

Holy Family RC Church Coventry



Parish Priest: Fr Patrick Brennan
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 Priest in Residence (Retired) Fr Bernard Anwyl

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Parish Secretary Mary Skaag (Health and Safety Rep)
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 Safeguarding Rep: Grainne Griffiths
 Youth Group Kien Kirk

Fr Bernard's email anwylb2@btinternet.com

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD YEAR C

Saturday	8th Jan	5.00pm		People of the Parish
Sunday	9th Jan	10 00 am	Nora & Tony O'Malley RIP	A Richard Griffiths RIP birthday Val Gordon A RIP Thanksgiving (Sullivan)
Monday	10th Jan	9 15 am		William Byrne RIP
Tuesday	11th Jan	9 15 am		Fr Sarves RIP
Tuesday	11th Jan	11 30 am	Requiem	Mark Dunne RIP
Wednesday	12th Jan	9 15 am		Anne Courtney RIP
Thursday	13th Jan	9 15 am		Philip Gilheaney RIP
Friday	14th Jan	8 00 am	Holy Hour	
Friday	14th Jan	9 15 am		Sp Int (Dorothy Cramp)
Saturday	15th Jan	5 00 pm		Lilian Yeoman RIP Bob Moore birthday
Sunday	16th Jan	10 00 am		Teresa McLintock and family

Confessions on request before Mass at weekend. Note: The Sunday obligation has not returned yet.

Covid-19 Updates:

The Government have now made facial coverings mandatory for all public buildings including churches. This applies to Masses, funerals, baptisms and any gathering in the church. The procedure for attending church is to sanitise when coming in, and to wear facial coverings. If you have any symptoms of Covid 19 please stay at home and watch from the live stream.

"A lot of the problems of the world would disappear if we TALK TO EACH other instead of ABOUT EACH other"

Young at Heart Return this Thursday at 10 am in the Hall. All Welcome

Please pray for those who have died recently, in the parish Mark Dunne (Requiem 11th Jan) Mary Smith (Requiem 21st Jan) and Tony Tully

Pray for the sick of the parish especially; Mick Green, Gerry Burke, Frances Burke, Julie Hughes, Bridie Cave, Teresa Oliverio, Michael Moten, and Sarah Higgins

Baptism is not supposed to be a one off event. It is not a golden ticket to a school place. Because so many are lapsed from church and seek baptism as a one time attendance at church, or to get a place in school, baptism is rapidly losing the sense of encounter with Jesus. Without a relationship with Christ, faith will not take root in a persons life. The talk in catechetical circles many years ago was the partnership of faith through "Church, School and Home" so baptism was a sowing of seeds hopefully being nurtured by that partnership. Three generations of lapsed families means that the partnership is not working, it matters little what happens in church or school if the home is not nurturing faith, not fostering prayers, not encouraging weekly attendance at church or a participation in the life of the parish, a contribution of presence. Baptism is a sacrament and sacrament means encounter with Christ, the emptiness of meaning is contributing to the lack of numbers attending church not just in one church, but in the majority of churches. Pray for the lapsed, be an example to others of Christ present in your life, encourage and help the seeds sown in faith to find root and flourish in all our lives. We all have a part to play in building up the kingdom, don't become discouraged, rather let us trust more fully in Christ with us!

Pastoral plans for the future of the diocese www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/vision

Extra Ordinary Ministers Sat Jan 15th Prashadi Rigters Sunday Jan 16th Kien Kirk

We are now livestreaming! HolyFamily Coventry - YouTube

Main Stream: <https://youtu.be/6HzIE4yJoc>

Our Lady Chapel: <https://youtu.be/nedJJa9gVWs>

BAPTISMS MEETING FOR PARENTS WISHING TO HAVE A BAPTISM IS IN THE CHURCH ON MONDAY 7TH MARCH AT 7 00PM

There is a new email address to contact me for parish enquiries: fr.patrick.brennan@rcaob.org.uk

Youth Group The Youth group meets Tuesdays the 7–8 30 pm in the Parish Hall. See Kien for dates of meetings

The Synod 2021-23 [The Synod, 2021 - 2023 | Birmingham Diocesan Trust \(birminghamdiocese.org.uk\)](https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/synod)

Collection £621.78 Thank You!

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 104:1b-4,24-25,27-30

(The psalm from Cycle A may also be chosen, *Psalm 29:1-2,3-4,9-10.*)

A prayer praising God's greatness

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Jesus Christ saved us and renewed us with his Holy Spirit.

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:15-16,21-22

Jesus is baptised by John.



Diocesan Vision, Unfolding God's Plan

A two-year synodal process is taking place in the Catholic Church from October 2021 that culminates in the final Synod Gathering of Bishops in Rome in October 2023. The theme is 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission'

The baptism of Jesus reminds us of our identity and mission. First, it reminds us of **who we are** and **Whose we are**. By Baptism we become the adopted sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, members of His Church, heirs of Heaven and temples of the Holy Spirit. We become incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ, and made sharers in the priesthood of Christ [CCC #1279]. Hence, "Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other Sacraments" (CCC, #1213). And so when I bless myself with Holy Water, I should be thinking of the fact that I am a child of God; that I have been redeemed by the Cross of Christ; that I have been made a member of God's family, and that I have been washed, forgiven, cleansed, and purified by the Blood of the Lamb.

Origin of baptism: Neither John nor Jesus invented baptism. It had been practiced for centuries among the Jews as a ritual equivalent to our Confession. Until the fall of the Temple in 70 AD, it was common for Jewish people to use a special pool called a *Mikveh* — literally a "collection of water" — as a means of spiritual cleansing, to remove spiritual impurity and sin. Men took this bath weekly on the eve of the Sabbath; women, monthly. Converts were also expected to take this bath before entering Judaism. The Orthodox Jews still retain the rite. John preached that such a bath was a necessary preparation for the cataclysm that would be wrought by the coming Messiah. Jesus transformed this continuing ritual into the one single, definitive act by which we begin our life of Faith. In effect, Jesus fused His Divine Essence with the water and the ceremony.

A couple of questions: 1) Why did Jesus, the sinless Son of God, receive the "baptism of repentance" meant for sinners? 2) Why did Jesus wait for thirty years to begin his public ministry? The strange answer for the first question given by the apocryphal book, *The Gospel according to the Hebrews*, is that Jesus received the baptism of John to please Jesus' mother and relatives. In this humble submission, we see a foreshadowing of the "baptism" of Jesus' bloody death upon the cross. Jesus' baptism by John was the acceptance and the beginning of Jesus' Messianic mission as God's Suffering Servant. Jesus accepted being numbered among sinners, willingly submitting entirely to the Father's will. Out of love, Jesus consented to the "baptism" of death for the remission of our sins. Many Fathers of the Church explain that Jesus received John's baptism to be identified with the Chosen People, who, as a result of John's preaching, for the first time in Jewish history became aware of their sins and of their need for repentance. The Jews had the traditional belief that only the Gentiles who embraced Jewish religion needed the baptism of repentance, for, as God's chosen people, the Jewish race was holy. Jesus might have been waiting for this most opportune moment to begin public ministry. The Fathers of the Church point out that the words which the Voice of the Heavenly Father speaks are similar to Psalm 2:17, revealing Jesus' identity ("*This is My beloved Son*") and to Isaiah 42:1 referring to the "suffering servant" ("*with whom I am well pleased*"), revealing Jesus' mission of saving mankind by suffering and death.