

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

THE LORD'S BAPTISM



The Baptism of Jesus, by Pietro Perugino, c.1482
Sistine chapel.

THE PARISH

Parish Priest, Fr.Simon McGurk,O.S.B.

St Thomas' Presbytery, Weobley HR4 8QS

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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 FIRST WEEK OF YEAR A.

Sat. Jan.10 Mass of THE BAPTISM K'ton 6.00

Sun. 11 LORD'S BAPTISM Mass. Weob.10.30
Int. Catharine Williams R.I.P.

Mon. 12 Mass 10.00 Weob. St.Benet Biscop

Tue. 13 Mass, Weob. 10.00 - St. Hilary

Wed. 14 Mass, Kington 10.30 -feria

Thu. 15 NO Mass

Fri. 16 Mass, Weob. 3.00 -feria

Sat. 17 Mass of the 2nd. Ord. K'ton 6.00pm.

Sun 18 2nd.ORDINARY SUNDAY, YEAR A.
Mass, Weobley 10.30

SERMONETTE FOR THE LORD'S BAPTISM Year B.

THE LORD'S BAPTISM.

URGENT PRAYERS

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.

For the immediate release of remaining Israeli Hostages. 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,

For the people in Hong Kong caught up in the terrible fires.

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, Brian Tanswell, Bob Best..

For parishioners, relatives and friends recently dead: Roger Kerrigan,

We remember those of our parish whose anniversaries occur at this time: William Tedstone (S.'65), Vera Dillon (M.2006), John Close (Th.), Florence Zollo (Th.'95), Gustave Cheney (Sa.'53).

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

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 for certain religious sects which were essentially seeking holiness and a closer relationship with Yahweh God. Clearly, John the Baptist 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.42, vv.1-7)

So far, the prophet Isaiah has been prophesying at length about a new age to come after the wretched time of the kings. Now the people who walked in darkness will see a great light, the wolf will down with the lamb and the little child will put its hand into the cobra's lair. But who on earth is going to be God's agent for all this? Surely it needs to be one of us. Hence God sends His "Servant": not a slave but one like us. Only mankind with God's power can put right the evils which beset creation..

SECOND READING: from the Acts of the Apostles. (Ch.10. vv.34-38)

This reading is taken from an address by Peter, the apostle, to the household of Cornelius, a Roman centurion who had called Peter to cure his servant. It took a very blunt vision from God to persuade Peter that he actually could cure the servant, who was a gentile, and then to receive the entire household of Cornelius into the faith. For Peter it was a "light bulb moment". There are many in the Acts whereby God steers his nascent church into startling new ways.

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

Jesus answers laconically what we and John the Baptist want to ask him. "Why have you come to John for baptism?" After all, we have been educated for generations on the doctrine that Baptism is to wash away 'Original Sin' which surely Jesus did not have. Without denying our first parents' sin, the term "original sin" was created by St. Augustine in the 4th century a.D., and we know for certain that Christ did not have it. St. Augustine used the term polemically to show that all people throughout the world had sinned and therefore needed baptism. So why did Jesus come to John?. Surely it was to identify with the sinlessness which John was offering and so that the Father could proclaim Him the "Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased". With His leadership and in His Body we will all become the beloved of the Father. However, it stands to reason that we will have to accept John's baptism first because we will have sinned, remembering also that the candidates for Baptism would have been adults capable of sin..

STOP PRESS: Coming up.

DEANERY PASTORAL ADVISORY COUNCIL: Thursday January 15th. Our Lady's Church Hall, Hereford . 7.00pm.

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!