



The Baptism of the Lord

9th January 2022

CLONARD MONASTERY

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ClonardMonastery



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MASS TIMES AT CLONARD

Public Mass & Masses via Webcam

Sunday (Vigil Sat- 7.30pm), 7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, and 12.30pm.

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri.

7.00am, 9.30am and 6.15pm.

Thursday (Novena) 7.00am, 9.30am, 6.15pm and 8.00pm.

Saturday 7.00am, 9.30am & 12.00 Noon.

CHRISTMAS CRIB APPEAL



The Crib will be removed soon. So we wanted to remind you about this year's Christmas Crib Appeal.

It's for **Children in Crossfire**, which was founded in 1996 by Richard Moore from Derry: working to ensure that vulnerable children in some of the world's most impoverished communities get the best possible start in life. You'll find a leaflet, giving more detail about the Charity, near the Crib Appeal Box.

GOD'S WORD IN JANUARY 2022

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Today's Readings

The heavens open

Is 40:1-5.9-11; Ps 103; Tt 2:11-14.3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16.21-22

Today's feast marks the end of the Christmas season and prepares us for the story of Jesus' earthly work as it will unfold during the rest of the church's year.

The Gospel has two parts. The first describes the feeling of expectancy that had gripped the people. John the Baptist was a fresh voice that rang out with authority. Could he be the long-awaited Messiah who would throw off the yoke of the Roman oppressor and restore the ancient kingdom of Israel? John is quick to dampen their expectations. Someone more powerful than he is coming, he says, whose sandals he is unfit to untie.

The second part describes the baptism of Jesus and its aftermath. Luke tells us little about the baptism itself. Jesus takes his place among the crowds that allowed John to submerge them in the Jordan river as a sign of their desire to repent and to be cleansed of sin. Shortly afterwards, while 'Jesus was at prayer,' the heavens open.

It's not easy for us to imagine the heavens opening. We use that phrase for a heavy rain shower. For a Jew, it would mean that the barrier separating the earthly world from the heavenly is opened for a moment. 'The Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove.' In the Old Testament, the Spirit descended on prophets to mark them out as God's servants. The opening chapter of the bible describes how the Spirit of God 'hovers over the deep,' as though the Spirit were some great bird. The heavenly voice declares that this man on whom the Spirit rests is not simply another prophet: he is the Son, the Beloved, on whom God's favour rests.

Courtesy of REALITY magazine



Feast Days this week:

Thursday 13th: St Hilary

Friday 14th: Blessed: Peter Donders C.Ss.R.

Saturday 15th: St Ita

St Louise's Comprehensive College Virtual Open Night Tour on Monday 10th January 2022

Visit: www.stlouise.org.uk

FACE COVERINGS must be worn when entering and exiting the Church, this is still a legal requirement. Face coverings are strongly recommended at all other times even when seated.

Use hand-sanitisers on entering and leaving the Church.



We thank you for last week's Collection which came to £1,577 for Clonard, £676 for the Bishop's collection. Also for your kind donations, online and by post.