

The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan is not only a revelation of Jesus himself as he is affirmed by his Heavenly Father and by the Holy Spirit. It inaugurates a prolonged season of epiphany, what we call Ordinary time—those years of the public ministry when every word and every gesture, the way Jesus handled each and every situation in which he found himself was an epiphany of what it meant for God to live out his life in our world as one of us.

The late Pope John Paul II chose to describe what took place during these few years as being luminous. And so when he proclaimed that the year 2003 should be observed as the Year of the Rosary. The Baptism in the Jordan; The Wedding at Cana; The Proclamation of the Kingdom (Jesus' preaching); The Transfiguration; The Institution of the Eucharist.

These focused on highly significant, or exceptionally outstanding, episodes in the public life of Jesus 'Each of these mysteries,' the Pope wrote 'is a revelation of the Kingdom now present in the very person of Jesus.

The Baptism in Jordan is first of all a mystery of light. Here, as he goes down into the waters, the innocent one who became 'sin' for our sake, the heavens open wide and the voice of the Father declares him the beloved Son, while the Spirit descends on him to invest him with the mission which he is to carry out.

Far from Ordinary Time being dull or insignificant, as the name would seem to imply, it is an extended epiphany that is excitingly luminous for us. This was surely the most significant three years in the whole of human history.

Throughout Ordinary Time Jesus will be making luminous our own very ordinary lives as we prayerfully enter into the events consequent upon that special event that was the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan.

ADMISSIONS TO ST ANTONY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY

Children whose date of birth is between 1.9.2010 and 31.8.2011. Application forms are now available at the school office for the Nursery for the school year 2014/2015. Those children born between 1.9.2011 and 31.12.2011 may also apply to start in January 2015 if there are vacancies. Either call into the office or telephone after 1.30pm on 020 8504 4606. The forms are also available on the website www.st-antony.net. Please note, these enquiries will only be dealt with in the afternoons. Closing date for receipt of forms is Mid-day on Monday, 24th February 2014.

RECEPTION APPLICATIONS

Closing date for applications is 15th January 2014.

CHURCH CLEANING

Thursday, 9am 16th Jan Cathie Fitch, Michael & Rose Doherty, Rosanna Baker, Leah Bettis, Lucy Robinson

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

If you have a relative or friend living alone or in a nursing home who would like a visit please call us on 07754 100149 or contact us via the parish office.

PARISH DIARIES 2014

There are still some Parish Diaries for 2014 available from the back of the church. Please leave your donation in the basket provided at the back of the church.

HOUSE BLESSING

If you would like to have your house blessed, please contact the parish office for details.

IN TOUCH

Copy for the next issue of the parish magazine should be with the editor by March 5th at the very latest. The next issue will be on sale from the weekend of March 29th/30th.

CERTIFICATE IN CATECHESIS AT MARYVALE INSTITUTE

This course is for anyone interested in developing his or her own faith for the sake of explaining it to others. The course (over two years) provides a solid foundation in the key areas of Catholic faith which a person needs to understand in order to be able to pass it on. For information about the Walthamstow group please get in touch with Fr. Mark Swires at parishoffice@olsg.co.uk or 020 8520 5877.

ACROSS QUIZ

18th January at St. Teresa's Church Hall, Chingford. £5 bring own drinks and nibbles. Start 7.30pm. To book tickets contact Sheila on 020 8504 3839.

LOYOLA PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Require Deputy Headteacher commencing 1st September 2014. For application pack email office:loyola.essex.sch.uk. Closing date 29th January. School website www.loyola.essex.sch.uk. Poster on noticeboard at back of the church.

CAFOD

Is looking for volunteers who would like to take the CAFOD message into Catholic schools in the Redbridge, Waltham Forest or the Newham area. You will help to inspire children and young people in how they can act to make the world a fairer place in line with their faith. Join us on Sat. 1st Feb. for a day exploring all things CAFOD at Romero House SE1. If you are interested please call 020 8502 9722 or email brentwood@cafod.org.uk.

JOBS!

Telco are looking for young people aged 16-23 for apprenticeships with one of London's top Technology firms in February this year. The Tech Industry is struggling to recruit talented staff. We know there are plenty of talented young people in our Parish struggling to kick start their careers. So TELCO has built a partnership with some of London's cutting tech companies. We hope to get 1,000 young people into the Tech Industry by 2016. We've already recruited 24 young people and we're looking to recruit another 40 to start in February.

DO YOU FIT THIS PROFILE?

You don't have to be a geek: there are roles in marketing, finance, business, sales and operations. But an interest in the tech sector is best. You must be:

16-23years old

Focused and determined to work hard

Up for a challenge

Looking for an opportunity to get your foot in Tech Industry door.

As well as getting hands on experience, you'll gain a Level 3 Qualification. Apply now at <http://techeitystars.com/project/becomeastar/>.

