



PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Sunday 11th January 2026

Parish Priest:

Fr Jonathon Bowes

Presbytery: 0191 265 5290

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Church Open Daily: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8.00am - 5.00pm Saturday 8.00am - 2.00pm

Safeguarding

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and Diocese's policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are listed below or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0191 243 3305 or at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk

Safeguarding Reps: St.Teresa's: Jean Potts

St.Anthony's: Maria Duncan

Parish Website: www.stteresaseastnewcastle.org.uk

THIS WEEKS REFLECTION FROM FR JONATHON

The Christmas season closes with a focus on Jesus' baptism. Today's readings teach us that just as God was pleased with his own beloved Son, God is also well pleased to welcome us all into his family. St Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism, which we hear today, makes an editorial change to St Mark's account – a subtle, yet significant change. Whereas Mark tells us that the voice from heaven says, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you,' Matthew tells us that the voice from heaven says, "This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him". In Mark's account, God's voice and message are a private revelation between Jesus and the Father. In Matthew's account, the Father's voice and message are a public revelation for all to bear witness.

The Second Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, also has the spirit of a public revelation of God's will. We hear proclaimed today part of a larger experience that Peter had in the household of Cornelius, a Gentile centurion. Peter bears witness to the descent of the Holy Spirit upon those assembled in Cornelius' household, and subsequently orders the baptising of those Gentiles. Just as the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus and on the disciples assembled in the upper room after Jesus' death and Resurrection, the Gentiles too had their own experience of the Holy Spirit and Baptism.

The Gospel today and the reading from the Acts of the Apostles preserve for us the public revelation that God is well pleased with all people who profess faith in his own beloved Son and who strive to do his will. Like Peter, we can conclude on this feast of the Baptism of the Lord 'that God does not have favourites, but that anyone of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

Fr. Jonathon



NEWS FROM OUR PARISH, PARTNERSHIP AND DIOCESE

WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

We remember in our prayers all those we know who are unwell, as well as the many who have no one to pray for them and for those in hospital. We pray especially for all those who have died recently, especially for Canon Bob Spence, Simon Baker, Helen Smith and Sheila Card and for all those who anniversaries occur at this time. Helen's Cremation Service will take place on Tuesday 13th January at 3pm at West Road Crematorium. Simon's funeral service will take place at St Teresa's on Friday 16th January at 10.30am followed by burial at Jesmond cemetery. Sheila's Cremation service will take place on Wednesday 21st January at 2.15pm at the West Road Crematorium.

ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING & CELEBRATION

On Saturday 31st January there will be a training day for all our Altar Servers, and for those who wish to start serving in the parish. The day will begin at 10.00am with Holy Mass, followed by some input and training by Emmet. We will then head into the presbytery for Pizza's & Chips as a small thank you for everything that you do. The day will end by 2pm. It is hoped that All Altar servers will attend.

PARISH READERS DAY OF RECOLLECTION

A day of Recollection for all our parish readers will take place on Saturday 21st February at St Teresa's between 10-12. Emmet will give some input and look at how we prepare ourselves to proclaim the scriptures for others. The day will also allow us all to recommit ourselves to this important ministry. If you would like to become a reader, please speak to Fr Jonathon or contact the parish office. Please put this date in your diaries!

MEN'S & WOMEN'S ORATORY

The parish will be establishing two new groups in the New Year. These groups will meet once a month and have a spiritual conference/discussion on certain topics. We will conclude the sessions with some prayer and socialising. More details are available on the posters in the Church Porch. Please do come along if you are able. The First Sessions of each group will look at 'God's Love for us'. The men's group will meet on Thursday 22nd January, and the women's group will meet on Tuesday 27th January. These groups are open for people aged 12+, however under 18's must be accompanied by a parent.

LECTIO DIVINA PRAYER GROUP

As we begin a New Year, we would like to introduce a new prayer group to the parish on a Wednesday Evening in St Teresa's Porch. It will be led by Emmet and will be in the form of Lectio Divina, looking at the scripture readings for the coming Sunday. It will begin at 7pm and will end by 8pm. It is highly encouraged that those who are reading that coming Sunday attend the evening in preparation for reading at Mass on Sunday.

PARISH GIVING

Can we take this opportunity to thank you all for contributing towards the work of the parish. Since we became one parish the number of standing orders has dramatically reduced. If you would like to give by standing order and haven't yet changed the details with your bank, our new bank details are as follows.

