

Church of Our Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall

Part of the Glasnevin Partnership of Parishes

(Ballygall, Ballymun Rd, Corpus Christi, Glasnevin & Iona Rd)

The Baptism of Our Lord 7th January 2024

Parish Website www.ballygallparish.ie Email ballygallparish@outlook.com

Registered Charity RCN 20016166

Parish Team

Fr. Joseph Ryan Co-P.P: Ph 8573776 Fr. Harry Gaynor Co-P.P: Ph 8342248

Fr. Paul St. John PC: Ph 086 2250689 Office 01 8369291

Mass Intentions Monday 8th to Sunday 15th January 2024

Monday	7.25	Etta Carolan	10.00	Funeral Mass
Tuesday	7.25	Available	10.00	Mary Bradshaw
Wednesday	7.25	Available	10.00	Available
Thursday	7.25	Eileen & Nora Ryan	10.00	Nora O'Callaghan
Friday	7.25	Veronica O'Donnell	10.00	Available
Saturday	10.00	Annie & William Hickey	Confessions available after 10.00am & 6.30pm Mass.	
	6.30pm	Mary Byrne, Marie Farrell, Lorraine O'Reilly, Eileen Egan		
Sunday	10.00			
	11.30	Oliver Pluck		

Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers, recently deceased, Betty Costello, Fidelma Meighan, & Patrick Kearns.

Epiphany of the Lord (6th January)

On this day through the visit of the wise men from the East, Jesus is made known to all people throughout the world. Jew or Greek, slave or free. May we on the feast day (also Holyday of obligation) continue to make Jesus known throughout our world and in this way the feast of Christmas is never forgotten. The King of kings, born in a stable. Let our gifts be not Gold, frankincense and myrrh but the gift of our faith, love and hope in the future.

Christmas Dues

Sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the Christmas Offering through the envelopes and 'Tap & Go' machine. Your support is greatly appreciated by not only the priests of the parish but also the priests throughout the diocese including sick and retired priests. This along with the weekly first collection at Mass supports the 'Common Fund'.



Baptism of Our Lord

As we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord this weekend, we remind you of the dates of our baptisms here in Ballygall.

Baptisms are here on the First Saturday (4pm) and the Third Sunday (12.30) of each Month. A preparatory meeting takes place monthly generally on the Monday before the first Saturday.

If you would like to arrange a Baptism, please ring the parish office, 01 8369291

Christmas Season

Ordinary Time begins on Monday after the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Once more the green vestments are worn. The 7.25am early morning Mass resumes once more. Shortly the Christmas decorations will go and the crib will become but a distant memory.

Jesus our Lord and Saviour, help us to live the commitment we made in baptism.

Let your life remain and grow within us so that we may always think as you would have us think and always love as you would have us love.

Inspire all who have abandoned the faith to return to you, who never break the crushed reed.

Give confidence to all candidates for baptism and keep the wavering flame of faith alight. Amen

We pray that 2024 will be a happy, healthy and peaceful time for you all.

Diary Dates - January 2024:

Annual Laudate Music Festival

Tuesday 30 January - Our Lady of Victories Church, Ballymun Road 7.00p.m.

Year of Prayer

Monday 29 January - Journeying in Prayer with the Desert Mothers and Fathers Monastery of St Alphonsus - 8.00p.m. In person and online www.rednuns.com
Reflective Music led by Dublin Diocesan Music Group

A Trinitarian Image

Up to this point Jesus had lived a quiet life, unknown outside his small village of Nazareth. We assume he worked with his father as a carpenter. The gospels suggest that he would have been about 30 years of age when he joined the followers of John the Baptist.

John's baptism was not the sacrament of baptism as we know it. Rather, it symbolised a desire to change one's life. The change in Jesus' life would be quite dramatic. His baptism marked the beginning of his public ministry. It was a defining moment: Jesus discerned that his purpose was to follow the path to which he had been called by his Father. The voice of God, the sight of the Dove (as the symbol of the Holy Spirit) and the presence of Jesus going down into the waters, presents us with a lovely Trinitarian image of God.

