Rob Scoates, Julia Shears, Sarah Turk and Frank & Irene Wilkinson.

the recently departed: Jacqueline Fewtrell.

those whose anniversary falls at about this time: William Barker, Ronald Blake, Michael Garner, Ray Gates, Jean Holgate, Edmund Hounslow, 'Rob' Robertson, 'Sid' Toms, Ida Williamson. **May they rest in peace and rise in glory!**

We commend all that we have just prayed for, our families, our friends & those we love to the intercession of Mary (the mother of Jesus), S Joseph (her spouse), Ss Sebastian, S Agnes (of Rome), S Vincent (the Deacon) S Wulstan (of Worcester) & all the saints. *Hail, Mary...*

FATHER DESMOND'S NOTES THIS WEEK

1. For your own sake (and all our sakes), you must not come into church, if you have (or have had within the last ten days) any symptoms of COVID-19. If you have been exposed (or think you may have been exposed) within the last ten days, you must also stay away from All Saints', even if you have no symptoms.

2. Please take a moment for a final look at the crib before you go on your way this morning and say a prayer for those in need or trouble of any kind, especially at the moment. The crib is a picture of simplicity and poverty. Yet it is rich



in meaning. The scene contains all the elements of our created world. The hay and straw of the stable represent the fruit of the cultivated earth. The ox, ass and the sheep are the animal kingdom. At the centre is the person of Jesus. And, without ever romanticising poverty, there is a certain harmony between all these elements. Each one has its place. Each one has its space. And all serve the well-being of the weakest and most vulnerable person, the new-born child.

3. The Eucharist this week at ASH

- a. Wednesday, 13/1; 1000: Weekday in O/T (In Time of Pandemic)
- b. Thursday, 14/1; 1830: Weekday in O/T
- c. Saturday, 16/1; 1800: Vigil Eucharist of the Sunday

4. NEXT SUNDAY, 17/1: The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

- a. 0800: Said Eucharist
- b. 1000: Parish Eucharist

5. Items for the February edition of *Saints Alive!* are due no later than Monday, 25/1, please.

6. Many thanks to everyone, who bought marmalade just before and after Christmas, the proceeds from which have gone to church funds. Perhaps some more pots might be forthcoming in the spring...



7. At the end of our time together in church, there is some cleaning to be done; please volunteer.

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To enquire about **Banns of Marriage, Weddings, Baptisms or other items of parish business**, please come along to Vestry Hour on Saturday morning from 0930. No appointment is necessary. Alternatively, e-mail or telephone Father Desmond at the Vicarage.

Parish Website:

www.allsaintsnorthhilligdon.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ASHillingdon

Twitter: @ASHillingdon