



The Baptism of the Lord 10 January 2021

It may seem strange, but this is a Christmas Feast. Strange if we think of Christmas only in terms of the Baby in Bethlehem, but not if we have followed the ideas of the Feasts of Holy Family and especially Epiphany, and have seen the Season in terms of the growing manifestation or appearing of the Son of God: first to the shepherds and then to the wise men from the East. Now in the River Jordan, Jesus, Son of Mary, is revealed to all as the fullness of all God's promises: "This is my Son, the Beloved". On this day we stand before the revelation of God's love for us, such that he would send his only Son into the world. Christmas without the Baptism of the Lord, and the words that are spoken from heaven, would be incomplete, since it is only in them that we fully see the wonder of what happened in Bethlehem. As we come to the end of Christmas today, and look forward to hearing the Gospels in Ordinary Time, we do so having been shown who it is we listen to: the only Son of God, the Beloved.

Marriage Matters: *You are my beloved:* How we each adapt to and accept the many differences in each other is a remarkable insight into the Spirit of God deeply seeded within us. It is this which calls us to say to one another: you are my chosen one in whom my heart delights! Let us celebrate with joy God's love for us and for all marriages.

Think Vocations: At baptism, when we entered the family of God, we received the gift of faith as well as the promise of eternal life. Let us try to find out the name of the priest or deacon who baptised us and pray for them whether they are living or deceased.

Diocesan Prayer Cycle: Let us pray for the people of the parish of St Mary and St Philip Neri, Radcliffe, for Fr Philip Brady, their parish priest, and for the parish primary school. As they live out their baptismal mission, may they draw others to Christ, God's Beloved Son.

Prayer During the Pandemic: O God, our refuge and our shield, even when we walk in the shadow of death you are there at our side. Be with your people in this time of danger: bring strength to the afflicted and protection to those untouched by disease. Give us love and courage that we may trust in your power to save and reach out to all who need our care. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Act of Spiritual Communion: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment 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.

Masses / Services This Week

Unlike in previous lockdowns, we are able to keep our churches open for public worship this time. Government guidelines require people attending places of worship to wear a face mask (unless exempt for some reason)

Sunday – The Baptism of the Lord
Masses at SL & live-streamed Sat 6.30pm & Sun 9.30am
Masses at SsPP Sun 8am & Sun 11am

Monday – Weekday (Week 1)
No Mass today

Tuesday – Weekday or St Aelred of Rievaulx
Mass at SL & live-streamed 6.30pm

Wednesday – Weekday or St Hilary
Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am

Thursday – Weekday
Mass at SsPP 6.30pm

Friday – Weekday
Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am

Saturday – Weekday or Memorial of BVM
Mass at SsPP 12noon

Sunday – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Masses at SL & live-streamed Sat 6.30pm & Sun 9.30am
Masses at SsPP Sun 8am & Sun 11am

**Live-streaming is via our Facebook page:
Our Lady of Hope Parish, Salford**
(<https://www.facebook.com/ourladyofhopesalford/>)

Sick: All those who are suffering from the coronavirus and others who are sick at this time, including, Robert Livesey, Nuala Corridan, Tomas Cusack, John Ainsworth, Emily Martin (a sick child), Marie Campbell, David Pickup, Sue Remmer. Sr Therese Murphy, Pat Griffin

Lately Dead: All who have died of the coronavirus and others who have died recently: Molly Robinson, Sylvia Davies, Anthony Philip Carroll, Graham Hadfield, Denis Wright, Jean Oldfield

Anniversaries: Maura Murray, Jack & Bridget Sloyan, Michelle Bell

Birthday Remembrance: Rita Chapman

Masses Received: Maura Murray (A), A sick person, Jack Sloyan (A), Bridget Sloyan (A), Alan Roberts, Jack & Bridget Sloyan (A), Rita Chapman (BR), Denis Wright (LD), Michelle Bell (A), Jean Oldfield (LD)

National Prayer Cycle: During Ordinary Time (winter) we are asked to pray for Peace on Earth, Openness to the Word of God, Christian Unity, The Sick and those who care for them, Victims of trafficking and those who work to combat it, the Unemployed

White Flower Appeal: This weekend we hold our annual appeal to support the work of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC). Baskets are available for any monetary contribution you may wish to make and there are postcards for you to sign if you wish to support their current campaign to stop home abortions.