Jesus' Purpose Revealed To Us

Jesus – the human image of God on earth – revealed the reign of God to the world. He gave us a glimpse of God's compassion, love and truth. He taught us how to pray and how to trust God the Father. He underwent temptation and betrayal; he would even be misunderstood by those closest to him, before finally being condemned and crucified. However, his story, his purpose, was only finally and fully revealed by his resurrection. He conquered death, not just for himself but for all who believe in him. Jesus united his will with that of his Father.

Our Pilgrim Journey

Our journey of life is a pilgrim journey of discernment of God's plan, a journey of listening and finding God's will. In his book, "Brothers in Arms" Fr Brendan McManus remind us:

"the real challenge is to put our resources, will and heart at the service of God and not ourselves ... The goal of prayer is not just to worship or adore but to do the will of God – to be a disciple and a follower, to put it into practice. Faith is not just a 'crutch' or temporary refuge focused only on my own wellbeing. Rather it is an aid to walking with God and be transformed by this extraordinary friendship."

The voice of God calls out to us too: "You are my child, My beloved, my favour rests on you. Listen, can you hear it?"



Summary

Jesus united his will with that of his Father.

Question

Can you hear the voice of the Father calling to you: "My beloved, my favour rests on you?"

Prayer

Lord, help me to discern my purpose in life, and to follow it.



Issued "Cum Permissu Superiorum" by Rollebon Press, Dominican Priory, Tallaght Village, Dublin 24; Tel: (+353-1) 404 8100 or (+353) 087 284 1341; Fax: (+353-1) 404 8192; email: rollebonpress@gmail.com
Nihil Obstat: John Harris OP; Printed in Ireland; some graphics are copyright 123RF.

Vol.46; No.6; Baptism of Jesus, Year B; 7 Jan 2024; Readings: Isaiah 55:1-11, Psalm Isaiah 122-6, 1John 5:1-9, Mark 1:7-11; Next Week: Christian Identity..

Sat 6 Jan Epiphany : Sun 7 Jan Baptism of Jesus : Mon 8 Jan Weekday : Tue 9 Jan Weekday : Wed 10 Jan Weekday : Thu 11 Jan Weekday : Fri 12 Jan Weekday : Sat 13 Jan St Hilary : Sun 14 Jan Ordinary 2.



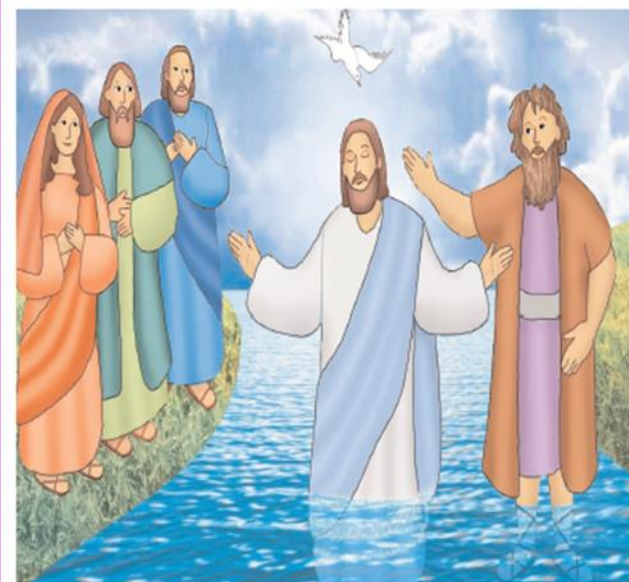
SUNDAY LETTER

Series: Jesus-Human & Divine; Baptism of Jesus, Year B; 7th Jan 2024

Called by the Father

I have always been challenged by the fact that Jesus approached John for baptism. It was clearly an opportunity for Jesus to present himself in public, and a chance for the Spirit of God to rest on Jesus and confirm him as the one sent by the Father. And so, the Spirit, like a dove, descended on him, whereupon a voice came from heaven and said, "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you." (John:11)

God has a purpose for each and every one of us. Recently, I was discussing with a friend how to discern God's purpose for me. My friend believes that what makes human beings unique is that God has a special purpose for every one of us.



Before ever we are born, God knows what our purpose is. However, we ourselves might take a lifetime to discover it, and for many it might only be revealed after we return to God. This is what makes life sacred: no two lives have the same purpose.

John the Baptist discerned that his purpose in life was to preach a baptism of repentance, and to witness to the coming of one greater than himself ... to prepare the way for Jesus.

Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit. (Mark 1:7ff)