

St John the Baptist's, Perth

SUNDAY HOLY MASS
6.30pm (anticipated Sunday Mass)
& on Sunday
9am, 11am, 6.30pm

WEEKDAY HOLY MASS
Monday-Saturday
at 10am, Tuesday 7pm
or as announced

MSZA ŚW.
PO POLSKU
Niedziela 5pm
Pojednania 4.15pm

SACRAMENT of
CONFESSION
Saturday
5-6pm

Priests: Very Rev. Steven Canon Mulholland MA STL VE, St John's Presbytery, 20 Melville Street, Perth, PH1 5PY (01738 259371)
and Rev. Bogdan Palka SDS 16 Melville Street Perth PH1 5PY (01738 564182)

Permanent Deacons: Rev. Len Moir (01738 451677) and Rev. Krzysztof Jablonski (07851 735590)



Baptism of Our Lord Year C 13th January 2019

A new beginning

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

The Baptism of the Lord closes the Christmas season. All of the Christmas feasts have drawn our gaze towards Jesus. There are many threads that tie together these feasts: new life, family, light, humility and poverty.

But there's one theme that we often overlook throughout Christmas. We also overlook this theme throughout much of the year. That's the Cross. The Cross is the destiny of this child who is the King of Kings: the "King of the Jews" as the inscription on the Cross-INRI reminds us.

The Cross is also the theme of today's feast, the Baptism of the Lord. First ask yourself: why is this feast part of Christmastime? One answer is that Jesus' baptism is his "second birth". Jesus

has no need to be baptized, but it was "the birth" of His earthly mission, which was to travel to Calvary. Jesus had no need to be baptized. But the again, Jesus never had to die on the Cross, either.

Jesus did everything freely. Jesus was baptized as his first step toward freely embracing the Cross. In embracing the Cross, he embraced you as a sinner.

Baptism means ending an old way of life. But it

also means beginning a new way of life. For Jesus, this meant an end to a comfortable life of the home, living in peace and quiet, and beginning his public ministry and journey to the Cross. His Baptism in the Jordan River was the beginning of his mission. The Cross was the end. Your baptism was the beginning of your spiritual life in the Church. What is its end?

Canon Mulholland



Teas after the
11am Mass
on Sunday
and 10am Mass
on Tuesdays

**Priests for
Scotland
A LIFE
WORTH
LIVING**



Please note
Saturday Vigil Mass
(the anticipated
Mass of Sunday)
will change from
6.30pm to 4pm
from Saturday
2nd February.



During a Service of Solemn Vespers in St John the Baptist's Church, Perth, Bishop Stephen Robson presented Miss Susan Cassidy with a Papal Award, Pro Ecclesia and Pontifice, in recognition of her service to the parish and the diocese.

As a child, Susan sang in the church choir at St John's and for the past 30 years she has been its organist and choir mistress, accompanying and enriching the liturgy at

Mass, at services of Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation, weddings and funerals.

Bishop Stephen paid tribute to Susan's talents as a composer and arranger too. "She has a gift that combines joy and reverence."

"Miss Cassidy has also served as the Director of Music for Dunkeld Diocese's pilgrimages to Lourdes for over 30 years. This, combined with her lifetime's work as a Catholic teacher, at

first in Lawside Academy and St John's High, Dundee, and then at St Columba's High School and St John's Academy, Perth, makes her a worthy recipient of this prestigious award; the highest award a lay person can be given."

The service was also attended by Canon Steven Mulholland, St John's parish priest, and Susan's brother, Fr Mark Cassidy, parish priest at the Immaculate Conception parish in Lochee, Dundee.



Friends and family, including the church choir pictured above, attended a reception following the presentation.

Prayers

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently and for all whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Recently dead: Lynne Leask and Peter Dwyer.

