

Whitnash and Bishops Tachbrook

St. Joseph's Parish

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Newsletter

11th January 2015

The Baptism of the Lord

When does Christmas finish? This may well seem a strange question to ask within our context of faith but we would be excused for claiming to hear mixed messages on the matter. The commercial world within our present culture will have its own agenda and it probably wouldn't surprise us if we found Easter eggs on the shop shelves already! But that's the way the 'world' moves so we are left to live out and appreciate our own time of grace and blessing. When I spent time studying in Rome it was very noticeable how the 'atmosphere' of Christmastide seemed to go on almost to February. Trees and cribs were still evident and it was as though the message of the celebration of the Nativity was being extended to its limits. And, of course, we know that the spirit behind this wish of ours to allow Christmas to go on is none other than the Holy Spirit Himself. The Lord has graced us with the gift of Himself taking on our very flesh. But this needs to be recognised and known by all; to be manifested to the world. Last week we celebrated the feast of the Epiphany when we gave thanks for the fact that Jesus came for all nations. Today we celebrate the next 'movement' of the Son of God showing Himself to the world. He comes to the banks of the River Jordan as one of the crowd. Jesus joins these sinners, and, in His turn, goes down into the waters. In

this peerless act of humility and solidarity Jesus takes on the sins of us all. He is one of us and it is because He is not a sinner that He can share our sins. In His baptism Jesus, as God, shows the world His humanity and invites us to respond in love. In this deepest and widest sense, we can truly say that we carry the grace of Christmas throughout our pilgrim lives.



Services	This Week	Events
6.30pm <i>Vigil Mass: Private Intention</i> 10.00am <i>Mass: People of the Parish</i> 5.00pm <i>Mass: Catherine Kelly RIP</i>	<p align="center">Sunday 11th January The Baptism of the Lord <i>Psalter Week 1</i></p> 	10.05am Children's Liturgy Coffee and Tea after 10am Mass Choir Group 
2.15pm <i>School Mass: Private Intention</i> 7.00pm <i>Novena to Our Lady</i> <i>Mass: Private Intention</i>	<p align="center">Monday 12th January Feria</p>	8-9.00pm Dancing
9.10am <i>Rosary</i> 9.30am <i>Mass: Private Intention</i>	<p align="center">Tuesday 13th January Feria</p>	10.00am Tuesday Club
	<p align="center">Wednesday 14th January Feria</p>	9.30-11.30am Art Group 7.45pm Whist
7.00pm <i>Mass: Private Intention</i>	<p align="center">Thursday 15th January Feria</p>	10.45-12.15pm Music Group 7-8.00pm Weight Watchers
9.10am <i>Rosary</i> 9.30am <i>Mass: Patty Desay RIP</i> 7.00pm <i>Novena to the Sacred Heart</i>	<p align="center">Friday 16th January Feria</p>	10.00am Lectio Divina, HFR 4-6.00pm Karate
9.15am <i>Morning Prayer</i> 9.30am <i>Mass: People of the Parish</i> 10-10.45 <i>Exposition and Adoration</i> <i>Sacrament of Confession</i> 6.30pm <i>Mass: Bob Rogerson RIP</i> 2nd collection at all Masses: LIFE	<p align="center">Saturday 17th January St. Antony Memoria</p>	9.00-10.30am Slimming World
10.00am <i>Mass: Cyril Lamont (Anniv.)</i> 5.00pm <i>Mass: Intentions of</i> <i>Mrs. Farrell</i> 2nd collection at all Masses this week- end for the pro-life charity: LIFE	<p align="center">Sunday 18th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Psalter Week 2</i></p>	10.05am Children's Liturgy Coffee and Tea after 10am Mass Tuesday Club  6.00pm Youth Group
Collections £386.96 Banker's Orders (weekly average) £100.46 <i>Many thanks for your donations</i>	<p align="center">Last Week 4th January</p>	Attendance: 196 

Announcements

OUR SICK

David Harwar, Roy Stanford, Enda McSharry, Marie Kelly, Seren Robertson, Eileen Hiorns, Patricia Robinson, Brian McCann, Rory and Peggy O'Rourke, Edna Hales, Sue Cleary, Shelagh Price, Jenny Bamber, Sue Day, Michael Gallagher, Miceal Murphy, Pauline Jenkins, Hugh Williams

Warwick Hospital	Margaret Handy
The Lawns	Bert Brind
Clarence House	Winifred Galvin
Eversleigh N. H.	Mollie Benson
Clarendon Manor	Mary Jenkinson
Stratford	Monty Jenkinson
RLS Nursing Home	Bernie & Robbie Burns

Anniversaries

William O'Toole, Margaret Murphy, Evelyn Henn, Letitia Toye, John Gardner, Lucy Maynard, Edith Bird, Bob Rogerson

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord

Baptism

Maeve Eden Berry

Sunday 1st February 2015 at 12 Noon

Ruben Thomas Edwards

1st March 2015 at 12 Noon

Baptism Preparation Meeting

The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be on Monday 26th January at 7.45pm in the Holy Family Room

Crib Offerings

Crib offerings this year are being donated to the Whitnash Children's Centre. The donation will be passed to the Centre when the crib is taken down after this weekend. Thanks to all who supported this project.

Recently Deceased

John McMahon, one of our parishioners, died recently after prolonged illness. We offer our sympathies and condolences to all his family.

