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Link for vacancies throughout the Diocese <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs>

The Baptism of the Lord

Sunday 12th January 2024

Page 118 **Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7** **Acts of the Apostles 10: 34-38** **Gospel Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22**

This weekend's feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the conclusion of the Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary Time in the liturgy of the Church. It commemorates a transition from Jesus' hidden life to that of His public ministry. It echoes the theme of the Epiphany in that the Baptism of the Lord is another manifestation announcing the divinity of Jesus to all His first followers and to the disciples of John the Baptist.

The first reading from the Book of Isaiah, a prophet who prophesied from 740 BC for 64 years. He speaks of God's servant who will be subtle, not making a lot of unnecessary noise or disturbance, but will bring justice, peace and hope to all nations. A servant who will be gentle, who will lift up those who are weak or broken. Christians see this as a message about the coming of Jesus who fulfils this promise from Isaiah

In the second reading St Paul speaks to Cornelius, a centurion in charge of a Roman cohort stationed in Caesarea Philippi north of Judea. He tells him and his household how Jesus started his ministry after His baptism by John the Baptist in the River Jordon and how He was anointed by the Holy Spirit and was God's Son who was bringing a new message. This message and teaching was not just for the Jews but for people from all nations that are willing to follow Him and act according to His teaching.

In Luke's Gospel the people wondered if John the Baptist was the Messiah but he clarified that he baptised with water while someone more powerful would come to baptise with the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was baptised by John, heaven opened, the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove and a voice from heaven affirmed Jesus as God's beloved Son. This revelation of the Holy Trinity and the example of the humility and obedience of Jesus should be a powerful reminder of the grace bestowed upon us in our baptism so that we can lead a life of faith in Jesus, love of God and service and help to everyone we meet.

Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year, a "Jubilee of Hope" and calls us to journey this year as "pilgrims of hope". At this feast day our hope is profoundly connected to the incarnation, baptism and start of the ministry of Jesus. Malcolm.

Mass times		Feast Days	
6 pm Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 11th	St Aelred of Rievaulx	Born 1110 in Hexham, the son of a priest. Educated at cathedral school at Durham. Spent several years at the court of King David I of Scotland and rose to the rank of <i>Master of the Household</i> . Age 24 he left to become a monk at Rievaulx Abbey, now in Yorkshire. Became novice master and remembered for his great tenderness, patience and friendship. Helped found new monasteries.. He was then appointed Abbot of Rievaulx and in charge of eventually 5 daughter monasteries for the rest of his life. Prolific writer on spiritual friendship, history and the life stories of St Edward the Confessor, St Ninian and his friend King David I of Scotland. Considered one of the finest Abbeys in England in the Middle Ages. Had a reputation for his inspirational sermons and advice to abbots and the monastic communities. In his last years was a heroic example as he suffered a succession of infirmities. Died 12 th January 1167. Shrine created at Rievaulx Abbey.
	9.30 am Mass	Sunday 12th January	The Baptism of the Lord Manamel Joseph Devasia RIP
6.30 pm Mass Thanksgiving Mass for the gift of the New Year from Chimaobi	Monday 13th	St Hilary of Poitiers	Hilary was born a pagan about 310 in Poitiers and was married with a daughter. Family converted to Christianity. Church Council in 325, called by the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, declared Arianism a heresy. Hilary was elected Bishop of Poitiers in 350 and was known as "Hammer of the Arians" but he had compassion for the heretics hoping they would change to orthodox views. Gentle, courteous and friendly person whose theological writings even today are engaging. Bishop of Arles and the new Roman Emperor Constantine II became Arians and sent Hilary into exile. Pope Liberius in 358 capitulated to Roman Emperor and became an Arian leaving Bishop Hilary the sole champion of orthodox beliefs in Western Church. In exile he had time to compile many theological works opposing Arianism. These documents worried Arians so they let him free to return to his diocese hoping the work running his diocese would stop him writing. His journey back was an orthodox campaign and made many converts. With Martin of Tours made Gaul a bastion of orthodox opinion. Called Synod of Paris in 361 and agreed Nicene Creed. Synod of Italian bishops in 364 confirmed Arianism a heresy. Died 367 worn out by his struggles. Great Doctor of the Church.
	10 am Mass Mercy Devassy RIP	Tuesday 14th	St Sava of Serbia

