



Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord

Dear sisters and brothers – God's beloved family through baptism, If you remember a few years ago we began

celebrating the Feast of Epiphany on Sunday, as many local churches do; whilst having the advantage that more people could celebrate it with us, because they do not get a day off in the week, it meant that in some years the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord got squeezed into a Monday and seemed to be nearly lost. It is quite a special feast as it reminds us that Jesus himself at his baptism was proclaimed "Beloved Son", and therefore reminds us that at and through our baptism we are proclaimed beloved son or daughter of God. Think of the media attention when a Royal Baby is born; when we are born as God's children in baptism what a fuss there should be!! In normal times I like to use the "Asperges" instead of the penitential rite for this feast, but I will have to wait until we are allowed to throw holy water around again. Maybe we could still renew our baptism during Mass

Spend some time meditating on how you live out your baptismal call to be a missionary disciple.

For some it is by defending the rights of the unborn – maybe we could respond to the White Flower Appeal, and return our views in the consultation on Home Abortions. For others it is working together with Christians of other denominations. While we are unable to meet during Christian Unity Week we can still participate in the prayers and services online. For others too, praying and campaigning for peace shows we know we are loved by God and want others who lack peace to know too. How we care for the environment ultimately shows our love not only for all of God's creation, but also for our brothers and sisters whose homes are endangered by climate change. CaFOD is leading us at the end of February in a course that enables each of us to take an action for change. (more next week) I am grateful to all who share the Gospel in so many ways.

We pray for Fr David Milburn who died this week aged 94. He spent many years as a prof at Ushaw College. May he enjoy eternal reward.



If you need to look up this week's readings1

Universalis in English <https://universalis.com/20210110/mass.htm>

or American with reflections

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/011021.html>

For our younger participants

Not sure if Children's Mass still coming from Glengormley near Belfast each Sunday 11am which I have had recommended by a family in the parish. You may have to check.

<https://www.churchservices.tv/glengormley>

And finally.....

Three wise men observe social distancing. I hope they are in the same bubble!



Have a blessed week

Fr Nick