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8th January 2023

THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

1ST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 07 Jan	5.30 pm	St George's	Intention of the donor (DN)
Sun 08 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	The people of the parish
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Priest's own intention
	6.00 pm	St George's	Deceased members of the Geelan family
Mon 09 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	Priest's own intention
Tue 10 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	The McCartney Family
Wed 11 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	For Pope Benedict XVI Emeritus, RIP
Thu 12 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	Donor's Intention, St Anthony
Fri 13 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	Mary Daly RIP, 15 th anniversary
	10.30 am	St George's	Funeral Service, Jessie Sadler RIP
Sat 14 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	In thanksgiving, St Anthony
	5.30 pm	St George's	Karan & Hedley O'Connor RIP
Sun 15 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	Nuala O'Riordan RIP
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Priest's own intention
	6.00 pm	Holy Spirit	For deceased clergy, especially of our parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Today, the season of Christmastide draws to a close, and we celebrate the revelation of Jesus as the beloved Son of the Father and as the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit. Since the beginning of creation, the Spirit has been at work in our world and, in the fullness of time, he revealed to John the Baptist both the identity and the mission of Jesus.

In this moment of revelation John was so utterly overwhelmed at finding himself in the presence of the One he had been sent to announce that he declared himself unworthy even to untie Jesus' sandals – a task which, at the time, was reserved for the lowest of the low in domestic servitude. John also proclaimed the need of every human being to be baptized when he declared, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' (v.14)

Here God revealed himself as the Blessed Trinity, three Persons in one God. The voice from heaven confirmed the relationship between Jesus and the Father. Jesus is God's only Son, the secret kept hidden, but fully and finally revealed in Jesus of Nazareth, God-made man. Jesus reveals God in a unique way and is himself true God from true God, light from light, begotten and not made.

This is central teaching and revelation of our faith. All three monotheistic faiths, Judaism, Islam and Christianity, believe in one God but only Christianity believes that God became man and that God is three Persons in one God. The notion of God lowering himself in the Incarnation is anathema to the other two world faiths. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* proclaims this amazing truth in the following way: 'For a Christian, believing in God cannot be separated from believing in the One he sent, his "beloved Son", in whom the Father is "well pleased": God, the Word made flesh: "No one has ever seen God: the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known" (para. 151)

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!
(The Trinitarian formula).

CATHOLIC NEWS FOR JANUARY: A few copies still at church. Lots of interesting news of events in our Diocese of Nottingham.

**LET US PRAY FOR KING CHARLES III
IN HIS CORONATION YEAR**

Prince Charles had been dreading the moment of the passing of the Queen, his mother.

On the occasion of the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977, the poet Philip Larkin said: 'In times when nothing stood but worsened or grew strange, there was one constant. She did not change'.

We pray for our new King, Charles III. We pray that the Lord will give him courage and steadfastness. We pray that when times are difficult, he may express the comfort we seek. When direction is hard to find we pray that the leadership he gives will be steady.

God save the King!

CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY ONLY: 10:15 – 10:45

THE SECOND COLLECTION for the Sick & Retired Priests Fund will be taken next weekend.

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Thurs, 12th Jan: St Aelred of Rievaulx

Fri, 13th Jan: St Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Sat 14th Jan: Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A RECENT DEATH:

Please pray for Nuala O'Riordan of Sunnyfields, Sunnyhill, who has died recently after a short illness. Nuala with her sister Marie and with their late parents, were long-time members of St George's parish and well-known to many of you.

We extend to Marie and the extended family our sincere sympathies in their sad and unexpected loss of Nuala.

Requiem Mass will take place at St George's on Wednesday, 25th January, at 10.30 am.

Reception into St George's will be on Tuesday, 24th January at 6.30pm.

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace Amen.

A COMING FUNERAL: The funeral service for Jessie Sadler, as previously announced, will take place at St George's on Friday, 13th January at 10.30am.

Again, we extend our sincere sympathies to all the family.

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

POPE EMRITUS, BENEDICT XVI (Retired) RIP

After a time of illness, the former Pope Benedict XVI has died in Rome at the grand old age of 95 years.

His funeral Requiem Mass at St Peter's will have taken place as you get this weekend's newsletter.

After a relatively short reign as Pope, Benedict XVI stepped down as Pope because of failing health some 10 years ago. He was the first Pope to leave office (Pope's usually died in office) for 600 years and most Catholics thought what a wise and courageous move.

The office of leader of the Catholic church in modern times is very onerous with many big decisions to make and lots and lots of troubles of all kinds to deal with both theologically and practically.

Pope Benedict in his life as a priest, Bishop, Cardinal and Pope was always a scholarly thinker and teacher and writer. Deep learning and scholarship and years of intense study were his forte. His two volume books on Jesus of Nazareth contains the fruits of the vast learning of a brilliant scholar, the passionate searching of a great mind, and the deep compassion of a pastor's heart. In this work written in his retirement Pope Benedict dares his readers to grapple with the meaning of Jesus' life, teaching, death and resurrection.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has been laid to rest in St Peter's, Rome.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.