

## THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST



Last week, here in the Western Church, we celebrated The Epiphany, the occasion to celebrate another element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-

travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Matthew's account speaks simply of 'wise men from the east'; later tradition fixed their number at three, made them kings and recalled their resonant names – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. In this perspective, Epiphanytide is an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, appropriately falls in the Epiphany season (25<sup>th</sup> January), as does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which begins a week on Monday, on 18<sup>th</sup> January.

**In the Eastern churches, the Epiphany is, rather, the celebration of Christ's baptism at the hands of John, when the heavens were opened and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved Son.**

The miracle of Cana in Galilee, where Jesus 'first manifested his glory', follows immediately:

*Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
and at Cana wedding-guest  
in thy Godhead manifest.  
(Christopher Wordsworth)*

The season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas now continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and the festal cycle ends only with the Feast of the Presentation / Candlemas on 2<sup>nd</sup> February (celebrated her in Church on 3<sup>1st</sup> January). The child who has been manifested to the magi at his birth is now recognized by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter.

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### **'NAME A STAR' AT CHRISTMASTIDE**

Following the success of last year's 'Name a Star' fundraiser, **this year's Appeal** will run until Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

You're invited to purchase stars, at the cost of £5 each in the name of a loved one who has been and/or still is a Star which brightens up your life – see the stars on the Christmas tree.

**No video** this year I'm afraid but that doesn't mean you can't take your own photos /make videos of your Stars on the tree – please feel free to do so.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR  
GENEROSITY.**

# Welcome to the United Benefice of Holy Innocents & St. Mark, South Norwood

*Sharing God's grace and love in our community*



**9<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**Vicar:** The Revd. Canon Roxanne Eversley  
**Asst. Priest:** Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley  
**Reader:** Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

## THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

**President, Mtr Susan \* Preacher, Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds**  
*Isaiah 43.1-7 \* Psalm 29 \* Acts 8.14-17 \* Luke 3.15-17, 21-22*

**Access online worship via**  
[www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood](http://www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood)

## CHURCH NOTICES

**Until further notice, both Parishes will continue to meet for worship at Saint Mark for the 8am & 10am Sunday Masses; and at Holy Innocents for the weekday Mass on Thursdays at 10am.**

**Pastoral Care:** Mother Roxanne returns from leave on 12<sup>th</sup> January. In the meanwhile, should you need to, please contact the wardens, Cicelyn or Mother Susan (on 07890 780572 except on Fridays).

To hire the Church Halls, please call:  
Jan on 020 8653 0447 for St Mark; and  
Annette on 020 8771 5779 for Holy Innocents.

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**We pray:** for Archbishops Justin and Stephen; Bishops Christopher, Jonathan, Richard and Karowei in this Diocese; and the Bishops in our link Dioceses in Zimbabwe.

**For** clergy with permission to officiate (PTOs); for retired and retiring clergy; and for those priests who have died during the past year.

**For** the Bishops, priests & people of the Iglesia Anglicana de Chile (Anglican Church of Chile).

**For the sick:** Claude & Richard, Helen, Jennifer & Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Amanda, Rose, Caroline, Sigi, Anecka, Lynn, Ronald, Tommy, Ena, Adeline, Akos, Peggy, Rudolph, Stephanie, Pamela, Barry, Dennis, Linda, Greta, David, Oslene, Anthony, Adrian, Barbara, Jacqueline, Jackie.

**For the bereaved:** Ann and the Mulholland family.

**For the recently departed:** Kenny Mulholland.

**For those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time (Years Mind).**

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**I trust that by now, you've used chalk to mark your homes at Epiphany, with the first letter of the traditional names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar) and the digits of the new year, separated by crosses, thus 20+C+M+B+22, asking God to bless your homes and remain with you and yours throughout this new year 2022. If not, there is still time to do so.**



## COLLECT

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by  
water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our  
calling as your adopted children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our  
Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING Isaiah 43:1-7

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

Thus says the LORD, he who  
created you, O Jacob, he who  
formed you, O Israel: Do not  
fear, for I have redeemed you; I  
have called you by name, you are  
mine. When you pass through  
the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall  
not overwhelm you; when you  
walk through fire you shall not  
be burned, and the flame shall  
not consume you. For I am the  
LORD your God, the Holy One of  
Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt  
as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba  
in exchange for you. Because  
you are precious in my sight, and  
honoured, and I love you, I give  
people in return for you, nations  
in exchange for your life. Do not  
fear, for I am with you; I will bring  
your offspring from the east, and  
from the west I will gather you; I  
will say to the north, "Give them  
up," and to the south, "Do not  
withhold; bring my sons from  
far away and my daughters from  
the end of the earth – everyone  
who is called by my name, whom  
I created for my glory, whom I  
formed and made."

## PSALM Psalm 29

**R** *The voice of the Lord is upon  
the waters  
[the God of glory thunders].*

Or

**R** *The Lord shall give his people  
the blessing of peace.*

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and  
strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due  
to his name;  
worship the Lord in the beauty of  
holiness. **R**

The voice of the Lord is upon the  
waters;  
the God of glory thunders;  
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.  
The voice of the Lord is a powerful  
voice;  
the voice of the Lord is a voice  
of splendour. **R**

The voice of the Lord breaks the  
cedar trees;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of  
Lebanon;  
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young  
wild ox. **R**

The voice of the Lord splits the  
flames of fire;  
the voice of the Lord shakes the  
wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness  
of Kadesh.  
The voice of the Lord makes the  
oak trees writhe  
and strips the forests bare.  
And in the temple of the Lord  
all are crying, "Glory!" **R**

The Lord sits enthroned above  
the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king  
for evermore.  
The Lord shall give strength to  
his people;  
the Lord shall give his people the  
blessing of peace. **R**

## SECOND READING Acts 8:14-17

*A reading from the Acts of the  
Apostles.*

When the apostles at Jerusalem  
heard that Samaria had accepted

the word of God, they sent Peter  
and John to them. The two went  
down and prayed for them that  
they might receive the Holy Spirit  
(for as yet the Spirit had not come  
upon any of them; they had only  
been baptised in the name of the  
Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John  
laid their hands on them, and they  
received the Holy Spirit.

## GOSPEL Luke 3:15-17. 21-22

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus  
Christ according to Luke.*

In the wilderness John proclaimed  
a baptism of repentance. As the  
people were filled with expectation,  
and all were questioning in their  
hearts concerning John, whether  
he might be the Messiah, John  
answered all of them by saying,  
"I baptise you with water; but one  
who is more powerful than I is  
coming; I am not worthy to untie  
the thong of his sandals. He will  
baptise you with the Holy Spirit  
and fire. His winnowing-fork is in  
his hand, to clear his threshing-  
floor and to gather the wheat into  
his granary; but the chaff he will  
burn with unquenchable fire."  
Now when all the people were  
baptised, and when Jesus also had  
been baptised and was praying,  
the heaven was opened, and the  
Holy Spirit descended upon him  
in bodily form like a dove. And a  
voice came from heaven, "You are  
my Son, the Beloved; with you I  
am well pleased."

## POST COMMUNION

Lord of all time and eternity,  
you opened the heavens and  
revealed yourself as Father  
in the baptism of Jesus your  
beloved Son:  
by the power of your Spirit  
complete the heavenly work of  
our rebirth  
through the waters of the new  
creation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.