Account Name: DHN Newcastle Christ the King
Account Number: 52010917 Sort Code: 40-34-18

SAINT ANTHONY'S UPDATE

As the cold weather continues to grip us the temperature in St Antony's on Tuesday had dropped to -1.6. Therefore, we have been advised by the diocese to drain the heating system in church to make sure that the pipes don't freeze and cause more issues for us. Until the temperature in Church improves we won't be able to have our Saturday Evening Masses there. So until that point, the Vigil Mass will be held at St Teresa's at 5.30pm. This Mass is open to all, not just the community of St Anthony's. Masses on a Tuesday morning will continue at St Anthony's in the weekday chapel, which can be accessed by the presbytery door in the car park. We will keep you updated.

SAINT TERESA'S ACCESS RAMP WORKS

The access ramp at the front of St Teresa's needs to be replaced to comply with regulations, and the works to carry this out will begin at the end of January. There will be some significant disruption during the 4 week period, but our hope is to continue with Masses and services as usual. Entry into Church during the period will be by the side door. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!!!

As we enter into this new year we are given the chance to ask ourselves what we can do to help our parish community. As you can imagine there is a myriad of vacancies that need to be filled in order to aid the efficient running of the parish. If we are going to continue to grow as a faith community, we need to ask ourselves how can I help build the community? No one person has all the answers, skills, talents or time to do all the things that need to be done. However, we all have something that we are able to offer. There are many ways you can help, either as a sacristan, reader, altar server, visitor to the sick or poor, leading the rosary, gardening, cleaning, catechists, welcomers, parish council members, singers, musicians and so on.

Can you help? Have you got some spare time to offer the parish community? How can you help Fr Jonathon in the efficient running of the parish?

You will find in the Porch a list of jobs that need volunteers. If you are able to help, please place your name and number of the sheet. We will then be in touch with you to see what time and day works best. Thank You!!

A GENTLE REMINDER

Please remember to switch off your mobile phone (or put it on silent) when coming into Church, and please do not eat or drink while in Church. This is a way we show reverence to Jesus present in the Tabernacle. When we receive Jesus in Holy Communion can we please remember '**Jesus gives himself to me. I eat Him where the priest can see. And if I want the cross to make, I eat Him first for safety's sake. If it's for Jesus that I long, why not receive Him on my tongue? Flat hand or tongue the choice I make, I never just reach out and take!**'

MASS INTENTIONS

At the Altar the priest offers Mass for the good of the whole Church and for a particular intention. There is nothing better than having a Mass offered for someone, or for a specific intention. Do you want a Mass offered for a particular intention? Perhaps for a deceased relative or friend, or for someone who is sick, or for your own intention? To have a Mass said please fill out a Mass envelope (available in the church porches) and return to Fr Jonathon or place in the offertory collection during Mass.

2026 NORTHERN CATHOLIC CALENDAR

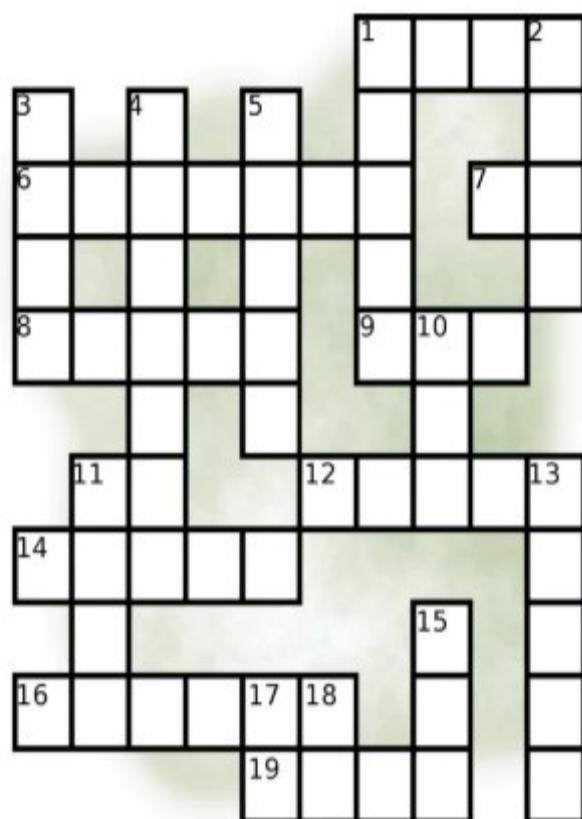
Copies of the new edition for 2026 of The Northern Catholic Calendar, the diocesan handbook listing all parishes, priests, deacons, religious houses and diocesan associations are now available at the back of Church. These are priced at £4 each. We only have a limited number of these available. Once they're gone, they're gone!

