

Mass Intentions for week commencing 10th January 2021

Sat 9 th	10:00am 6:00pm	The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ The end of the Season of Christmas	Iwona's Intention People of the Parish
Sun 10 th	10:30am		Ana's Intention
Mon 11 th	10:00am	First week in Ordinary Time begins.	Clergy & Religious RIP & Tony Buckley
Tue 12 th	10:00am	St Aelred of Rievaulx	Cuca Barona
Wed 13 th	10:00 am	St Hilary	Simon Ridge RIP
Thur 14 th	10:00am	Feria	Lynda's Intention
Fri 15 th	10:00am	Feria	Evan Spyropoulos
Sat 16 th	10:00am 6:00 pm	Our Lady Vigil of Second Sunday (B)	Leslie Watts People of the Parish

Reflection Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In most years, this feast is celebrated on the Sunday after Epiphany. When Epiphany falls on either January 7 or 8, the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the Monday after Epiphany. In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism; it was a preparation for the Christian Baptism we celebrate today, and through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received. In accepting John's baptism, Jesus, though sinless, united himself with all sinners. The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, Jesus' baptism was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, the voice from heaven speaks to all who are present. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his baptism shows that something new is beginning through the baptism and ministry of Jesus. The baptism of Jesus is considered an important manifestation of God in the person of Jesus, another epiphany or unveiling. Jesus' baptism inaugurates his mission. Mark's Gospel moves quickly from the report of Jesus' baptism to Jesus' temptations in the desert to his ministry in Galilee after John's arrest. The end of the ministry of John the Baptist is the beginning of Jesus' ministry. In an analogous way, our Baptism inaugurates our mission as Christians. Surprisingly, on this the last day of the Christmas season the Gospel does not tell a story from Jesus' childhood. Instead the Gospel reveals Jesus' relationship to God: the Son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. We believe that through Baptism we are also made children of God.

Red Box: St. Ann's parish invites every family to have a Red Box supporting APF missionary work in their homes. Red boxes can be found at the back of the Church for those who do not already have them. Please return them when they are full. Thank you.

Envelopes and cards for Mass intentions can be found at the back of the Church. If you require a specific date please try to book it well in advance. If parishioners don't know how to go about having a Mass offered for their intentions, please contact the parish office.

Humour: A student made a bet with his friends at a college whether he could hug a girl without any reaction. The student came up to a pretty girl and hugged her without permission or warning. The surprised girl said, "What was that?" The guy smiled at her and said: "Direct marketing!" The girl slapped him soundly. "What was that?!" said the boy, holding his hurt cheek. "Customer feedback", said the young lady.

St. Ann's Catholic Church



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Once again we would like to express our sincere thanks for your support, cards, gifts, generous Christmas offerings and good wishes over the Christmas period. May the new-born Jesus bless and protect you always. We wish all our parishioners a joyful and blessed New Year! Again we would like to reiterate our special thanks to all who help out and support our Parish throughout the year as well as those who support the parish through their good will and prayers. May almighty God bless and protect you.

New Parishioners: Welcome to St. Ann's Parish! Please take a Parish Registration Form from the back of the church and kindly fill it out and return it to the Parish Office.

Pope Francis at Angelus on 6th January 2021 said that Let Christ's light shine in love for one another. On the Solemnity of the Epiphany Pope Francis invited us to proclaim the Gospel by allowing God's light of love to shine for others to see. Pope Francis joined Catholics around the world in celebrating the Solemnity of the Epiphany as it celebrates the same mystery as Christmas—the birth of Christ—but from the perspective of light and the manifestation of the Lord to all peoples. Christ's light should be welcomed in faith and needs to be brought to others in charity, through witness, in the proclamation of the Gospel. Reflecting on Isaiah's vision (60:1-6) the prophet's description of his time is more relevant than ever: darkness covers the earth, and thick darkness the peoples. In such obscurity, the prophet Isaiah announced the coming of the light given by God to Jerusalem and destined to shine on the path of all the peoples. This attractive vision invites hope, and reminds us that God's light overcomes all shadow of darkness. Turning to Matthew's telling of the Magi adoring Jesus (Mt 2:1-12) that the light foreseen by Isaiah was the Babe of Bethlehem, even if everyone did not accept His kingship. Jesus is the star who appeared on the horizon, the awaited Messiah, the One through whom God would inaugurate His kingdom of love, of justice and of peace. He was born not only for some, but for all men and women, for all peoples. But how does Christ's light come to shine everywhere and on everyone? Through the proclamation of the Gospel. God used this same "method" to come to us. In the Incarnation, God draws near to the other and assumes the reality of the other. The star is Christ but we too can and must also be the star for our brothers and sisters, as witnesses of the treasures of goodness and infinite mercy that the Redeemer offers freely to everyone. Everyone needs to welcome the light of Christ on this Epiphany, and allow ourselves to be guided—like the Magi—and converted by Christ. This is the journey of faith, through prayer and the contemplation of God's works, which continually fill us with every new joy and wonder.

A Prayer for our Parish - God our loving Father, pour out on us afresh the gifts of your Holy Spirit. As a parish community we recognise your presence in our midst. Enable us to receive and share your unconditional love and mercy with our neighbours in charity. Let your Wisdom enlighten us to provide solace, healing and harmony through your life-giving Word and sacraments. Strengthened by your grace, we pray for protection and guidance for our community. Impart your abundant blessings on our parish and families so that we may continue to be your instruments in our world today. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.