



The Baptism of the Lord

12th January 2025

CLONARD MONASTERY
1 CLONARD GARDENS
BELFAST BT13 2RL
Tel: 02890445950



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.



We thank you for last week's collection which came to £2,340 for Clonard, £782 for the Bishop's collection. Also for your kind donations, online and by post.

Today is the last day to donate to this year's Christmas Crib Appeal in aid of **Westcourt Centre, Barrack Street, Belfast.** The centre works with a number of local service providers for the homeless to raise awareness of the issue of homelessness. **All donations are greatly appreciated.**

The Carer Support Service is part of the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. The service supports carers of all ages. You are a carer if you are regularly supporting a family member or friend who is unwell, frail, living with a disability or a mental health condition. Information about accessing this service is available at the back of the church or at Reception. You can also contact the Service: Tel: 028 9504 2126 / CarerSuppSvc@belfasttrust.hscni.net



This Sunday's Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 The Church believes Isaiah's words refer to Jesus, the true shepherd: he is 'the glory of the Lord'.

Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7 Salvation is possible for all people, because of God's great compassion, which we see in the gift of baptism.

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 The events celebrated in today's feast are described in the Gospel, as St Luke described them

The Baptism of the Lord. Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

In today's gospel, we witness a pivotal moment in Jesus' life: His baptism by John the Baptist. The people were filled with anticipation, wondering if John might be the Messiah. John clarifies, saying, "I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming... He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire." When Jesus is baptised, the heavens open, and the Holy Spirit descends on Him like a dove. A voice from heaven declares, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

This passage is especially significant as we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. It marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and serves as a powerful reminder of our own baptism. In today's world, where we often seek validation and purpose, this event reassures us of our identity as beloved children of God.

Reflecting on this, we can draw parallels to our daily lives. Just as Jesus received the Holy Spirit, we too are gifted with the Holy Spirit at our baptism. This divine presence empowers us to live out our faith in a world that can sometimes feel overwhelming. It calls us to be witnesses of God's love, mercy, and justice in our communities.

In a modern context, this means embracing our baptismal call to serve others, stand up for what is right, and spread kindness. It challenges us to look beyond our own needs and recognise the dignity and worth of every person we encounter. As we navigate the complexities of life, let us remember that we are not alone. The same Spirit that descended upon Jesus is with us, guiding and strengthening us.

On this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, let us renew our commitment to live as true disciples of Christ, confident in our identity as beloved children of God, and inspired to make a positive impact in the world.

Clonard Monastery Belfast Vacancy for Housekeeper- Full time

Experience of housekeeping outside of a domestic setting needed.

Professional, enthusiastic and courteous approach required.

37.5 hours weekly. Monday-Friday. £11.44 per hour.

Application forms and job description available from reception at Clonard Monastery or by emailing tmckernan@cssr.ie.

Closing date for receipt of applications Friday 31st January 2025 at 4:30pm.

"Together: Building a United Community - Progress and Challenges" - Tuesday 14

January at 7.30pm in Fitzroy Presbyterian Church. An evening with Stormont Junior Ministers Aisling Reilly of Sinn Fein and Pam Cameron of the DUP. Organised by the Clonard/Fitzroy Fellowship. All welcome.

The loss of a partner through death, separation or divorce is devastating. Beginning Experience is offering a programme of bereavement support in St Bride's Hall, Belfast on three Saturdays ([25th January](#); [22nd February](#) and [29th March](#)) Booking essential. To find out more, contact Pauline 07519289185 or Marie 07896119669 or belfastbe@yahoo.com