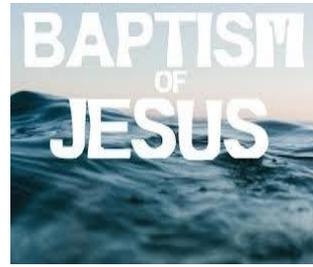




# The Catholic Parish of St. Patrick's

## Baptism of the Lord 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021

Clergy: Fr. Daniel P. Doherty & Fr William McQuillan



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### Closure of church buildings

As you all are aware, the First Minister has closed all church buildings for public worship and private prayer until the 31<sup>st</sup> of January. Naturally we are all very saddened that this has happened again, but the closure will not be as long as the one we experienced last year. Please remember the building may be closed, but the clergy are still available to contact, if you need anything or just wish to chat. Please continue to remain safe and well. Also to stay close to the good Lord in your daily prayers, especially the rosary.

### Sunday Family Prayer Service

The Archdiocese has issued a short prayer service that can be said at home as an individual, couple or family. Copies available on our website or at the front door of the chapel house.

### Congratulations

To the choir for the Carol Service they provided via Facebook. This was an excellent initiative and was very much appreciated by so many, especially those who are housebound at the moment. The Service also shared the wonderful talented singers/musicians we have in our parish - thank you well done!

### A big thank you

To all those who prepared the chapel, especially the Sanctuary, for Christmas. It looked wonderful and many people came to visit during the day and complimented our Chapel. Well done.

### Giving

Many thanks for your ongoing generosity during Advent & Christmas for the parish and other good causes. Christmas Day £1045; Holy Family £625; Epiphany £345; Justice & Peace £250 and Building Fund £220. And just a reminder you also gave: Foodbank £590; SCIAF £450; Crib £350; Light a Candle £240; Prolife Initiative 60 gifts & over 100 Poinsettias over. This is wonderful generosity, especially with limited numbers at Mass. God will reward your generosity.

### Baptisms

Beginning in January on the 2nd Tuesday of month at 7pm, there will be an online zoom meeting for those parents & godparents requesting the sacrament of Baptism for their children. The meeting will outline the Church's teaching on Baptism, show a short film describing the rite, and answer any questions before the baptism itself. Attending this one session will be expected for parents and godparents, so please include your email addresses when registering at the parish office.

### Year of St Joseph

Pope Francis has proclaimed a year of St Joseph which runs until 08 Dec 2021. He has issued a new Apostolic Letter, which is available online- *PatrisCorde*. The letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

### Sacramental Talks

Rediscover the power of the Sacraments in a new online talk titled *Fire & Water*, covering confirmation and baptism. Sign up for your deanery area by emailing [sranna.marie@staned.org.uk](mailto:sranna.marie@staned.org.uk). All talks on Zoom. Fife: Mon 11 Jan 2pm; West Lothian Mon 11 Jan 7:30pm; Mid/East Lothian & Borders; Mon 18 Jan 2pm; Edinburgh Mon 18 Jan 7:30pm; Falkirk & Stirling Mon 25 Jan 7:30pm.

### Archdiocesan Diploma in Catechetics - On-Line.

This Thursday the Archdiocese launches its new diploma in catechetics. There has been a wonderful response, one hundred and forty two people have signed up for this course from all over the Archdiocese, also a few from Glasgow, Motherwell, Ireland and England. It is great that seven of our own parishioners have signed up for this course. We wish all participants, but especially our own parishioners a very productive and enjoyable year of learning. And we look forward to your graduations next January!

### In your prayers

Please continue to remember all our sick and housebound, not forgetting carers and family members who look after them.

### Offer of Help

Several parishioners have offered help to anyone who will struggle to get to the shops etc. If you would like to take this offer up, please contact the parish house.

## Gospel Reflection The Baptism of the Lord

We come to the end of the Christmas season today, and we begin the season of Ordinary Time fittingly with The Baptism of the Lord. Fittingly, since for Catholics, Baptism-our Baptism -is the beginning of our Christian life.

We can ask -why did Jesus present himself for Baptism? Was it to please others, the religious people of the time? Here we need to consider the theological and the symbolic significance of Jesus'?

In Jesus' life, as in any persons life, there are certain episodes that in many ways dictate the passage and direction that a person will take. One such event in the life of Jesus was the time he spent with the teachers of the Law in the Temple- the time in which he was separated

from his parents and spent three days looking for Him (Lk 2:41-50). At this time he came to an awareness of his special, unique and intimate relationship with God. When his parents finally found Him in the Temple his answer to Mary's anxious question of his actions was simply to remind her that he must be about his Father's business. And it is the Father's business that directs and drives Jesus' life and mission. This is highlighted when we hear Him state quite openly at the Garden of Gethsemane :

“Nevertheless, let Your will be done , not mine”

When Jesus comes to John the Baptist for Baptism, it is not for the repentance of sin, but as a means for Him to be associated with the people to whom he was called to minister. You could say that his Baptism was a deepening his incarnation – his taking

on our human condition. Jesus' baptism then becomes becomes a time of approval and recognition by the Father and his commissioning into public ministry. “You are my Son the beloved; my favour rests in you.”

Jesus' Baptism becomes a reminder to us of our own Baptismal call. This is the time when we are claimed by God as His children and are commissioned to live a life of faith and grace. Today is a good opportunity for us all to not only for us to renew our baptismal commitment but also to consider the challenge of that commitment.