



ST CLEMENT'S CHURCH, EWELL
Parish Priest: Fr. Graham Bamford
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 Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton
 Charity No. 252878



All Masses are now live-streamed. Access via the Parish Website

Mary Mother of God

Sunday 1st January 2023 Psalter Week 2 Cycle A

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	In Thanksgiving - F Del Pilar
Sunday 01 Jan	8.30 am	Clifford Mandry RIP
	10.30 am	J J Bell RIP
Wednesday	10.00 am	Peter Farrell RIP
Friday – Epiphany of the Lord: Holy day of obligation	10.00 am	All Parishioners

FEAST DAYS: 1ST JANUARY – 7TH JANUARY 2023

Monday: Sts Basil the Great & St Gregory Nanzianen, Doctors of the Church

Friday: Epiphany of the Lord (Holy day of Obligation)

ANNIVERSARIES: 1ST JANUARY – 7TH JANUARY 2023

Marjory Donovan, Elsie Jillians, Alice Kinsella, Ann Henderson, Alan Bryne, Mary Edwardson, Thomas White, Craig Gordon

COFFEE AFTER 10.30AM MASS:

NO COFFEE THIS WEEK

The Baptism of the Lord.

Sunday 8th January 2023 Psalter Week 1 Cycle A

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Madge Crowe RIP
Sunday 08 Jan	8.30 am	Tony Smith RIP
	10.30 am	Tony Bellino RIP
Wednesday	10.00 am	Stephen Coulter RIP
Friday	10.00 am	Fr Bob Barnes RIP
Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Well-being Cossou, Ryder & Bancroft Families
Sunday 15 Jan	8.30 am	All Parishioners
	10.30 am	Agnes Mitchell RIP

FEAST DAYS: 8TH JANUARY – 14TH JANUARY 2023

ANNIVERSARIES: 8TH JANUARY – 14TH JANUARY 2023

Walter Wynn, Nigel Haydon, Sheila O'Flaherty

COFFEE AFTER 10.30AM MASS

Parish Funds

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday, 10.30 am – 11.00 am or by appointment

RECOVERY AND WELL-BEING: Please pray for: Steve Kamm, Chris Williamson, Mary Frost, Jocelyn Bowen, Joseph Ewing Maritina Savage, Jimmy Finn, Mel Alvarez, Mary Schneider, Raymond Davis, John Stratford, Shona Dane.

DEATH: Alan Rowles died on Wednesday. He was a regular participant at the 6.00 pm Saturday evening Mass. May he Rest in Peace.

EPSOM & EWELL FOOD BANK: Please place any non-perishable items you wish to donate in the marked boxes in the narthex. 21.12.2022 – 17.8 kg + £21

DECEMBER 200 CLUB WINNERS: Mark Green No.203 £200 Paul Higgs No.35 £50 Congratulations!

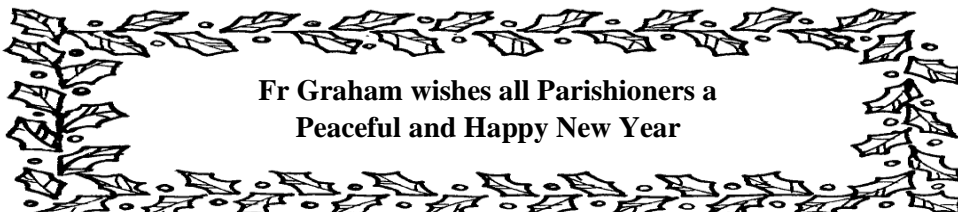
A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: In a daily podcast, Fr Mike Schmitz leads you through the Bible in 20-30 minute episodes. This includes the reading, a prayer and a short reflection.. For further details see Ascensionpress.com/Bible in a year or contact Marc Schembri on comerainorshinegs@gmail.com. Marc will also be making an announcement at Masses on the weekend 7/8 January. The parish will be holding an online zoom session on the Bible in January too. Further details can be seen on the website and in future bulletins.

12 JANUARY 2023: All parishioners and friends are invited to a Drinks & Canapes Evening in the Church Hall between 6.00 and 8.00 pm. Admission free. Please confirm attendance and numbers for catering purposes by putting your name on the list on the table in the Narthex. Further information available from Mark McLoughlin. Tel. 07760 996 356.

FR GRAHAM Thanks Parishioners for their many cards and gifts.

REFLECTION – Christmas Season

In this Christmas Season we celebrate the incarnation, which is a divine border-crossing in which God became human to dwell among us. Jesus crossed borders throughout his ministry, with those of other regions, with those in authority. His life began when no one would make room for his family. The rest of his life was spent making room for outsider to be included in the fullness of God's love. We are called to follow3 this generous outreach to others



Fr Graham wishes all Parishioners a
 Peaceful and Happy New Year

Finally, how can we explain otherwise that we pray, that even if we do not hear or see anything, we believe that God is everywhere and listens to us? All this happens thanks to the Spirit, who Paul attests "searches... even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:10-11). And he adds: "I want you to understand that... no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:3).

We have received a great gift from God in our hearts: the Spirit who prays in us, makes us confess: "Jesus is Lord", gives us the gift of faith, opens our eyes to make us discern the body and blood of Christ, opens our ears to the word of God, pours into our hearts love for our brothers and sisters.

