

**THE PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF HEREFORD,
HR4 8QS AND
ST.BEDE THE VEN. KINGTON, HR5 3DW**

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



John the Baptist setting off into the desert.
By Giovanni di Paolo, c.1454

THE PARISH

Parish Priest, Fr.Simon McGurk,O.S.B.
St Thomas' Presbytery, Weobley HR4 8QS
Tel. 01544 318 325. (*Please allow at least 10 rings*)
Mob.07442.075303.
email (Parish & Pers.) sismcgurk43@gmail.com
Parish–Archdiocese email: simon.mcgurk@rcadc.com
Parish Councillors: Fr.Simon (President), Tricia Carter (Chair), Sarah Nichols, Frank McNally, Charles de Rohan, Julie Gander, Patricia Stuart.
Finance Cttee: Joanna Helme, Pat Roberts, Peter Hereford, Patricia Stuart, Charles de Rohan..
Safeguarding Rep. Joanna Helme 01432.760816
Hospital Chaplain: Fr. Patrick Lobo (Belmont Abbey) on 07568 669 300 or 01432.265 177

The Website:www.thomasandbede.com Go to the website, and click on 'Contact'. Tricia Carter now manages the website (01568.708723).
triciacarter2691@gmail.com
NEW Zoom ID 356 505 3411. Passcode: x55Ftu

SERVICES – THE SECOND WEEK OF YEAR A.

Sat. Jan.17 **Mass of Sun.2 in Ord. time K'ton 6.00**
Sun. 18 **2nd. ORD. SUNDAY.**
Day of Prayer for Peace.
Mass. Weob.10.30
Int. Brian Tanswell R.I.P.
Mon. 19 **Mass 10.00 Weob. St.Wulstan**
Tue. 20 **Mass, 10.00 Weob– SS.Fabian + Sebast**
Wed. 21 **Mass, Kington 10.30 - St. Agnes**
Thu. 22 **NO Mass**
Fri. 23 **Mass, Weob. 3.00 – S. Cadoc**
Sat. 24 **Mass of the 3rd. Ord. K'ton 6.00pm.**
Sun 25 **3rd.ORDINARY SUNDAY, YEAR A.**
Mass, Weobley 10.30

URGENT PRAYERS

ALL PEOPLES THREATENED BY THE GREATER POWERS OF OUR WORLD.

For the people of Greenland, Venezuela, Cuba and Taiwan (to name a few)..

For the people, mostly young, killed or injured in the dance hall conflagration in Gstaad, Switzerland.
For a miracle in Ukraine to save the country for its own people.

That the peace initiative brokered by Pres. Trump for Gaza and Israel will hold. That the political leaders of Israel and members of Hamas will begin to obey God's fifth commandment: "Thou shalt not kill". For the survival of Gaza and the native Palestinians and that these peoples may have the right to decide their own future,

That our young people will be drawn away from every kind of crime and violence, and drawn to a commitment to good deeds.

PARISH INTENTIONS

For those in our parish or known to us who are sick or in need of special prayers: John & Vicky Tanner, Graham Vaughan, Melita Denaro, Vivian Brooke, Claire Burrows, Sarah Murkin, Roger Nichols, Bill Davies, Kath Morgan, Tricia Carter, Louise Wright, Kim Williams, Frank McNally, Bob Best..
For parishioners, relatives and friends recently dead: Roger Kerrigan, Brian Tanswell.

We remember those of our parish whose anniversaries occur at this time: Thomas Morgan (M.'68), James Norris (M.'70), Fr. Dyfrig Harris (F.2012), Monica Hillard (Sa.'96).

For King Charles III and Queen Camilla. May they always set the highest standards of leadership for our country. We pray for our government, especially our Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer and his cabinet. May they govern with integrity following the religious beliefs and social needs of our country. And we pray for the leaders of all the other countries of the world, esp.President Zelenski of Ukraine and conversion of the Russian leaders.

PARISH BIBLE READING GROUP (*lectio divina*)

Started last Wednesday and will run every 2 weeks at 2.00pm in the Parish Room, Weobley.
NEXT MEETING WED. JAN 21st. Info: Contact Andy Palfreman (palfremanandy@gmail.com) or see Fr. Simon
Subj. Paul's letters to the Thessalonians

THE COMMUNITY SHOP

Our booking for the Community Shop in Kington this year will be from 9.00 am. Wednesday Feb. 11th. until Tuesday 17th. Setting up: evening of Tues 10th. Please empty your cupboards, wardrobes, garden sheds, garages, etc. NOW.

SERMONETTE FOR THE SECOND ORDINARY SUNDAY OF YEAR A.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM.

In ancient and biblical Greek, *baptizein* is the common word for to wash – any kind of washing. There is nothing intrinsically holy about the word but it came to be used in the latter years of Old Testament Judaism by certain religious sects which were essentially seeking holiness and a closer relationship with Yahweh God. Clearly, John the Baptizer was a descendent of one of these groups, those who were awaiting the coming of the Messiah. Judging by Mark's and Matthew's gospels, there were great crowds of these people coming from Jerusalem and all over wanting to be ready for the Messiah when he came. Even Jesus himself was minded to come along. Today, we will see why. The term "christening" came much later. In Christianity it is the same as Baptism.

FIRST READING: from the prophecy of Isaiah (Ch.49, vv.3-6)

This week, we continue with Isaiah's vision the "suffering servant of Yahweh". To be specially called by God for His mission is obviously a great joy and a privilege, though many who were called also record their won doubts and hesitation: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel to name a significant few. Today we are introduced again to the "suffering servant" prophecies of Isaiah which come to predict the mission and fate of Jesus Christ. Seven centuries later. Rejection is almost a hallmark of the true prophet because no one – it seems – and especially not rulers want to hear the words of correction, let alone change.

SECOND READING: from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (Ch.1 vv.1-3)

This is simply the introduction to the first of Paul's two letters to the Christians in Corinth. He mentions one of his faithful brothers, Sosthenes, and then goes on to address the Corinthians as "called to be saints" or *sancti*, *God's holy people*, *His baptised*. *Us!*

GOSPEL: from the Gospel of Matthew. (Ch.3, vv.13-17)

Today, we switch to the gospel of John. John had been sent by God to wash away the sins of all who came to him: "the world". And we know from Mark and Matthew that thousands came to repent of their sins. However, John also introduces us to "the Lamb of God", whom he recognises coming towards him out of the crowd. In this moment it is to John that is given the revelation that this is the one sent by God to take away the sins of the world. This revelation is confirmed by the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus by whose power Jesus now baptises with the Spirit.

STOP PRESS: Coming up.

DON'T FORGET THE FOOD BANK OVER NEW YEAR. Lots of cold, undervfed people around).

**START YOUR DAY WITH MILLIONS THROUGH-OUT THE WORLD WITH "PRAYER OF THE CHURCH".
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thur, Fri. 9.40 on Zook. See number on page 1.**

KEEP PRAYING FOR LIFE

for the defeat of the proposed Assisted Suicide bill.(Local M.P.s: Ellie Chowns voted in favour of the Bill. Jessie Norman against. Go to work on Ellie Chowns. House of Lords vote: 33% for, 67% against.

ABORTION UP TO BIRTH.

Please email info@righttolife.org.uk to express your views on Tonia Antoniazzi M.P.'s amendment to allow abortions up to 37 weeks (i.e. birth). "Thanks" – the babies.

Or email Tonia Antoniazzi at tonia.antoniazzi.mp@parliament.uk

IMAGINE IF JESUS HAD BEEN ABORTED!