

# St. William of York R.C. Church



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**The Baptism of the Lord**

**9/10 January 2021**

Saturday 9th January

Daryl Pereira RIP (Imelda)

Sunday 10th January  
 The Baptism of the Lord

Margaret Goode RIP

10am Barbara Chandler RIP  
 (Birthday)

Monday 11th January

Norah Balfe Intention

Tuesday 12th January

George Fernandes

Wednesday 13th January

Daryl Pereira RIP (Janice)

Thursday 14th January

NO LITURGY

Friday 15th January

Mrs Kothuthresia Anthony RIP  
 (Anniv)

Saturday 16th January

Pope Francis Intention

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Bill & Kathleen Twomey  
 Intention

10am Nwawulor Family 2020-  
 2021 (for health & protection)

## This weekend - the solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord

This is the second of three EPIPHANIES! Three manifestations. Recently we celebrated the first - when the Magi arrived with their gifts led by a star. Though clearly learned men of wealth - they humbly enquired about the promised Messiah - even asking Herod. The second manifestation – we celebrate TODAY - Baptised in the River Jordan - Jesus emerging from the water is MANIFESTED by the dove and by the voice of the Father from heaven. Now WE know the truth about Our Lord - ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, my favour rests on Him’. Now Jesus is seen and heard - not only by limited visitors from the east but now by the crowds and followers around John the Baptist.

### Closed for the time being

Thanks to our very dependable stewards - our parish has been very observant of COVID regulations and cleansing. Yet the new RAPID virus strain threatens - especially our hospitals and health services. We are all advised to stay home! Those vulnerable by virtue of age and conditions are asked to stay safe. Currently the obligation to attend Mass has been lifted. Given the appalling statistics of infection and death in this area - as part of our parish contribution to protection - we are closed until Monday 18 January: 9.30am Mass. The 10am Sunday Mass is available on line. Here is the LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2539625604>

### Christmas 2020 - a different experience

Father Michael again: The invitation in last week’s newsletter to share some reflections on our recent COVID Christmas prompted three parishioners. 1. Wrote about the family including adult children finding themselves together without distraction or the diversion of outside generational attractions. “We even played and enjoyed board games!” 2. Shared about the distress of not being together as a family with grandparents and others. “We asked the Holy Family to visit us.” 3. An individual parishioner wrote about past Christmases where 60% of time and effort was spent on festive/materialistic tasks. Christmas 2020 - 65% spent on a time of faith, prayer at home and remembering God’s mercy - with gratitude for the unconditional love received from God. “This was an authentic Holy Christmas I never had before.” MORE reflections/contributions gratefully received.

### **The reality of lockdown!**

Father Michael writes- 'Lockdown has become a long and challenging experience for so many people, families and youngsters. 'Resilience' seems to be the word used, but even that means different things to each of us. My thoughts and prayers turn daily in a particular way to children and the young. With schools closed again - working parents face hard choices. I am shouting out to Jesus, Mary and Joseph - that holy family of Bethlehem and eventually Nazareth. After the visit of the wise men from the east, which we celebrated on Wednesday - they faced a hidden life in Egypt. May the vaccine allow our young folk - a return from their hidden life to the full joy of companionship. Mary, Joseph, assist.

### **Mass intentions**

It is very much part of our Catholic tradition to have Masses celebrated for people (living or dead), for particular needs and intentions or in thanksgiving for blessings received and prayers answered. In the church porch there are the special envelopes requesting a Mass to be said. When completed it can be dropped into the regular collection baskets at the exit or through the letter box of the parish house. Thank you.

### **From Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter on St Joseph**

Being a father entails introducing children to life and reality. Not holding them back, being overprotective or possessive, but rather making them capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities. Perhaps for this reason, Joseph is traditionally called a "most chaste" father. That title is not simply a sign of affection, but the summation of an attitude that is the opposite of possessiveness. Chastity is freedom from possessiveness in every sphere of one's life. Only when love is chaste is it truly love. A possessive love ultimately becomes dangerous: it imprisons, constricts and makes for misery. God himself loved humanity with a chaste love; he left us free even to go astray and set ourselves against him. The logic of love is always the logic of freedom, and Joseph knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus. Let us now make our prayer to him:



Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen



### **Prayer to St Joseph**

O Saint Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. O Saint Joseph, assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord; so that having engaged here below your heavenly power I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers. O Saint Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me, and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath.

Saint Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for us. Amen