We have no more eloquent proof of the truth of Christian salvation than this hope and this love, however flawed and intermittent they might be. Thanks to the Spirit we enter into the very life of God. We become God's children because Jesus is God – and this is what we proclaim every time we call Mary the Mother of God. Let us open ourselves to the action of the Holy Spirit in us, allow the Spirit to enlighten our senses, mould our hearts, strengthen us in our weakness, protect us from danger and, above all, give us peace.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

Or

Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us; and he will be called Wondrous God, Prince of peace, Father of future ages: and his reign will be without end.

FIRST READING Numbers 6:22-27

PSALM Psalm 66

RESPONSE **O God, be gracious and bless us.**

1. God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**
2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. **R.**
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**

SECOND READING Galatians 4:4-7

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 2:16-21

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

Next Sunday's Readings:
(England & Wales): Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7
Acts 10:34-38
Matthew 3:13-17
(Scotland): Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

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MOTHER OF GOD

At the beginning of the liturgical celebration, we are invited to proclaim: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of goodwill." Peace on earth and the glory of God are linked to each other: the more we give glory to God, the more we build peace on earth.

We give glory to God by recognising how much everything is a gift from the Lord, especially the relationship, the covenant, the friendship he establishes with us and with all humanity. Christmas is the celebration par excellence of this covenant as we learn from the very name of the child born for us, Emmanuel, "God with us". Peace starts when we truly feel we are all children of the same Father and brothers and sisters of each other, beyond any ethnic, linguistic or national barrier. This is why the Church has seen fit to culminate the octave of Christmas, that is, the celebration of God's will to be "with us", with a day dedicated to peace and to the celebration of Mary as the Mother of God.

By referring to Mary as the mother not just of Jesus, but of God, we confess that God truly became human, that truly God is "with us". God is not an abstract divinity, not a distant and indifferent being. God is in himself a relationship, love exchanged and received between the Father and the Son through the Holy Spirit. If Mary is the Mother of God, then by being united with Jesus we truly are made one with God, we become children of God and are enabled to call God Father.

We know this to be true, can believe and confess it, thanks to the Holy Spirit. It is easy to verify the presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. How can we explain otherwise the attention we give to the word of God when we meditate on it and try to understand it? How can we explain otherwise what happens when we proclaim with conviction: "I believe in one God"? How can we explain otherwise that we can receive a piece of bread and a sip of wine with such faith? We continue to see only bread and wine, and yet we believe that they are the body and blood of Christ.

God with us



Dr Luigi Gioia reflects on the significance of today's feast.



1 JANUARY 2023

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK II

this way to fulfil all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). On Jesus' lips the word "righteousness" takes on a new meaning: it no longer indicates the action of rewarding the righteous and punishing sinners, but the act with which Jesus lets himself be baptised with the baptism of penance, with the gesture that consists in the acknowledgment of one's sin.



What righteousness is this? What does it mean to be righteous in a way that surprises even the greatest of prophets, John the Baptist? It is something we are radically incapable of, which even John had neither understood nor foreseen and which only Jesus could embody. For this reason we today, like John then, can welcome it only by accepting Jesus' invitation: "Let it be so." It is not a righteousness we can achieve, boast of, measure, but one that only Jesus can give. The paradox of our sinful condition lies in not being aware of it. Nothing is less evident to us than our need for a saviour, our need for God.

Jesus had to save us not only by freeing us, but first by doing what no one else could do: confessing our need for God in our stead. Only when Jesus enters into this level of solidarity with us, to the point of confessing himself in need of God in our place, only then are the heavens, which had been closed since the first human being had sinned, reopened once again. Only then does the Spirit, who is the bond, the communion, the covenant between us and God, descend in the form of a dove. And above all only then, for the first time in the history of humanity, can the Father finally say of a human being: here is a person who is true, just, authentic; a person who lets me come to the aid of humanity, lets me bring to the world the salvation that only I can give.

Mass text

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.

FIRST READING Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7

PSALM Psalm 28

RESPONSE The Lord will bless his people with peace.

- O give the Lord you sons of God, give the Lord glory and power; give the Lord the glory of his name. Adore the Lord in his holy court. **R.**
- The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of waters; the voice of the Lord, full of power, the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **R.**

- The God of glory thunders. In his temple they all cry: "Glory!" The Lord sat enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits as king for ever. **R.**

SECOND READING Acts 10:34-38

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 3:13-17

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

Next Sunday's Readings:
Isaiah 49:3. 5-6
1 Corinthians 1:1-3
John 1:29-34



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GOD'S SALVATION



The meaning of Jesus' name is "God saves". Welcoming him, then, entails that we become aware of our need to be saved. The purpose of John's baptism was precisely this: to lead humanity to recognise its need for God's salvation. John the Baptist was aware that his baptism was only a purely symbolic immersion in water which expressed the desire to be washed, but did not have the power to make us new creatures – for this there was need of the baptism of fire which Jesus only could bring. While understanding this, however, John the Baptist does not fully comprehend that Jesus' fire overcomes sin by comforting the sinner and that the justice Jesus comes to establish coincides with mercy and forgiveness. John imagines Jesus' justice as that of a judge who punishes and rewards.

Jesus overturns this understanding of righteousness at the meeting with John the Baptist when he inaugurates his public ministry. He begins by asking to be himself baptised by John. John's sense of justice is scandalised by this request: he knows that his baptism is the expression of a need for forgiveness and does not understand why Jesus would want to receive it. But Jesus replies to his remonstrances: "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in

God with us



Dr Luigi Gioia concludes this series of seasonal reflections.

8 JANUARY 2023

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (E&W)

YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK I