

Our Lady Help of Christians

Diocese of Northampton – Deanery of St. Albans

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Deacon: **Rev Gerry McGrogan**

Office Hours: Thursday & Friday 11.30am to 2.00pm

Pastoral Area Council Website www.lutonpastoralarea.org

Sisters of St Clare: 3 Abigail Close, Luton LU3 1ND

Tel: 01582 424518: www.sistersofstclare.com

Parish Safeguarding Rep (PSR) : **Kate Brooks** Tel :

07395 938462 Email : safeguardingpsr@outlook.com

10th January 2021

The Baptism of the Lord

Confessions: Thursday and Friday 12noon-12.30pm.

NYMO Resources – To help our young people continue on their journey towards sainthood, the NYMO Youth office has a number of resources that can be accessed via the YouTube channel. Please go to YouTube.com and in the search field type luxnymo

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES 2021: Given the current crisis the Luton parishes will not begin preparation for First Reconciliation (Confession), First Communion, or Confirmation until at least January 2021. For baptism as an adult or for your child please see your parish priest. The usual marriage preparation course for the town will not take place in 2021. Any couples asking to be married in 2021 should see their parish priest immediately.

Read the Bible in a Year starting 1st January 2021 -

Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast hosted by Fr Mike Schmitz, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes starting on 1st January 2021. Each 20-25 minute episode includes *two to three scripture readings*, a reflection from Fr Mike *guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in His Word*.

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration> or look up Podcast "The Bible in a Year (with Fr. Mike Schmitz)

CAFOD - During Lent this year, one in three people around the world will not have access to safe drinking water. You have the power to change this. Join **CAFOD** in their *Walk for Water* challenge: **10,000 steps a day, every day, for 40 days.** It's time to sign up, get sponsored and get walking – and finally give the boot to water poverty. Find out more at cafod.org.uk/walk

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT: Free professional online job hunting and self employment coaching, information and activities for Parishioners seeking work can be found at www.vitaepus.co.uk. Please pass the web link on to anyone who might find it helpful.

First Holy Communion 2021 - If you have a child who is 7 years or over and you would like them to make their First Holy Communion this year, please get in touch with Fr. Dariusz

May God give wisdom and courage

to those who work for peace.

We pray that their efforts may be blessed,

that they may bring an end to violence

and solace and stability to suffering peoples.

May the gift of peace permeate all troubled souls,

convert all who live by violence

and comfort all children who live in menacing situations,

that the freedom to enjoy life and grow in safety may be theirs.

And may each one of us know

peace of mind and heart,

peace of body and spirit,

peace of community and world.

Holy Spirit of Peace, grant our prayer. Amen

Sr Bridgetta Rooney/Cafod

SUNDAY Fr. Dariusz	9.30am	Hughie Downes – RIP Willie & Owen Hayes – Anniv. RIP John Keane – Remembrance Anniv.
Fr. Dariusz	11.30am	Mary Toomey – RIP John McAteer – Special Ints. People of the Parish
Fr. Dariusz	5.00pm	Joanna McNellis – Special Ints Nuala O'Donnell - RIP Poor Souls in Purgatory
MONDAY Fr. Jeremy		PRIVATE MASS
Fr. Dariusz	12.45pm	Bride Harkin – Special Ints
TUESDAY Fr. Jeremy		PRIVATE MASS
Fr. Dariusz		Owen McMeel – RIP
WEDNESDAY Fr. Jeremy		PRIVATE MASS
Fr. Dariusz	12.45pm	Pepin Akirizo – RIP Poor Souls in Purgatory
THURSDAY Fr. Jeremy		PRIVATE MASS
Fr. Dariusz	12.45pm	John Hutcheson – RIP
FRIDAY Fr. Jeremy		PRIVATE MASS
Fr. Dariusz	12.45pm	Patrick Kenny - RIP

Thank you very much for all of your cards, gifts, prayers and generosity over Christmas.

