



Please pray for: Frank & Alice May Purcell (deceased)

Mass Times in St Benedict's Church:

Sunday 10th January 2021 – The Baptism of the Lord (B)

Sunday, 10 Jan	10.30 am	Solemn Mass
Sunday, 10 Jan	6.00 pm	Young Adults Mass
Monday, 11 Jan	No Mass	Weekday – Ordinary Time
Tuesday, 12 Jan	No Mass	Weekday – Ordinary Time
Wednesday, 13 Jan	No Mass	St Hilary, bishop (Optional)
Thursday, 14 Jan	No Mass	Weekday – Ordinary Time
Friday, 15 Jan	No Mass	Weekday – Ordinary Time
Saturday, 16 Jan	No Mass	Weekday – Ordinary Time

Regular Confession Times in St Benedict's Church:

Monday to Friday: 11.45 am – 12.30 pm (before 12.35 pm Mass)
Sunday: 5.30 pm (before 6.00 pm Mass)

Mass at St James' Church, Forest Lodge:

Saturday Vigil: 5.00 pm
Sunday: 8 am, 9.30 am & 11 am
Wednesday & Friday: 9.00am
Saturday (morning): 8.30am

Confession at St James' Church

Saturday: 4.15pm - 4.50pm,
ahead of Vigil Mass
(No Confession on Sundays)

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office



If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options you have available to you. Please contact the **Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office** on ph 02 9390 5812.



Entrance Antiphon:

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Communion Antiphon:

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

The Baptism of the Lord – drawing from the eastern tradition of Epiphany, the West has remembered the baptism of the Lord on the octave of the Epiphany since the eighth century. Formally introduced into the Roman calendar in 1960 on the Sunday after the Epiphany, it now concludes the Christmas season. Commemorates the revelation of Jesus as God's beloved Son, the Christ, anointed by the Spirit.

Saint Hilary – a native of Poitiers in France (born in 315) married and became the father of a saintly daughter named Abia. He converted to the Christian faith through his reading of the Scriptures, especially the Prologue to the Fourth Gospel. As bishop of Poitiers, he fought against the Arians, suffered exile and wrote extensively. Hilary also helped his friend, Saint Martin of Tours, to establish monastic life in France. He died in 367.

New website and social platforms to promote the cause for sainthood of Eileen O'Connor

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has just launched a new website and Facebook and Instagram pages, aimed at promoting the pathway to sainthood for the co-founder of Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor, servant of God, Eileen O'Connor. Eileen's great courage in serving the sick-poor despite enduring great personal illness herself is a truly remarkable example to us all. View the website – www.eileenconnor.com.au and follow the new Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/SoGEileenOConnor> and Instagram page at – www.instagram.com/theeileenconnor/. The new website features prayers through the intercession of Eileen O'Connor, details on upcoming events to honour her memory, videos and photo galleries.

Livestreamed Mass to honour the centenary of Eileen O'Connor's death – Sunday 10th January

This month marks the centenary of Eileen's death and Mass to honour this occasion is being celebrated by Archbishop Fisher on Sunday 10th January at St Brigid's Church in Coogee. Due to COVID-19, attendance is by invitation only but please see the above website for the livestreaming details for this Mass.

Of Life & Love Marriage Preparation Courses – this year, the *Life, Marriage and Family Centre* in the Archdiocese will be holding two marriage preparation courses, one commencing in late February and the other in mid August. If you are planning your wedding, please see the attached flyer for further information.

Summer Nights 2021 – the Summer Schools of Evangelisation have combined to run a program for young people at the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre in Varroville in January 2021. The retreat will feature excellent quality talks and teaching, night sessions with praise and worship, drama, preaching, testimonies and prayer. Mass, adoration and reconciliation are available each day. For more information or to register, please go to – www.summerschool.org.au

A VOCATION VIEW: 'For as many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.' Galatians 3:27-28

Face Masks – now mandatory at Mass! – The NSW Government has recently imposed an order for the wearing of face masks in most indoor settings, as well as some outdoor settings. Places of Worship are included in this mandatory order. From this Sunday, 10th January, all attendees to St Benedict's Church must wear a face mask. Children under 12 years of age are exempt. Congregants cannot attend Mass without a mask! Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

St Scholastica's (Sunday night) Choir – on holidays! The Sunday night choir is taking its well-deserved annual holiday and will return on the First Sunday of Lent, 21st February – have a lovely break, all. ☺

Streaming of Sunday Mass – from St Benedict's Church – 6pm – here's this Sunday's Mass link for – The Baptism of the Lord (10th January 2021) – <https://youtu.be/e5jzrdvFVYY>



Happy New Year!