His body will be received into church at 5.00pm on Thursday 22nd January and his funeral service will be at 1.00pm on Friday 23rd January, followed by burial at Leamington Cemetery at 2.15pm

May he rest in peace and may the Lord give comfort to all who mourn him

Prisoners of Conscience

On the weekend of the 24th/25th January, the J & P Group have arranged an opportunity for us to sign and send a greetings card to a prisoner of conscience. Each card will cost £1.50. Your effort gives to them the confirmation that they are not forgotten and is an important life-line for them. Please take time as you leave on that weekend to give them your support, if you possibly can.

Diocesan Directories

All the 2015 Birmingham Diocesan Directories which were available in the narthex were sold. It would be possible to order more if you would like one - please let Fr. Bob have your name.

The Homeless

This is the worst time of year to be without the basic comforts of home—the baskets in the porch are for tea, coffee and tins of non perishables to be given to those who have nothing. Thank you for all you give, consistently, to those in need.

Wednesday Exposition for Private Prayer

Please be aware that now Exposition and Adoration is a regular part of our Saturday morning services we shall no longer be holding Exposition for Private prayer on Wednesdays.

Message of Thanks

The Coventry Haven would like to pass on the following wishes to the parishioners at St. Joseph's: They are both humbled and overwhelmed by the generosity of the folk that donated so warmly to their cause. All gifts and donations will be put to good use! THANK YOU everyone who gave SO generously at this time of year!

Next Week—18th January 2015

Eucharistic Ministers:

6.30pm Vigil
10.00am
5.00pm

May Murphy, Josephine Whittington
John Ireson, Tony Harris, Pauline Mills
Paddy Close, Sr. Angela

Readers:

June Arran
Sophia Brain
Anne Bergonzi

11th Jan	11.00am meeting of Social events team. (after Mass) HFR
21st Jan	7.45pm Service for Christian Unity, Warwick Gates
24th Jan	11.00am Sacristy Sort-Out
31 Jan/1st Feb	2nd Collection: Catholic Education Service
14/15th Feb	2nd Collection: Pro Life
28th Feb	7.30pm Skittles Evening
1st Mar	6.00pm Parish Council Meeting HFR

Week of Christian Unity

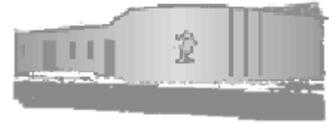
During the Week of Christian Unity, the Churches Together in Whitnash, Warwick Gates and Bishops Tachbrook are planning to hold a combined Service for Christian Unity on Wednesday 21st January at 7.45pm. It will take place at Warwick Gates Community Church. It is hoped to gather a band of musicians from the different churches for that occasion, as well as those willing to take a part in the readings. Please let Fr. Bob know if you would be interested in being involved in that way.

Newspapers

For some time now we, as a parish, have ordered only a very small number of weekly Catholic newspapers. In fact, recently we've received only two Heralds and two Universe and sometimes these go, whilst other weeks leave us with unsold papers. It is assumed that this sort of number reflects our current demand for Catholic newspapers so unless any parishioners particularly require one of these newspapers we can maintain the 'status quo'. Do let Fr. Bob know if you feel there are insufficient papers for sale and our order can be revised.

On a related matter to the above, there seems to be a consensus that the table in the narthex has become very cluttered with so many periodicals/ missionary material/cards etc. It would be sensible to keep only moderate numbers of these and to regularly clear outdated ones. The rack next to the "library" is also crowded. **Suggestions welcome**
P.S. Do just take any of the many calendars lying around.

Parish Centre



Weekly Events (during normal time)

Monday:	Dancing
Tuesday:	Tuesday Club
Wednesday:	Art /Choir/ Whist Drive
Thursday:	Music Group / Weightwatchers
Friday:	Karate
Saturday:	Slimming World
Sunday:	Youth Club

Sacristy Sort-Out

A new year, a new resolution! Last week I floated the idea of a thorough clear-out of the sacristy and the surrounding storage areas. To do this sensitively I do need the help and advice of everyone concerned. **I am hoping to have a working-party on the morning of Saturday 24th January at 11.00am** and it would be especially helpful if any flower arrangers, sacristans, cleaners and any others who have experience of what the organisation of the cupboards involved, and who are free, could come along. There is no point in keeping what we don't need or use so, if you can, please come and help me with the '*big decisions of what to keep and what to throw*'. Many thanks, Fr. Bob

Children's Liturgy and Toddlers

St. Joseph's is fortunate in having a very committed Liturgy Group and pre-school team who help out on Sundays of school term times. It is of great help to parents of children of varying ages, in allowing the youngsters to be introduced to the Gospel in a way and approach that suits their ages. The team welcomes parents of the pre-school children to accompany them into the Holy Family Room. If you would like to join either one of the teams as a regular helper please approach Fr. Bob.

Lectio Divina

This quiet, reflective look into the coming Sunday's scripture will resume on Friday January 16th at 10.00am in the Holy Family Room. Newcomers and not-so-newcomers will all be equally welcome. It lasts about an hour and is a very gentle look at what the Lord is saying to us, as individuals.

Social Events Team

The team meet just after the 10.00am Mass this Sunday (11th). Please do join us if you can help out and contribute ideas. You will be very welcome Thanks.