FRANCISCAN MISSIONS

During 2013 the parish of St. Thomas of Canterbury donated a total of £12,975 to the missions in South Africa. This total included £6,000 from the annual appeal, £3,000 from the mission boxes and £1,400 from reclaiming tax under the Gift Aid Scheme. A very big thank you to everyone who contributed in any way. The latest issue of the mission magazine, The Troubadour, plus a calendar for 2014 is available at the back of the church as you leave today. Please take a copy home.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick:- Phil Archer, Ellen Armstrong, Mary Barnes, Alice Binder, Moira Bisset, Angela & Kerry Bromfield, Donald Dourado, Mary Duffy, Francoise Duprey, Michael Durcan, Harold Elston, Alan Farmer, Ray Finney, Fr. Jim Fitzpatrick, Irene & Carter de Freitas, Nora Gaiger, Martin Garnar, Judy & John Gilmartin, Kathleen Gissane, Pat Greene, Amelia Halfyard, Doris Harriss, Fr. Austin Kinsella O.F.M., Nora Lucey, Mary McKay, Anne McShea, Hannah Martin, Paul Mason, Sadie Meade, Jutta Menzies, Kathleen Meyler, Pat Meyler, Jean Morgan. Maureen Noden, Anthony O'Boyle, Mary O'Boyle, Joanne O'Boyle, Debbie Smythe, Karen Spencer, Carmel Sweeney, Mary Sullivan, Mary Taylor, Terry Wauer, Monica Worsfold.

And for all the sick and housebound of the parish.

Lately Dead:- Paul Barnard, Augustine Cornell, Kathryn (Kate) Haines, John Thurston (husband of Christine), Dot Quinn,

Anniv: Solomon and Anne Racionzer

TUESDAY CLUB

We're back on the 14th January exercising the little grey cells, with Frank's Quiz! If you'd like to continue "clubbing", but have transport difficulties, please contact Tess 07887902702 and we'll try to get you to the Becket Centre at 2pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month.

SUNDAY MASSES

St. Thomas'

1st Mass Sat. 6pm; 8.30am;
10am (Children's Liturgy)
11.30am

Chigwell Convent

10am

St. James URC

(Buckhurst Hill)

9am (Children's Liturgy)

WEEKDAY MASSES

St. Thomas'

10am

Chigwell Convent

9.30am

Saturday 10am

(1st Weds of the month)

No morning Mass

Trinity High School

8.20am on Lower Site.

SATURDAY

CONFESSIONS

St. Thomas'

10.30am—11.30am

5.00pm—5.45pm

Chigwell Convent

After 10am Mass

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays

Of the month

TRINITY BADMINTON CLUB

Do you enjoy badminton? Why not join us at Trinity Catholic High School, Mornington Road, Woodford Green on Monday evenings 7.30pm—9.30pm. All welcome, mixed groups and mixed ability. Contact Dalla on 020 8529 6020 or Michael on 0794 1479485.

ST. ANTONY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Require a School Cleaner 14hrs per week x 52 weeks per year £8.32 per hour. Please contact the school office on 020 8504 4706 or admin.st-antonys@redbridge.gov.uk. Closing date 20th January. 2014.

MOTHER & TODDLER GROUP

Please note that the Mother & Toddler Group recommences in the Becket Centre on Tuesday, 14th January.

UPDATE FROM PHILIPPINES

Praise God for all the blessings that we received from year 2013, in spite of 2 big disasters that destroyed and wiped out almost the entire Visayas region. We would like to thank you for the box that arrived on time before our holiday break. The enclosed amount were able for us to have a good Christmas celebration for the noche Buena. Keep up the good work and hoping for your continuous support.

God Bless

Eddie Segumpan



St Thomas of Canterbury

557/559 High Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0RB

Served by the Franciscans



A FAIRTRADE PARISH

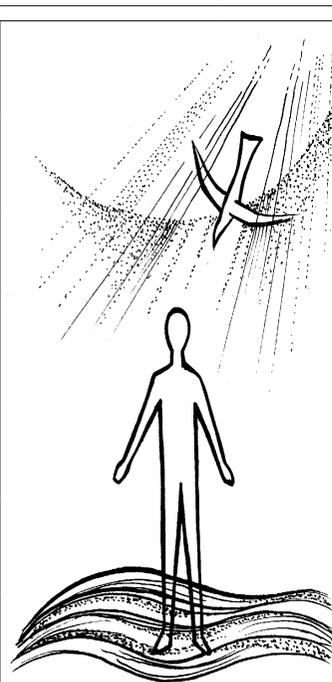
Tel: 020 8504 1686 Fax: 020 8504 1844



Email: parishoffice@friar.org Web: www.stthomaswoodford.org

BAPTISM OF THE LORD CYCLE A

12TH JANUARY 2014



Jesus sought out his cousin John at the river Jordan and was revealed as God's beloved Son. Today we recall the start of Jesus' ministry and cherish our own mission to spread the good news of the kingdom of God.

First Reading (Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7)

The Suffering Servant, filled with the Holy Spirit, is also the one who will open the eyes of those who are blind, free prisoners and bring light to those in darkness.

Second Reading (Acts 10:34-38)

It is because God has no favourites that Jesus was able to help and heal everyone who came to him.

Gospel (Matthew 3:13-17)

John reluctantly baptised Jesus, whom God then acknowledged as "my Son, the Beloved".

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
The Lord will bless his people with peace.