Anniversaries: Geraldine Blanchette, Michael, Bridget, & Ann McManamo and Marty Grubb

Fidelium animae per misericordiam Dei requiescant in pace. Amen

Chrzest

Dziś w naszych modlitwach i rozważaniach pochylamy się nad tajemnicą chrztu Pana Jezusa. Jak to przekazują świadkowie tego wydarzenia, Jezus przyjął chrzest od Jana Chrzciciela w wodach Jordanu. Gdy się modlił, „otworzyło się niebo i Duch Święty zstąpił na Niego [...], a z nieba odezwał się głos: «Tyś jest mój Syn umiłowany, w Tobie mam upodobanie»”. W świetle tych słów, które staną się dla nas drogowskazami, przyjrzyjmy się temu wydarzeniu, które każdy z nas przeżył wiele lat temu, gdy nasi rodzice i chrzestni przynieśli nas do kościoła, abyśmy zostali ochrzczeni.

Chrystus wszedł do Jordanu. Wiemy, że Pan nie potrzebował obmycia z grzechów, bo nie miał żadnego grzechu! Ale my, gdy przyjmowaliśmy chrzest, zostaliśmy obmyci z grzechu pierworodnego i z każdego innego grzechu! Chrzest święty gładzi grzech. Dlatego tak ważne jest, aby rodzice dbali nie tylko o byt materialny dzieci, ale także o ich duszę. W momencie chrztu z człowieka od danego grzechowi rodzi się człowiek świętości i dobra. Na Jezusa zstąpił Duch Święty. Sakrament chrztu sprawia, że także na nas zstępuje i trwa w nas Duch Święty. Jest to niezmiernie ważne, aby On – Duch Boży – przenikał nasze wnętrza swoim blaskiem. Tenże Duch Święty jest bowiem światłością człowieka ochrzczonego. On jest dawcą siedmiu darów: mądrości, rozumu, rady, męstwa, umiejętności, pobożności i bojaźni Bożej. Dzięki Jego obecności każdy z nas jest wyposażony we wszystko, co jest potrzebne do osiągnięcia zbawienia i świętości. Ojciec Niebieski wyznał, że Jezus jest Jego „Synem umiłowanym”. Do każdego z nas Bóg w sakramencie chrztu wyrzekł te same słowa: jesteś moim umiłowanym dzieckiem – Ja jestem twoim ojcem. Skoro ja ciebie



umiłowałem i przyjąłem za swe dziecko, ty też mnie umiłuj i uznaj we mnie ojca – Boga. Tak wygląda nasze rozważanie w perspektywie chrztu Pana Jezusa. Jest jeszcze jedna ważna myśl. Otóż sakrament chrztu dotyka nie tylko każdego człowieka z osobna. Właśnie ten sakrament tworzy nas – chrześcijan! Chrzest rodzi Bogu i Kościołowi nowe dzieci. Chrzest jest zanurzeniem w śmierć Jezusa i Jego zmartwychwstanie. Chrzest jest także wszczepieniem w samego Boga. W Ewangelii św. Jana czytamy takie słowa: „Ja jestem krzewem winnym, wy – latoroślami. Kto trwa we Mnie, a Ja w nim, ten przynosi owoc obfity, ponieważ beze Mnie nic nie możecie uczynić” (J 15,5). Przez chrzest każdy z nas został wszczepiony w Jezusa. Ta sama moc życia przenika i nas, i Jezusa. Z Niego przechodzi ona nieustannie na nas i wzywa nas do doskonałości. Ta moc – dar Boga – sprawia, że nieustannie porzucamy nasze grzechy i zaniedbania. Ta moc kształtuje w nas człowieka niezwyklego formatu, człowieka szlachetnego serca. Ta moc nigdy nie zamyka się w sobie, ale kieruje nas ku bliźnim potrzebującym pomocy. Przez chrzest stajemy się dziećmi samego Boga. Cieszymy się, że jesteśmy świątyniami Ducha Świętego, który udziela nam swych siedmiu darów. Radujmy się, że przenikają nas ożywcze moce Jezusa, który jest naszym „winnym krzewem”. Dopelnieniem i celem chrztu jest zjednoczenie z Bogiem. Za

chwilę będziemy mogli zjednoczyć się z Jezusem w Komunii Świętej. Wniknij, Panie, do naszych serc, obdarz nas darem Ducha Świętego i prowadź do swego królestwa.

