

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

Chapel Fold, Hoghton, PR5 0DE

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The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday 10th January 2026

(Sunday cycle year A, weekday cycle year 2, psalter week 1)



*“This is my beloved Son,
with whom I am well pleased”*

Creator God, our soul's delight, your voice thunders over the waters, liberating the future from the past. In the Spirit's power and the waters of rebirth, Jesus was declared your blessed and beloved Son; may we recall our baptism, and be disciples of the Anointed One. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sat 10 th	4.30pm	Kathleen Greenwood		The Baptism of the Lord	
Sat 17 th	4.30pm	For the Parish		Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	

This week		Readers		Eucharistic Ministers	
Sat 10 th		C Snape, L Lomax		M Gardner, P Fawcett, P Cook	
Bidding prayers	J & K Slater	Children's Liturgy	F Fordyce, G Fowler	Collection counters	C Moffatt & C Williamson
Next week		Readers		Eucharistic Ministers	
Sat 17 th		C Williamson, M Russell		S Schofield, G Hopkinson, J Kitchen	
Bidding prayers	C Snape	Children's Liturgy	C Snape, J Kitchen	Collection counters	C & K Snape

Last weekend: attendance: 112, collection: £273.60 – thank you!

Mass Times

St Bede's, Clayton Green

Saturday, Vigil 6.00pm, Sunday, 11.00am, weekdays: Tuesday and Friday 9.15am
 (Please see their website for any changes: <https://stbedesclaytongreen.co.uk>)

St Chad's, Whittle-le-Woods

Sunday, 9.15am, weekdays: Monday and Thursday 9.15am
 (Please see their website for any changes: <https://stchads-southhill.org>)

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Reconciliation and First Holy Communion: From February, children in Year 4 will be prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. There will be a series of 6 meetings for parents and children. At present we are not sure where they will take place, but they will be on a Thursday and will last no longer than 1 hour.

If you wish to be enrolled as part of the Sacramental Programme and do NOT attend St Joseph's School please could contact Mrs Fordyce on 07813123855 or frances.fordyce@hotmail.co.uk.

Confirmation: This month, children in school years 8 & 9 will be invited to be confirmed. St Mary's High School will commence this programme and any child that attends the school will be able to join. Alternatively if you wish to enrol with the Parish, then you will have to access this by completing the form on the Archdiocesan of Liverpool website. Children who do NOT attend St Mary's High School will be able to enrol with diocese via the Archdiocese of Liverpool website.

If you have any queries regarding First Communion or Confirmation, please contact Mrs Fordyce – details above.

Thank you, Mrs F Fordyce, Parish Sacramental Co Ordinator.

At the back of church, there are a few copies of the **COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE PARISH** which Fr Graeme read out last Saturday and these are also in the "Transition Communications" section of the website. The email address to use if you wish to communicate your views is sjconsultation@rcaol.org.uk – submissions need to be made by 22nd January.

IF YOU REQUIRE A PRIEST IN AN EMERGENCY, please contact Fr Mark Beattie on 01257 460154. For all other queries, contact Fr Graeme Dunne on 01257 262462.

CYCLE OF PRAYER: During Ordinary Time (Winter), ie up to Lent, we are asked to pray for these intentions: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; The Unemployed.

There is **TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASS ON SATURDAY** – please come along – you'll be most welcome.

This Week's Saints

Wednesday: St Kentigern (secondary patron of the Archdiocese) also known as Mungo (one dearly beloved) was the founder and first bishop of Glasgow. He was vigorous in his defence of the faith and outstanding in his piety and zeal. He died about 603.

Saturday: St Anthony Abbot and Hermit (251-356): Born in upper Egypt to a wealthy family. In his Life of St Anthony, St Athanasius tells us that at the age of about twenty, his parents died and about six months later, while thinking of the sacrifices followers of Christ had made, he entered a church just as the Gospel was being read which was about the rich man whom Jesus told to sell all he had, give the money to the poor and then to come and follow him.

He immediately left the church, sold and gave away his property but retained enough to maintain himself and his younger sister but after another visit to the church where he heard the words 'Do not be anxious about tomorrow', he gave away all he had, put his sister into a convent and embarked upon the ascetic life, living by the work of his hands and praying constantly. He attracted a following and contributed to orthodoxy against the heresies circulating at that time. He encouraged those being persecuted – even seeking martyrdom himself, but ended up living to a great old age. Although he wasn't the first monk or hermit, he is thought of as the Father of Monasticism.

According to the Oxford Dictionary of Saints and various articles on the internet, in the Middle Ages he is associated with the healing of a medical condition caused by a fungal poisoning in rye grass called Ergot which caused Ergotism or Erysipelas known as St Anthony's Fire and in France around 1095, a Roman Catholic congregation was formed to care for those suffering from this disease. He is Patron of monks and of healing including the healing of animals.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 3:13-17

Why did Jesus, the Sinless One, submit himself to John's baptism? John preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Luke 3:3). In this humble submission we see a foreshadowing of the "baptism" of his bloody death upon the cross. Jesus' baptism is the acceptance and the beginning of his mission as God's suffering Servant. He allowed himself to be numbered among sinners. Jesus submitted himself entirely to his Father's will. Out of love he consented to this baptism of death for the remission of our sins. Do you know the joy of trust and submission to God?

The Father proclaimed his entire delight in his Son and spoke audibly for all to hear. The Holy Spirit, too, was present as he anointed Jesus for his ministry which began that day as he rose from the waters of the Jordan river. Jesus will be the source of the Spirit for all who come to believe in him. At his baptism the heavens were opened and the waters were sanctified by the descent of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, signifying the beginning of a new creation.

How can we enter into the mystery of Jesus' humble self-abasement and baptism? Gregory of Nazianzus, a seventh century Church father tells us: "Let us be buried with Christ by Baptism to rise with him, let us go down with him to be raised with him and let us rise with him to be glorified with him." Do you want to see changes in your life? And do you want to become a more effective instrument of the gospel? Examine Jesus' humility and ask the Holy Spirit to forge this same attitude in your heart. As you do, heaven will open for you as well. The Lord is ever ready to renew us in his Spirit and to anoint us for mission. We are called to be "light" and "salt" to those around us. The Lord wants his love and truth to shine through us that others may see the goodness and truth of God's message of salvation. Ask the Lord to fill you with his Holy Spirit that you may radiate the joy of the gospel to those around you.

"Lord, fill me with your Holy Spirit and inflame my heart with the joy of the gospel. May I find joy in seeking to please you just as you found joy in seeking to please your Father".

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Priest: As we thank God for the gift of his Son in Holy Communion, let us remember those of our Parish who are sick or housebound.

All: May the body and blood of your Son, which we now send to them through our Eucharistic Ministers, bring them consolation and peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord. Amen.