6.30 pm Mass Ouseph Mathai RIP	Wednesday 15th St Arnold Janssen Born 837 at family farm in Germany near the Dutch border. Large family was intensely religious. Farm boy Arnold was very bright at school. Read degree in science and mathematics at Bonn University. Ordained a priest in 1861. Taught physics, mathematics and theology at a High School in Germany. Devoted to pastoral work. 1873 became chaplain and director of Ursuline Convent. Started German language journal <i>Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart</i> . Attracted to missionary work banned in Germany. Moved to Holland. Founded seminary to train priests for missions and Order of <i>Missionary Priests of the Divine Word</i> . Was pioneer of evangelisation by written word. Produced more popular Catholic magazines at his printing press in Holland. Founded <i>Divine Word Missionary Brothers</i> to help with printing. Missionaries went to many countries in the world including the Far East and South America. Also founded two congregations of women in Holland. <i>Servants of the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters</i> and the enclosed Order of <i>Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters</i> .
10 am Mass	Thursday 16th St Joseph Vaz Born in 1651 in Goa in India to converts to Catholicism. He was bright and learnt Latin from his parish priest. Ordained a priest in 1676. Went barefoot to live like the poor. Popular preacher and confessor. Gained reputation as a holy ascetic. Worked as a missionary in southern India. Built churches, Rosario Cathedral in Mangalore and small schools in many villages. Established a large number of <i>Irmidades</i> , groups of voluntary laypeople, to conduct religious activities in the absence of priests. Fr Joseph would visit them periodically to celebrate important festivals. Miraculously escaped being killed by a group of Hindus who objected to his missionary work. Wanted to join a religious Order but as non-white was banned. Started Order for Indian priests, the Goan Oratory of Saint Philip Neri. Led mission to Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, during Dutch occupation, living on alms alone Buddhist style. Fr Joseph was revered by Buddhists for his care of the sick during epidemic of smallpox. He managed to rebuild the Catholic Church. He was known as the "Apostle of Ceylon".
NO MASS	Friday 17th St Anthony of Egypt Born in 251 in Lower Egypt on the Mediterranean coast to wealthy Christian parents who died when he was 20 years old. Gave away and sold the land he inherited and became a hermit. A model of virtues living a very austere life style. In many years of solitude in the desert he experienced some temptations and even physical attacks from the devil and demons. Travelled up the River Nile to Thebes, present day Luxor, to meet the holy hermit Paul of Thebes. Seeking greater solitude Anthony went to an abandoned Roman fort on a mountain top and stayed there refusing to see visiting pilgrims for 20 years. Gradually groups of his admirers and disciples lived around the fortress in huts or in caves living as hermits practising a very austere life style similar to his. He eventually emerged from his fort to organise these hermits into communities with strict rules so gaining the name in history of <i>Father of All Monks</i> . He continued to make rush mats which he had always done as a hermit to support himself. He then had many people seeking his advice and had to employ a fellow monk to vet them. He visited Alexandria to give support to the Christians persecuted by the Roman Emperor. Patriarch Athanasius asked him to help oppose the Arian heresy which he did with great success and converted many pagans. Anthony of Egypt died on 17 th January 251 aged 105.
6 pm Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 18th St Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester Born in 1008 in Warwickshire. Clerk to the Bishop of Worcester then joined Benedictines. Made treasurer and then Prior of the monastery in 1050. Generous to the poor and made the sons of gentleman educated at the Priory school serve poor people at the monastery table. On the advice of pope, King Edward the Confessor made him Bishop of Worcester. Managed to retain his position after Norman Conquest. Strict clerical celibacy and opposition to the trade in slaves marked his 32 years as the bishop. Tried to keep peace between the Normans and Anglo-Saxons. The only English born bishop at his death in 1095.
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 19th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION

Your prayers are needed for the following people

Sue Chandler	Hazel Sale	Joe Heatley	Trevor Delves	Valerie Baker	Ruth Gleeson	Fr Shaun Budden	Fr Antony Gatt
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NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations and thanks to those who created such a wonderful Parish Crib Scene for Christmas

Parishioners would like to express their gratitude to Fr Thomas, K. C. Thomas and his son and daughter for all the work they did to construct such a beautiful and large Crib which depicted so well the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 22nd January – 1pm to 3 pm

This is another opportunity to meet for refreshments and a chat. Please come along with your friends. No need to stay for the whole time, a few minutes of two hours, whatever suits you. Renee and Pat.

Ruth Gleeson is 99 years old and very ill and needs our prayers

Ruth, wife of deceased Deacon Paddy Gleeson, mother of Dee Heatley and mother in law of Joe Heatley, is currently in a Nursing Home and will celebrate her 100th birthday on 17th January 2025

Parish collection for last weekend 4th and 5th January

						Special Collection			
Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Other Money	Gift Aid	Loose	TOTAL of all money
£57	£14.25	£79.66	£242.54	£51.98	£445.43	----	----	----	£445.43