Sunday Reflection

Spowiedź i Msza św.

W każdą niedzielę istnieje możliwość skorzystania z Sakramentu Spowiedzi od godz. 4:15pm. Zapraszamy do regularnej spowiedzi i do pełnego uczestnictwa we Mszy św. Msza św. w każdą niedzielę o godz. 5pm.

Liturgia dziecięca

W każdą pierwszą niedzielę miesiąca jest liturgia Mszy św. dla dzieci. Najbliższa Msza św. dla dzieci będzie 3-go lutego 2019 r. o godz. 5pm. Serdecznie zapraszamy wszystkie dzieci!

Children's Liturgy

Duszpasterskie odwiedziny - „Kolęda”

Jest już możliwość zaproszenia kapłana z tradycyjną „Wizytą Kolędową”, by poświęcić mieszkanie na Nowy 2019 Rok. Przygotowując się do wizyty postaramy się o stół nakryty białym obrusem, na stole umieścimy Pismo św. (jeśli takowe posiadamy), krzyż i świece. Wodę święconą kapłan przyniesie ze sobą. Wszelkie zgłoszenia już teraz można robić dzwoniąc do ks. Bogdana na nr parafialny 01738 564182.

House Blessings



Refleksja

Ilu ludzi przybiegło do rzeki, ilu się razem kąpało!

Czy tylko chcieli umyć uszy, ręce, dwie nogi, ciało?

Czy tylko chcieli umyć plecy, włosy, szyję, zęby?

Czy tylko wszyscy wołali: Święty Janie, umyj nam gęby, podbródki, chudszy wystające żebra, wodą błyszczącą w słońcu, jakby była ze srebra!?

Tylu ludzi zbiegło się do rzeki, podchodzili tak jak do wody.

Może chcieli bez szamponu, bo taniej, na święta umyć brody.

Tym, co teraz powiem, wszystkich wzruszę: chcieli umyć nie tylko ciało, ale także zaniedbane dusze.

Nagle Jezus w rzece przystanął wśród brudasów jasny jak anioł. Kiedy przyjdzie kąpać się w rzece, miednicy, łazience, jeziorze, Ty, który mówisz wprost z nieba, obmyj nam serca, Boże. A serce pamiętać każde musi, by nie dokuczać mamusi.

Ks. Jan Twardowski:
„Chrzest w Jordanie”

Collections

Last Sunday's income was: St. John's - £1536.75; Votives: Candles - £117.40; Shop - £19.36 and Catholic Papers - £6.

Union of Catholic Mothers

On Tuesday 22nd January the UCM Burns Supper will follow the usual 7pm Mass. Tickets cost £3.



Special Collection

Thank you for your contributions to last Sunday's special collection in support of the work done by Justice and Peace. The collection amounted to £544.96.

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy re-starts today, at the 9am Mass.

Catholic Papers

Catholic newspapers, the Scottish Catholic Observer, Catholic Herald, Catholic Times etc are available in the church porch - please take copies and share them with the wider community.

E-Bulletin

Sign up to receive a copy of the weekly newsletter by email - keep in touch when you are on holiday or unable to come to Mass. Sign up - <https://www.stjohns-perth.org.uk/get-st-john-the-baptists-church-bulletin-by-email/> or email bulletin@stjohns-perth.org.uk

Lunch Club

Our Lunch Club has restarted, on Mondays at 12noon. You are welcome to join us for soup and a roll, just £2.50.

New Rota

The new rota for Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist is now available from the sacristy.

