

The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – BAPTISM OF THE LORD 10th January 2021

Year B – SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 17th January 2021

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

'You are my Son, the beloved; my favour rests on you.'

1st Reading:	<i>Isaiah 55:1-11</i>
Psalm 28:1-4, 9-10:	<i>The Lord will bless his people with peace.</i>
2nd Reading:	<i>1 John 5:1-9</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	<i>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!</i>
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.</i>

This Week's Good News -Baptism of the Lord

Dear Friends,

The liturgical season of Christmas comes to a conclusion this Sunday with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord.

Jesus' baptism by John was a mystical experience that Jesus felt deep within his soul at the crucial turning point of his life. The opening of the Heavens with the Holy Spirit, descending as a dove upon Jesus, and the Voice declaring of Him, "This is My beloved Son with Whom I am well pleased," are God's revelation to mankind the Mystery that He is Triune. The presence of the Triune God at this baptism, reveals Jesus' true identity and mission. The Heavens opening also indicates that this was a moment of God's powerful intervention in human history and in the life of His Son. His baptism by John was a very important event in the life of Jesus. First, it was a moment of decision. It marked the end of Jesus' private life which had prepared him for his public ministry. Second, it was a moment of identification with his people in their God-ward movement initiated by John the Baptist. Third, it was a moment of approval. Jesus might have been waiting for a signal of approval from his Heavenly Father, and during his baptism Jesus got this approval of Himself as the Father's "beloved Son." Fourth, it was a moment of conviction.

At this baptism, Jesus received certainties (assurances) from heaven about His identity and the nature of His mission: a) He was the "Chosen One" and the "beloved Son of God"; b) his mission of saving mankind would be fulfilled, not by conquering the Romans, but by becoming the "suffering servant" of God, i.e., by the cross. Fifth, it was a moment of equipment. When He descended on Jesus in the form of a dove (symbol of gentleness), the Holy Spirit equipped Jesus with the power of preaching the "Good News" (that God is a loving Father who wants to save all human beings from their sins through His Son Jesus), in contrast to the "axe" and "fire" preaching of John the Baptist about an angry God's judgment on sinners.

The baptism of Jesus reminds us of our identity and mission. First, it reminds us of who we are and Whose we are. By Baptism we become the adoptive sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus,



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members of his Church, heirs of Heaven, and temples of the Holy Spirit. We become incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ, and made sharers in the priesthood of Christ. Hence, "Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other Sacraments" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1213).

This is the day for us to remember the graces we have received in Baptism and to renew our Baptismal promises. On the day of our baptism, as Pope St. John Paul II explains, "We were anointed with the Oil of Catechumens, the sign of Christ's gentle strength, to fight against evil. Blessed water was poured over us, an effective sign of interior purification through the gift of the Holy Spirit. We were then anointed with Chrism to show that we were thus consecrated in the image of Jesus, the Father's Anointed One. The candle lighted from the Paschal Candle was a symbol of the light of Faith which our parents and godparents must have continually safeguarded and nourished with the life-giving grace of the Spirit." This is also a day for us to renew our Baptismal promises, consecrating ourselves to the Holy Trinity and "rejecting Satan and all his empty promises," which our profane world is constantly offering us through its mass-media of communication. Let us ask Our Lord today to make us faithful to our Baptismal promises. Let us thank Him for the privilege of being joined to His mission of preaching the "Good News" by our transparent Christian lives of love, mercy, service, and forgiveness.

Deacon Des

Year B – SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 17th January 2021

Gospel: John 1:35-42

'We have found the Messiah'

1st Reading: *1 Samuel 3:3-10,19*

Psalm 39:2, 4, 7-10: *Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.*

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20*

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.*

This Week's Good News -Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Dear Friends,

Today's Gospel presents us with Jesus saying to his first two disciples, 'Come and see.' Jesus provides a very simple invitation but in accepting this invitation they had an encounter with him that changed their lives. John, in this Gospel passage, shows us a gradual recognition of who Jesus is. Here, John the Baptist calls Jesus 'the Lamb of God,' and Andrew calls Him 'the Messiah.'

Both the First reading which deals with the call of Samuel, and the Gospel reading which deals with the call of the first disciples, are of great relevance to our own calling or vocation. During the course of our lives, we will have many encounters, the vast majority of which will have no lasting impact on us. How many people have we met over the course of our working lives that we can say truly left a lasting impression, or where we really got to know them well and they us. Sometimes the encounters we have may even leave us troubled or poorer for it.

However, other encounters may turn out to be life changing and of great significance. This could be just meeting someone once, where an immediate bond is formed. A friendship or relationship that lasts the test of time, where we are able to reveal ourselves in a true light. When this happens, it is perhaps one of the most rewarding experiences of our lives.

This helps us in understanding the importance of this first meeting between Jesus and his first disciples. One meeting with Jesus and they left everything to follow him. The warmth and friendship which they felt



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in meeting Jesus left them feeling totally at peace in his presence. Unlike the first disciples, we cannot experience Jesus in the flesh, but we can encounter him spiritually in faith, as our friend and confidante.

The choice is ours. Jesus is constantly passing by and never turns away anyone who is truly looking for him. Jesus never imposes himself upon us, but if we are truly interested in knowing what friendship with him can mean, he says to us the same thing he said to the first disciples, 'Come and see.' God speaks to each of us in the depth of our hearts, calling us to intimacy with himself if that is what we desire. Unlike some of the encounters we have, we know that an encounter with Jesus will not just change our lives but save us as well.

Deacon Des.

Making an Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Parish News

Alan Coyle R.I.P: Please remember Alan Coyle, who sadly died in the early hours of Christmas Day, in your prayers. Please pray for Vanessa his wife and all the family during this difficult time. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord. Let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. At the time of writing, we have no Funeral details.

Week Commencing 11th January: Please note there will no Masses during the week, as Fr. Lee will be taking his post-Christmas break. Mass for the weekend will continue as normal.

Newsletter: This is a double issue Newsletter, another won't be printed for next weekend, however, Mass sheets will be provided.

Parish Office: During Lockdown Clair will be working from home on two of her three days. She can be contacted via the Parish mobile number issued above during working hours.

Sunday Coffee morning: If you would like to socialise virtually then why not join us for a chat and a short fun quiz from the comfort of your own home? Held every Sunday at 11.10 a.m. via the following Zoom details: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83024819984> Meeting ID: 830 2481 9984 Password: CM24Thrsx - All are welcome.



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Mass Times and Intentions

BAPTISM OF THE LORD - Year B		
Saturday 9 th January	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Alan Coyle RIP (K.& S. McDowell)
Sunday 10 th January	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Michael & Joe Jacobs RIP (M. Jacobs) People of the Parish
Monday 11th to Friday 15th January - No weekday Masses		
SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - Year B		
Saturday 16 th January	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Michael Aldridge RIP (T. Aldridge)
Sunday 17 th January	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Mary Pontin RIP (M. Jacobs) People of the Parish
Monday 18 th January	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	For the intentions of Luke & Zoe, parents of Tristram RIP (S. Watson)
Tuesday 19 th January	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Latin Mass (EF): 8:00 p.m.	
Wednesday 20 th January	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Rosary, Exposition of the Sacrament & Benediction: 7:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Thursday 21 st January <i>St. Agnes</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 22 nd January	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Rosary, Exposition of the Sacrament & Benediction: 7:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - Year B		
Saturday 23 rd January	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Alan Coyle RIP (C.& A. Rava)
Sunday 24 th January	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish



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