

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 (25th January), as does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which begins a week on Monday, on 18th 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 2nd February (celebrated here in Church on 31st 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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Bishop Christopher assures you of his prayers and blessing for this new year. Be strengthened by the faith, hope and love we have in Jesus Christ.

As we begin a New Year, you might like to join us praying this prayer written by the Dean, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn.

A Prayer for the New Year

And the one who was seated on the throne said 'See, I am making all things new.' (Revelation 21.5)

God of new beginnings,
of hope and deliverance,
dawn us with fresh opportunities,
equip us for new tasks,
fill us with eager longing,
thrill us with fresh starts,
that with the past behind us
we may look to all that lies ahead
with faith in Jesus,
hope in you
and love for all.

Amen.

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



10th January 2021

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne Hunte
Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

President and Preacher, Mother Susan

Genesis 1.1-5 * Psalm 29 * Acts 19.1-7 * Mark 1.4-11

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

Forthcoming diary

Sunday, 17 th January	Epiphany 3	8am (BCP) and 10am Parish Masses
Tuesday, 19 th January	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	PCC meeting for Holy Innocents
Wednesday, 20 th January		PCC meeting for Saint Mark

CHURCH NOTICES

Please note that Mother Roxanne and Josh will be back next Sunday, when Livestreaming resumes for both the 8am and 10am Services.

Please continue to contact the churchwardens in the first instance, or Cicelyn or Mother Susan (07890 780572 except on Fridays) should you require any assistance.

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Today, we pray for: Archbishops Justin and Stephen. In this Diocese, Bishops Christopher, Jonathan, Richard; **Woolwich Episcopal Area Team** - Bishop Karowei (Suffragan Bishop); Jane Steen (Archdeacon of Southwark); Alastair Cutting (Archdeacon of Lewisham & Greenwich); Jonathan Roberts (Parish Development Adviser); Emma Kimsey (PA to Bishop Karowei); Richard Coe (PA to the Archdeacons).

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust: Tim Mercer (Deputy Head of Chaplaincy); George Ochola (Chaplain).

Pray for the Bishops, priests and people of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

The sick - Alec, Una, Claude, Helen, Linda, Mick, Jennifer and Reuben, Ted, Marie-Gabrielle, Vera, Barry and Valerie, Sheila, Andrew Scorgie, Joanna Simpson, Rose, Amanda, Allison and Caroline.

The bereaved – the Davies and Aberdeen families.

RIP – Olu Aberdeen. **Years Mind.**

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There is still time to contribute to the **Name a Star Campaign** and make a donation to St Mark's Church Fund. Donations so far range from £100 per Star to £20 per Star. Remember you can **Name a Star** to celebrate your special event – Birthday, Wedding Anniversary, or Thanksgiving for something else OR in memory of those whom you love but see no longer, whose nurturing have helped you to become the person you are today.

The Campaign runs until the end of Christmas, 31st January when we celebrate Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

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 Genesis 1:1-5

A reading from the book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God created
the heavens and the earth, the earth
was a formless void and darkness
covered the face of the deep, while
a wind from God swept over the face
of the waters. Then God said, "Let
there be light"; and there was light.
And God saw that the light was good;
and God separated the light from the
darkness. God called the light Day,
and the darkness he called Night.
And there was evening and there was
morning, the first day.

PSALM Psalm 29

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

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 19:1-7

*A reading from the Acts of the
Apostles.*

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul
passed through the inland regions
and came to Ephesus, where he
found some disciples. He said to
them, "Did you receive the Holy
Spirit when you became believers?"
They replied, "No, we have not even
heard that there is a Holy Spirit."
Then he said, "Into what then were
you baptized?" They answered,
"Into John's baptism." Paul said,
"John baptized with the baptism
of repentance, telling the people
to believe in the one who was to
come after him, that is, in Jesus." On
hearing this, they were baptized in
the name of the Lord Jesus. When
Paul had laid his hands on them, the
Holy Spirit came upon them, and they
spoke in tongues and prophesied

– altogether there were about twelve
of them.

GOSPEL Mark 1:4-11

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Mark.*
John the baptizer appeared in the
wilderness, proclaiming a baptism
of repentance for the forgiveness
of sins. And people from the whole
Judean countryside and all the
people of Jerusalem were going
out to him, and were baptized by
him in the river Jordan, confessing
their sins. Now John was clothed
with camel's hair, with a leather belt
around his waist, and he ate locusts
and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The
one who is more powerful than I is
coming after me; I am not worthy to
stoop down and untie the thong of
his sandals. I have baptized you with
water; but he will baptize you with
the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus
came from Nazareth of Galilee and
was baptized by John in the Jordan.
And just as he was coming up out
of the water, he saw the heavens
torn apart and the Spirit descending
like a dove on him. 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.