

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

We pray for Jim Izzard, Dorrie Cairns, Mary Waters and David Guest who have died recently and remember also for Patricia McNelis, Dorrie Cairns, Brendon O'Brien, Filomena D'Souza, Stefan and Irka Baszczok and all the faithful departed. May they rest in peace.

OUR SATURDAY MORNING MASS IS OFFERED FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The Annual White Flower appeal will be made at all Masses this weekend. Thank you for your support.

Sat 9th	10.00 am	The Sick and the Housebound
	5.30 pm	Helen Kavanagh (RIP - anniv)
Sun 10th	9.00 am	Pro Populo
THE BAPTISM	10.30 am	Barbara Curren (ints)
OF THE	12.00 noon	Patricia McNelis (RIP - anniv)
LORD	6.00 pm	Eileen and Conor O'Sullivan and Fam (ints)
Mon 11th	9.30 am	Dorrie Cairns (RIP)
Tue 12th	9.30 am	Kathleen Riley (Good Health)
Wed 13th	9.30 am	David Guest (RIP)
Thu 14th	9.30 am	Jim Izzard (RIP)
Fri 15th	9.30 am	Margaret McGuinness (ints)
Sat 16th	10.00 am	The Sick and the Housebound
	5.30 pm	Brendon O'Brien (RIP)
Sun 17th	9.00 am	Pro Populo
SECOND SUNDAY	10.30 am	Filomena D'Souza (RIP)
IN ORDINARY	12.00 noon	Dr Vilath (ints)
TIME	6.00 pm	Stefan & Irka Baszczok (RIP-anniv)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL MASSES ARE ONLINE AT:
www.stthomasfulham.com**

DURING THIS TIME OF HEIGHTENED RESTRICTIONS THE ATTENDANCE OF MR GERALD DALY NEED TO BE CHANGED. THE OFFICE WILL BE OPEN TUE / WED / THURS MORNINGS AND ON TUE AND THURS AFTERNOONS



CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
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Asst. Priest: Fr Linferd Fernandes
Parish Deacon: Rev Wayne O'Reilly
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Safeguarding Representative: Mr David Belcher
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER
MONDAY- FRIDAY FROM 9.00 - 10.30 AM AND FROM 4 - 5 PM
SATURDAY 9.30 - 11.30 AM
SUNDAY MASS TIMES AS USUAL**

CHRISTMAS THANKS

My dear friends, on behalf of Fr Linferd, Deacon Wayne and myself I just want to say a brief word of thanks, to you all, for your kindness and generosity at this Christmastide. As always an amazing amount of gifts have come in to the presbytery and we are truly grateful for them. It has been a strange Christmas and perhaps not surprisingly the number of people who got to Mass has been small. With London suddenly being placed into Tier 4, many, many people decided not to use the tickets they had reserved for a particular Mass and that is quite understandable. However, I do hope that everyone managed - at least- to 'get' Mass online. What a boon our livestream has proven and continues to be. Let us look forward to a happier and healthier new year, and now that the vaccination programme is beginning let us look to the time when we can all gather together safely around the altar!

Many of you have expressed your concern with regard to the financial situation of our parish at this time. Details of our parish bank account are below should you wish to donate directly.

YOUR NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES MAY BE COLLECTED FROM THE PRESBYTERY

Finally, if you are a tax-payer and would wish your offering to be Gift Aided, please let us know and we will help to sort this out.
WRCDT ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY FULHAM
HSBC 69 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EY
Sort Code: 40-05-20 Account No.: 11263137

My dear friends,

This is the last Sunday of the Christmas Season, and this Feast - The Baptism of the Lord concludes Christmas and begins our meditation on the ministry and mission of Jesus.



Now there are four aspects to this feast: firstly, the Lord humbles himself before John the Baptist, secondly the Lord is empowered by the Spirit to begin the mission of His Father, thirdly the Lord accepts that it is His mission to suffer and die for us and fourthly Jesus expresses his solidarity with those who are looking to make the world a better place.

Today, though, I want to focus on the fourth aspect of the feast, the one wherein Jesus expresses his solidarity with those looking to change the world.

I want the world to be changed, you want the world to be changed. That isn't new, for we're no different to the people of Jesus' time. Those who came to John were sick of a world full of cruelty, persecution, and war. They wanted change and they wanted to do something about it. And they understood that the world wasn't going to change unless they changed, and Jesus saw this and joined them. The sinless man of Peace accepted the baptism of John because he also wanted the world to be changed. And then Jesus began his public ministry saying that the Kingdom of God, the New Order is upon us. But for the New Order to take place we have to conquer our enemies with love. We have to stop saying. "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" such thinking cannot exist in the New Order. "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" that is the new order.

The point Jesus is making is that it takes two for hatred to grow. So how dare we be shocked at the presence of war when we refuse to accept the dictates of the Sermon on the Mount. Of course, people will attack us from time to time, but how do we respond? Our inclination is to strike back. That is the way of hatred, not the way of love, and if that's the way we deal with our problems, then what right do we have to be shocked that nations are always ready for war.

Jesus stood before John the Baptist seeking to change the world. He saw those who had been baptized before him as people who had begun to realise that the change had to begin with themselves and so He joined them. He quietly gets in line with the others and gracefully asks John to baptize him. And so, from the very beginning of his ministry Jesus provides a template of

of how we should live with humility, genuine humility.

Certainly, we are all outraged by wars or the evils all around us in our modern world. But we must also recognize that we participate in evil every time we answer hatred with hatred and ignore the opportunity to respond to evil with love.

We who call ourselves Christians must be Christians. As we see Jesus standing in line before John the Baptist we must ask for grace, ask for the strength to approach our problems and attackers in a way that promotes love, that promotes the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. And we must ask ourselves what must I do? We can make a difference if we unite ourselves to the One who changed the world with His Life, and today, on this great feast day we're being reminded that we can, and must, continue the Mission of bringing Jesus Christ to our world.

Every blessing,

200 CLUB - DECEMBER DRAW

135 £530.00 Vera Treacy

18 £27.00 John Gordon 77 £27.00 Ned & Patrick Millington-Buck

190 £16 Steve and Lillian Greene 3 £16 Lydia Greena

167 £16.00 Anthony McGeever

Congratulations to all our winners

THE 200 CLUB IS A WONDERFUL WAY IN WHICH WE CAN SUPPORT OUR PARISH AND EVEN HAVE THE CHANCE OF WINNING A PRIZE!! NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME PART OF THE FUN.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING TODAY!! DETAILS FROM THE PARISH OFFICE - COME AND TAKE THE PLUNGE

CAN YOU HELP?

Do you have an old laptop or tablet that is hidden away in a cupboard and that you have no intention of using again? If you have then would you consider donating it for use in our school? At times of lockdown there are a number of children who do not have access to such a device and are missing out on their distance learning. If you are able to help with this, rest assured that the device will be confidentially prepared with all data removed professionally. If you can help please speak to Fr Dennis or Gerald - thanks a million.