



The Baptism of the Lord

In the Gospel in today's Mass, God says to us ' My favour rests on you when a child is baptised by the Priest'. During the Sacrament of Baptism the words used are, 'My favour rests on you'. God also acted to show his favour to us by pouring the Holy Spirit into our hearts at Baptism.



Jesus came as a servant to all people. The Jewish people were God's chosen people who had been graced by God in a special way. In the past God had favoured the people of Israel. God chose Israel not because he loved Israel more but because God wanted the people of Israel to be a messenger of God's love to all the other nations. It was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ.

In the second reading Peter addresses the pagan Centurion, Cornelius, and his household telling them, 'The truth I have come to realise is that God does not have favourites but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him'. Today is the feast of the Lord's Baptism. We give thanks for our own baptism, this very special sign of God's favour. In today's Gospel according to Mark, John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the chosen one, that he was not fit to undo the straps of his sandals. John said this to show the people that he, John, was not the Christ that the people expected. Jesus was baptized by John in the river Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water the heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded, 'This is my Son, the beloved. Listen to him'.

The Prophet Isaiah wrote his prophecy long before Jesus was born. He describes Jesus' mission very well. It is written, 'He brings true justice to the Nations by his words and deeds.' Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Each of us also has the power, by our baptism, to serve the cause of right. Isaiah tells us, 'I have called you to serve the cause of right. I have taken you by the hand and formed you.'

Lectio Divina

MASS INTENTIONS

- ✦ Sat 9th 6pm: Agatha Greene MM, Tom Tolan, Nancy & Phil Walls, Dolores O'Byrne, Rose Farrell (BR), Jack McGuinness (BR)
- ✦ Sun 10th 9.30am: Mary Bogue MM, James & Margaret Clerkin, Peggy Loughran (Rem), Sean O'Brien
- ✦ Sun 10th 11am: John Flanagan, Jack Leonard, Bernie Dowling
- ✦ Mon 11th 10am: Mass Card Intentions
- ✦ Tues 12th 10am: Philip & Ann Fagan and all who supported the Fagan family
- ✦ Sat 16th 10am: The Brennan Family
- ✦ Sun 17th 9.30am: Tommy Ryan, Fran Carabini, Harry, John & Gerry Grimes, Noel McDonough
- ✦ Sun 17th 11am: Tom & Belle McCourt, Annie Power, Michael Phelan, John Galvin

OUR SYMPATHY

To the family of Joe O'Connor, Balbriggan Street, who died recently. May he Rest in Peace.

FEASTDAYS

15th Jan – St Ita, 16th Jan – St Fursa

PLEASE NOTE

All Masses are being broadcast by Webcam/Radio. The church is closed except for Private Prayer until further notice.

WELCOME



We are delighted to welcome our new Archbishop-elect of Dublin, Dr. Dermot Farrell, bishop of Ossory. He is taking over from Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, who retires having reached the age of 75. The new Archbishop hails from Castlegeoghan, Co. Westmeath and is sixty-six years old. He has vast experience in a wide range of church business and we wish him every success in his onerous task of looking after administering our diocese. And, of course, we wish Archbishop Diarmuid Martin every good health and happiness in his retirement.

COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE GROUP

Given the renewed urgent request for the more vulnerable among us to stay at home if at all possible, the Skerries Covid-19 Community Response Group is offering once again to help with shopping, prescription collection etc. The group of local Skerries residents is working with the Skerries Community Association and Skerries Age Friendly. Just call or text either of these numbers. 085 81 28 509 / 083 01 05 946. Phone lines are open from 8 am to 8 pm every day. In using this service, please understand that the volunteers will be strictly adhering to health guidelines as outlined by the HSE in order to protect both the volunteers, and those we are helping, from any spread of the virus.

PARISH BOOK CLUB

During the month of January, we will be reading **Catholicism - A Journey to the Heart of the Faith** by **Robert Barron**. Starting from the essential foundation of Jesus Christ's Incarnation, life and teachings, Bishop Barron moves through the defining elements of Catholicism - from sacraments, worship and prayer to Mary, the apostles and saints. This book is paired with Bishop Barron's acclaimed documentary film series of the same name which can be viewed on wordonfire.org



YOUNG CHURCH DUBLIN – YOUNG ADULT ALPHA

COURSE: The team would like to invite you to join us for our Young Adult Alpha online course which we will start from **Monday, 18th January, from 7.00-8:15pm**. The course will be run from the comfort of your own home over Zoom for 11 weeks until March 29th. All participants must register by emailing your name and contact details to kirsten.mahon@dublindiocese.ie

FOUNDATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

for Young Adults – This Programme offers participants a unique opportunity to explore and develop Gospel transformational leadership Skills. It is run jointly between the Catholic and Church of Ireland Dioceses of Dublin and a team of young adult volunteers. Commitment will be on Saturday **mornings 16 Jan, 20 Feb, 20 Mar initially**) More Information – <https://www.evangelisation.ie/2020/08/11/foundational-leadership-programme-sign-up-2020/>

30 YEARS AGO IN THE PARISH

- It was back to school for all pupils of our Parish schools this week
- A savings scheme was being put in place for all those who wished to travel to Lourdes with the parish group in the coming summer
- The Methodist Church community was thanked for their donation to Maria House
- The Active Retirement group was planning their outing to the Gaiety Pantomime
- Local sports groups were getting back in action after the New Year - the athletics club, the bowling club, the Swimming club to mention a few
- Skerries Historical Society was opening their New Year with a talk on "The Harbour of Skerries, a haven since Norse Times", given by Brendan Grimes

SKERRIES HARPS GAA CLUB

Christmas Trees will be collected on Saturday 9th January for disposal environmentally. Thanks to all who bought Tags and supported our fundraiser. Tags available from Denise on 087 2843590. Our Charity Golf for St Vin de Paul Society funds was cancelled following the latest Government issued restrictions. Paul has set up an online donation page at www.idonate.ie/skerriesharpsforsvp for those who wish to contribute. The page will be live till 31 January. The G4M&O's daily dip challenge for St. Michaels House Special School raised €2665! Thanks to everyone who supported. Due to the latest Government guidelines, Term 2 of our Allcare Pharmacy sponsored Juvenile Academy is deferred. You can still register interest by filling in the google form and Louise will let everyone know the exact start date when we know more. Term 2 will be for children born 2014 to 2016. Numbers will be restricted in accordance with guidelines. Zingo result for 3 January: 3-7-5-2-1-4-6. Next Sundays Jackpot is €4,600 and Dividend is €450. Enter online via the link on our website for just €5 for 3 lines. Thanks to all who support Zingo. Membership for 2021 is now open and can be paid Online – see website for full details. Club contact details are: Secretary - secretary.skerriesharps.dublin@gaa.ie

Parish Website: www.stpatricksskerries.ie Email: info@stpatricksskerries.ie Ph (01)8106771

Fr Melvyn 01 8491250; Fr James 01 8106468 Parish Mobile No - for out of normal hours, **emergencies only** - 085 2320479

Bulletin Email: skerriesbulletin@gmail.com