Fr Dariusz

Thank you to all our stewards who are working hard and keeping us safe. Please support our stewards and follow their direction. **URGENT: we still need new stewards to assist with all of the Masses.**

If you are interested and able to help please contact:-

Rose Bluett Tel: 07933 948934

Our Faith on Sunday

LITURGY

The Baptism of The Lord (B)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Mt 3:16-17
After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-11
Come to the water. Listen and your soul will live.

PSALM: Is 12:2-6 R.3

R) With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Truly, God is my salvation,
 I trust, I shall not fear.
 For the Lord is my strength, my song,
 he became my saviour.
 With joy you will draw water
 from the wells of salvation. (R)

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
 Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
 Declare the greatness of his name. (R)

Sing a psalm to the Lord
 for he has done glorious deeds,
 make them known to all the earth!
 People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
 for great in your midst is the Holy One of
 Israel. (R)

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-9
The Spirit and water and blood.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
Alleluia, alleluia! Cf. Jn 1:29
John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mark 1:7-11
You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jn 1:32,34
Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.



GOSPEL REFLECTION



"The Spirit of the Lord fills the world", we read in the Book of Wisdom. Jesus, we hear today, is filled with the Holy Spirit who comes down on him *"like a dove"*. In the Spirit, Jesus goes out into the wilderness; in the Spirit, in the power of the creating Spirit, he goes around the Holy Land bringing new life, physical and spiritual, to those who will accept it. They have reason to accept his claims to spiritual authority – *"Go in peace, your sins are forgiven"* – for he demonstrates in himself the power of the Creator over the physical world. He walks on the water, creates bread from nothing, raises the dead. St. Peter, years later, in his second letter to the churches, reminds the churches, *"We had seen his majesty with our own eyes."* Jesus' words as man are always effective; what he says will come about in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amazingly,

the Baptist tells those listening to him: Jesus will *"baptise you with the Holy Spirit"*! In other words, Jesus will give to those who follow him, his own intimacy with the Creating Spirit! In the Church's sacraments, in the Christian saints through the centuries, is clear evidence of the truth of that promise. The Word of God speaks through the Church and through the lives of those who are baptised.

POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
 BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



I. DARK CLOUDS OVER A CLOSED WORLD

SHATTERED DREAMS (CONT'D)

11. Our own days, however, seem to be showing signs of a certain regression. Ancient conflicts thought long buried are breaking out anew, while instances of a myopic, extremist, resentful and aggressive nationalism are on the rise. In some countries, a concept of popular and national unity influenced by various ideologies is creating new forms of selfishness and a loss of the social sense under the guise of defending national interests. Once more we are being reminded that "each new generation must take up the struggles and attainments of past generations, while setting its sights even higher. This is the path. Goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day. It is not possible to settle for what was achieved in the past and complacently enjoy it, as if we could somehow disregard the fact that many of our brothers and sisters still endure situations that cry out for our attention".

St Teresa's Way of Perfection*

HEAVENLY FOOD FOR HEAVENLY PEOPLE

It is useless to stuff ourselves greedily with accounts of the lives of the saints, tomes of spirituality, God-talk and so on, if we neglect the present moment in which is all the nourishment we need. Other things can only be useful if they are according to God's present will. They are a means to an end, not an end in themselves.

Whatever God gives is what we must want to have. Manna from heaven comes only a day at a time. Let us feed upon the will of God moment by moment and we shall not

need to seek out other food of our own choosing.

Holiness is integral to belonging to God. If we want to be holy, we must accept all that God sees fit to give us without tiring our minds with subtle reasoning. What food can we eat if the food God gives seems tasteless? Do we know better than God what will nourish us? Surely not! Revere God present in your heart NOW. You have all you need if you only trust in God's leading and feeding.

*St Teresa's Way of Perfection for Everyone by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard. ISBN: 978-0-904287-78-3 www.newcity.co.uk