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

This pilgrimage takes place from Friday 31st July – Friday 7th August 2026. It is a special one Being the Centenary year since the first Diocesan Pilgrimage led by Bishop Joseph Thorman. Applications are now open to book your place on the Pilgrimage to Lourdes. By following the link below you will be able to select your hotel and book your flight. Please follow this link <https://www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-newcastle-2/> or phone 01732 886 666.

JESUS' BAPTISM CROSS-WORD PUZZLE

See if you can find all these words relating to Jesus' baptism and fit them into the puzzle:

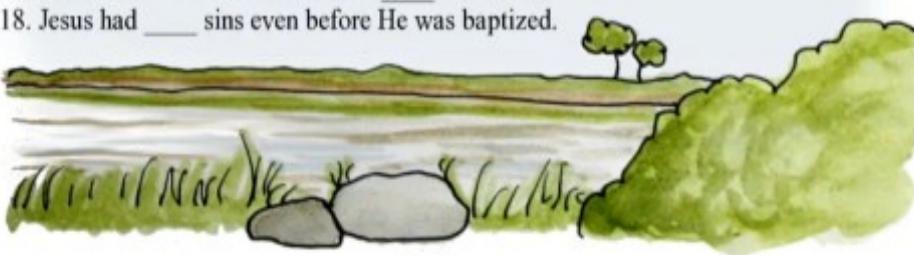


Across:

1. What was the name of the man who baptized Jesus?
6. The _____ opened and the Holy Spirit came down.
7. John said to Jesus, "You should baptize ____!"
8. John baptized with _____.
9. "This is my beloved _____ with whom I am well pleased."
11. "This _____ my beloved Son..."
12. _____ Jesus was baptized He came out of the river.
14. Once John had said about Jesus, "I am not worthy to _____ His sandal"
16. What was the name of the river where Jesus was baptized?
19. Jesus _____ John that it was fitting for Him to be baptized.

Down:

1. Who had never done a sin but was baptized anyway?
2. John said, "I _____ to be baptized by you!"
3. Jesus did this to _____ us how important baptism is.
4. The John in this story is called John the _____.
5. They _____ a voice from Heaven.
10. John came _____ of the desert to preach and baptize.
11. When we are baptized, the Holy Spirit comes _____ our soul.
13. Jesus was baptized in a _____.
15. The Heavens opened and the Spirit of _____ appeared.
17. Jesus came from Galilee to John _____ the Jordan.
18. Jesus had _____ sins even before He was baptized.



MY CATHOLIC LIFE

Catholic Q&A

Over the course of the coming year we will run a series for parishioners to email in any questions that they may have that we can answer and explore together. If you have any questions, please email the parish office.

This weeks question is **Why did Adam eat the apple?**

The simple answer is that the serpent persuaded Adam that eating the apple would be to his benefit. Adam would "become like God" if he ate it. Sadly, Adam believed this lie and chose to disobey God who had told him not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. This was the first sin and resulted in humanity falling from what we call Original Innocence. But to give a more thorough explanation, let's consider the entire story in a broader way.

First of all, did Adam actually eat the apple? Perhaps, but perhaps not. It's important to understand that we should not read this story in a "literal" way. That doesn't mean the story is not true. A good explanation of this comes from Cardinal Ratzinger (who later became Pope Benedict XVI) in his book "In the Beginning ...: A Catholic Understanding of the Story of Creation and the Fall". In that book, Cardinal Ratzinger stated, "It has become clear that the biblical creation narratives represent another way of speaking about reality than that with which we are familiar from physics and biology." He went on to explain that these stories "represent truth in the way that symbols do, just as, for example, a Gothic window gives us a deep insight into reality, thanks to the effects of light that it produces and to the figures that it portrays."