Only the man who believes
 that Jesus is the Son of God:
 Jesus Christ who came by water and blood,
 not with water only,
 but with water and blood;
 with the Spirit as another witness –
 since the Spirit is the truth –
 so that there are three witnesses,
 the Spirit, the water and the blood,
 and all three of them agree.
 We accept the testimony of human witnesses,
 but God's testimony is much greater,
 and this is God's testimony,
 given as evidence for his Son.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION cf. Jn 1:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

**John saw Jesus approaching him, and said:
 This is the Lamb of God who takes away
 the sins of the world. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL Mk 1:7-11

**A reading from the holy Gospel according
 to Mark.**

You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.
 In the course of his preaching John the Baptist
 said, 'Someone is following me, someone who
 is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to
 kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals.
 I have baptised you with water, but he will
 baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from
 Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the
 Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out
 of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart
 and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him.
 And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my
 Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD / B

10 JANUARY 2021

SHARING GOD'S GIFT

One of the great recurring themes of the scriptures is that of God's irrepressible and untiring desire to bring us into the fullness of life. The reading from Isaiah is filled with images of the life God wants to share with us: water, grain, wine and milk without cost, a life-giving and nourishing word that never returns without achieving its purpose. This life is offered freely – all we need do is seek the Lord to share in this banquet.

For Christians, baptism is a sign of the new life that we have been graciously given through the death and resurrection of Jesus. One of the problems facing John's community was that of how to deal with false teachings which were dividing and weakening the community and the baptismal promises they had made. John seeks to remind them of the life they share through their baptism and the call to bear witness to it by their love for God and for their sisters and brothers.

In the birth of Jesus God's life-giving and nourishing word becomes one with us. His baptism marks a moment of grace for him and us. The heavens are opened and God's empowering Spirit comes upon him as he begins his ministry. God bears testimony to the life that he is pleased to offer us in the Beloved Son. At Jesus' baptism the voice from heaven proclaims how a time of new life and growth is beginning. For those with eyes to see the rich harvest is already beginning, and the banquet prepared.

FIRST READING

Isa 55:1-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Come to the waters; listen to my words and you shall have life.

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
 though you have no money, come!
 Buy corn without money, and eat,
 and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread,
 your wages on what fails to satisfy?
 Listen, listen to me, and you will have good
 things to eat and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me;
 listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant
 out of the favours promised to David.
 See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and a master of the nations.

See, you will summon a nation you never knew,
 those unknown will come hurrying to you,
 for the sake of the Lord your God,
 of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
 call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way,
 the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will
 take pity on him,

to our God who is rich in forgiving;
 for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who
 speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
 as my ways are above your ways,
 my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from
 the heavens and do not return without watering
 the earth, making it yield and giving growth to
 provide seed for the sower and bread for the
 eating, so the word that goes from my mouth
 does not return to me empty, without carrying
 out my will and succeeding in what it was sent
 to do.

■ **The word of the Lord.**



RESPONSORIAL PSALM Isa 12:2-6. R. v. 6

**R. You will draw water joyfully from the
 springs of salvation.**

1. Truly, God is my salvation, / I trust, I shall
 not fear. / For the Lord is my strength, my song, /
 he became my saviour. / With joy you will draw
 water / from the wells of salvation. **R.**

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his
 name! / Make his mighty deeds known to the
 peoples! / Declare the greatness of his name. **R.**

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord / for he has done
 glorious deeds, / make them known to all the
 earth! / People of Zion, sing and shout for
 joy / for great in your midst is the Holy One
 of Israel. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Jn 5:1-9

A reading from the first letter of St John
The Spirit, the water and the blood give witness.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ
 has been begotten by God;
 and whoever loves the Father that begot him
 loves the child whom he begets.
 We can be sure that we love God's children
 if we love God himself and do

what he has commanded us;
 this is what loving God is –
 keeping his commandments;
 and his commandments are not difficult,
 because anyone who has been begotten by God
 has already overcome the world;
 this is the victory over the world – our faith.
 Who can overcome the world?

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 PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394
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