The Drama Displayed: A Journey of Salvation: This is a free series of online talks offered by the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst. A range of excellent speakers will examine the key moments of salvation history, with the aid of great works of art. At 7.30pm every second Thursday, from 14 January to 25 March. For further information and for registration: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-drama-displayed/>

World Peace Day: Pax Christi's celebration of the Holy Father's World Peace Day message takes place on 17 January, Peace Sunday. As in past years, they have created a wide range of resources to help parishes, communities and families reflect and celebrate peace-making on that day. See these at: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2021/>

Pax Christi invite you to join them for their National Peace Sunday Reflection, on Saturday 16 January, 6pm GMT, gathering on zoom to pray, share and reflect on Pope Francis' message. You can register for this via www.eventbrite.co.uk. If you have any questions or problems registering for this event, please contact the office at admin@paxchristi.org.uk.

Christian Unity: The annual Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity runs from 18 to 25 January. The Churches on the Height are going to produce a short online service for the week, which we will ask people to watch at 2pm on Sunday 24 January, followed by a Zoom gathering at 3pm for those who want to have a brief discussion about the topic raised or just a chance to catch up with friends from the other churches. Details will follow for the links needed to join in.

Thank You Message from Caritas: We are very grateful for the financial and practical donations received in response to our Advent 2020 campaign #MiracleOfKindness. Thank you for promoting the campaign within your parish communities, which is so important. As a result, we were able to sustain our services providing food throughout the Christmas period and we can continue to provide essential support during this latest period of lockdown. We will provide a further update on the wider impact you have made in the coming weeks. As we now enter lockdown once again, with its associated challenges especially for the most vulnerable, we ask you please to keep our service users, volunteers and staff in your prayers. Thank you.

PACT Meeting: Our parish advisory and coordinating team will be meeting (on Zoom) on Wednesday evening.

500 Club (SL): The two remaining draws from 2020 (November & December) will take place this weekend and then a full list of prize winners for 2020 will be published. As noted back in October, the decline in membership of this St Luke's 500 Club means that we had to reduce the level of prize money and also means that the Club is no longer viable. Anyone wishing to remain as part of a 500 Club in the parish (or to become a member for the first time) will need to join the Our Lady of Hope 500 Club. Subscriptions are £5 per month or £60 per year. If interested, please contact office@ourladyofhope.org.uk.

Sacramental Programme 2020-21: In these challenging times it is all the more important that our children understand God's love for them, His desire to share their lives in all their ups and downs and how He does this especially through the Sacraments. For this reason we are especially pleased to be able to begin to help you to prepare your children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Although the current circumstances, which limit large gatherings of people, mean that we cannot prepare our children for the Sacraments in the usual way, in collaboration with our school we will offer an adapted programme that brings together the important learning environments of the school, the parish and the home, making use of the technology available to us. For those whose children are Catholic and in year 3 at St Luke's school, you will be contacted via the channels of communication the school has and will be given the option to take part in the programme automatically.

If your child is not in year 3 at St Luke's school, is a Catholic, year 3 or above and has not yet made their first Holy Communion, please make contact with us to register your child as part of the programme for 2020-21. We can be contacted by email at priests@ourladyofhope.org.uk or telephone on 0161 736 2696.

Lockdown Update: Following the representations made to the Government by Cardinal Nichols and other Faith Leaders during the last period of lockdown, places of worship are allowed to remain open at the present time, though there are some restrictions on activities: Only 30 people can be present for funerals, 6 for baptisms and weddings can only take place in exceptional circumstances. Please remember that there is no obligation at present to attend church on Sundays or Holydays, so please only attend if you are comfortable doing so and if you feel it is safe for you and your family to do so. It is vital that we continue to protect our own safety and that of others. This means staying away if you have any symptoms (or suspect that you might have the virus) and, most importantly, it means that there should be no mixing with other households whilst you are in church (or before and after the service). Thank you for your cooperation.

Stewards: I want to first of all say a big "Thank You" to those parishioners who volunteered as stewards and have been enabling us to keep our churches open for public worship over these past six or seven months. We all owe them a great debt of gratitude. A few are having to withdraw for the moment because they are in vulnerable categories (or looking after those who are) and so we could do with some more volunteers in order to spread the load and make sure we can remain open for worship. If you would like to volunteer, please contact priests@ourladyofhope.org.uk or telephone 0161 736 2696. Thank you.

Feastday: Next Sunday (17 January) is the feastday of our parish patron, Our Lady of Hope. Let us pray for our parish and ask Our Lady for her protection at this difficult time.

Next Week's Newsletter: Margaret Haydock

Please send notices before Wednesday

Email: newsletter@ourladyofhope.org.uk