In other words, the story of Adam and Eve is true, but not necessarily in the way a science book is factual. A science book presents truth in a literal way, explaining the physical truths as they are in this world. The story of Adam and Eve presents truth in the form of a symbolic narrative. Whether or not Adam actually ate the apple in the literal way explained in that symbolic narrative is not important. What is important is the truth that the narrative presents. So what is the truth it presents? It presents us with the fact that our first parents turned from God in disobedience. The consequence was a fall from the original state of innocence and union with God for which God had made them. Therefore, the answer remains that Adam "ate the fruit" for selfish motivations because he believed the lie that disobeying God was better for him than obeying God. He was selfish and failed to trust the truth of God.

Next week we will answer a question that has been sent in to us this week. The question: **Suffering vs A Loving**



Please continue to remember in your prayers:

those who are sick or housebound and their carers:

John Gourley, Doreen Graham, June Stephenson, Aileen, Pat Matfin, Maria Cape and Mary McLaren.

Our sick children: Ezra Stephen Johnson, Josh Graham, James Taylor, Joseph Relph, Colby Taylor & Charlie Davidson

MASSES & SERVICES FOR THE COMING WEEK

Day		Time	Service	Church	Mass Intention	
Sat	10 Jan	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass *	St.Teresa's	Angela Miller RIP	The Baptism of the Lord
Sun	11 Jan	8.00 am 10.15 am 11.00 am 4.00 pm	Sung Morning Prayer Confessions Sung Holy Mass Sung Vespers & Benediction	St.Teresa's	Louise Tinning RIP People of the Parish	The Baptism of the Lord
Mon	12 Jan	8.00 am 5.30 pm 6.30 pm	Morning Prayer Holy Hour & Confessions Holy Mass	St.Teresa's	Tony Ingoe RIP	St Benet Biscop
Tue	13 Jan	8.00 am 9.00 am 10.00 am	Morning Prayer Holy Hour & Holy Rosary Holy Mass	St.Teresa's St.Anthony's St.Anthony's	Thompson Family (Special Intention)	Feria
Wed	14 Jan	3.00 pm 7.00 pm	Holy Hour Lectio Divina Prayer Group	St.Teresa's St.Teresa's		Feria
Thur	15 Jan	8.00 am 5.30 pm 6.00 pm 6.30 pm	Morning Prayer Exposition & Confessions Vespers & Benediction Holy Mass	St.Teresa's	Holy Souls	Feria
Fri	16 Jan	8.00 am 8.15am 9.00 am 10.30 am	Morning Prayer Adoration & Rosary Holy Mass Funeral Service	St.Teresa's	Sr. M Bernard Intnetions Simon Baker RIP	Feria
Sat	17 Jan	7.45 am 8.00 am	Morning Prayer Holy Mass	St.Teresa's	Vocations to Priesthood	St. Anthony of Egypt
Sat	17 Jan	5.00 pm 5.15 pm 6.00 pm	Evening Prayer Adoration & Confessions Vigil Mass *	St.Teresa's	Nilza Dias Santos Pereira RIP	2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sun	18 Jan	8.00 am 10.15 am 11.00 am 4.00 pm	Sung Morning Prayer Confessions Sung Holy Mass Sung Vespers & Benediction	St.Teresa's	Tony Ingoe RIP People of the Parish	2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER

Pope Leo's Monthly Prayer Intention for January



Pray with the Word of God

That praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

Ordinary Time (Winter)

We are asked to pray for : Peace on Earth, Openness to the Word of God, Christian Unity, The Sick and those who care for them, Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it, and for the Unemployed

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

(LIVE-STREAMED ON FACEBOOK)

Morning Prayer 8.00am	Evening Prayer 5.15pm	Night Prayer 8.45pm
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PARISH PRAYER GROUPS

Monday Scripture	(St Teresa's Porch, Heaton)	2.00pm
Wednesday 'New Wine'	(St Anthony's, Walker)	6.30pm
Wednesday Lectio	(St. Teresa's, Heaton)	7.00pm

ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday	(St Teresa's, Heaton)	5.30pm - 6.20pm
Tuesday	(St Anthony's, Walker)	9.00am - 9.45am
Wednesday	(St. Teresa's, Heaton)	3.00pm - 4.00pm
Thursday	(St. Teresa's, Heaton)	5.30pm - 6.20pm
Friday	(St Teresa's, Heaton)	8.30am - 9.15am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monday	(St Teresa's, Heaton)	5.30pm - 6.15pm
Tuesday	(St Anthony's, Walker)	9.00am - 9.40am
Thursday	(St Teresa's, Heaton)	5.30pm - 6.00pm
Sunday	(St. Teresa's, Heaton)	10.15am - 10.50am