Justice and Peace

Christians, strong in the certainty of their faith, must demonstrate that by placing the dignity of the human person with all his or her needs in first place, the obstacles created by injustice will begin to fall. They are aware that God, who walked with the refugees of the Exodus in search of a land free of any slavery is still walking with today's refugees in order to accomplish his loving plan together with them.

Refugees: A Challenge to Solidarity,
Pontifical Council "Cor Unum",
For the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant
People, 1992



SCIAF

Uniting to end poverty

Caritas Scotland

Board Members

SCIAF is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland. We work with some of the poorest and most vulnerable people around the world, regardless of gender, class, race or religion.

We are recruiting one member of the Board of Directors and two members to the Outreach and Fundraising Committee.

Please visit www.aspenpeople.co.uk/SCIAF for more information or call Debbie Shields on 0141 212 7555.

Closing date: Monday 14th January 2018



Parish Shop

Open after Mass
on Sunday



For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are.

Gospel Acclamation

Some is coming, said John,
someone greater than I.
He will baptise you
with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

ARE YOU GOING TO BE IN HOSPITAL? DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS IN HOSPITAL?

There are Hospital Visit Request Cards available at the back of the church - and pens.

Please complete the card and hand it to a Pass Keeper

Justice and Peace

- Pastoral Letter on behalf of the Bishops of Scotland

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Winston Churchill is quoted as saying that: "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all those other forms that have been tried."

Those living in a democracy can understand what he means, for often people feel that they have no say in determining what those in power do, that they are unable to influence decisions that affect their lives, that government is remote from the people that is governed.

Good government, though, is essential, and democracy, despite its limitations, does allow people to work for the good government that we need at national and international level.

For major issues confronting the world today -such as climate change, war and conflict, global poverty, refugees and migrants -cannot be solved by individuals no matter how committed.

But that is not to say that governments can be left to get on with it.

Those working for justice and peace, those concerned about saving the planet, those engaged in caring for those in need, can be frustrated by the policies that governments put into practice.

Pressure needs to be put on governments to persuade them to act in the common good, with concern for the whole of humanity: to act for

peace, to welcome the stranger, to care for the environment, to protect the unborn and the elderly.

To bring about good government those with a true Christian spirit need to engage with politics, and that means more than just voting in elections.

Every time there is an election you get to vote for a candidate -but that is not enough.

Who decides who the candidates are? Who picks the candidates -the political parties do. If you are not involved in a party you have no say in that. Unless you are a party member you can't help choose the candidates nor can you help steer party policy in the right direction. Those Catholics therefore who get involved in party politics are putting their faith into action.

Pope Francis has repeatedly said that "political engagement is one of the highest expressions of charity".

He urges those who follow Christ to engage in politics and says that to do so they need to be "courageous, because politics is a sort of daily martyrdom: to seek the common good without allowing oneself to be corrupted". Once elected, politicians, as we know, are influenced by public opinion.

Each of us has to ask ourselves: How can I influence public opinion if I never express an opinion in public? How can I influence government

and politicians if I never let them know what I think?

In a democracy it is never enough just to allow ourselves to be governed, to presume that those who make decisions will make the right decisions, that the values we have are the values that they will put into practice.

Democracy puts an obligation on the citizen to be engaged with the political process, to work for the good of society, to be active in trying to achieve good government - and not just leave it to others.

The followers of Jesus Christ are called to be like John the Baptist. He was a voice crying in the wilderness. Christians are called to be a voice for the voiceless, a voice upholding the dignity of every human person, a voice proclaiming the values of Jesus Christ, a voice urging governments and politicians and those in power to act always for the common good of all humanity.

We are that voice: sometimes we may shout, sometimes we may whisper, but we are a voice that should never be silent. May this New Year be a time of peace and happiness for you, your families and for all of humanity.

With my prayers and best wishes,



+ William Nolan
Bishop of Galloway



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