

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S GOSPEL

(Mark 1 : 1 – 8)

John the Baptist became a very popular figure, baptising people in the Jordan while they confessed their sins. However, despite his popularity, he was at pains to point out to those who 'followed' him that there was 'someone' following him, someone who would baptise, not just with water, but with the Holy Spirit.

Still today, there is a danger that we 'follow' people who cannot give us real nourishment for the soul. In our highly secularised society, film stars, singers and sports personalities are often held in the highest esteem, especially by the young. We erect pedestals for these people, only to knock them off when their behaviour turns out to be less than exemplary.

But even in the 'religious' world, certain writers or thinkers are held in high esteem by believers. Many of them have good and interesting ideas, write inspiring books which help on our journey towards God. What we must remember is that they are not God and are not, to use John the Baptist's words, fit to undo the strap of his sandals. The acid test is if they bring us closer to Jesus or not.

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Parishioners are invited to contribute to the back page of the Newsletter. If you have an item which you would like to offer, please email it to the Parish Office for consideration.

The Sacred Heart Church, Wadhurst

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Sunday 10th December 2017 – Second Sunday of Advent

Mass Times, Feasts & Intentions for this week

Sat 9th 6 pm (Vigil Mass) – Nora & Ciaran Magee R.I.P.

Sun 10th 8.45am (Rotherfield) – People of the Parish

10.30 am (Wadhurst) – Irene Donaldson R.I.P.

Mon 11th **No Mass** – *St Damasus I, Pope*

Tue 12th **No Mass** – *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

Wed 13th **No Mass** – *St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr*

Thur 14th **No Mass** – *St John of the Cross*

Fri 15th **No Mass**

Sat 16th 6 pm (Vigil Mass)

Sun 17th 8.45am (Rotherfield)

10.30 am (Wadhurst) – Michael Blease R.I.P.

USUAL MASS TIMES:
(See above for any changes)

Sundays:

Wadhurst: Sat 6:00pm (Vigil)

Rotherfield: 8:45am

Wadhurst: 10:30am

Weekdays (Wadhurst):

Monday: 10:00am

Tuesday: 10:00am

Wednesday: No Mass

Thursday: 10:00am

Friday: 10:00am

Saturday: 6:00pm (Vigil for Sunday)

Parish Office Hours:

Monday 9am – 12 noon

Thursday 9am – 12 noon

Friday 9am – 12 noon

Confessions:

Saturday: 5:00pm – 5:30pm

Rosary:

Thursdays during term time, 9.15am
at Carillon Cottage.

Adoration (Holy Hour):

First Friday: 9:00am – 10 am

Mothers' Prayers:

Wednesdays 11am, Three Trees, Wadhurst
Tel: Colleen (01892) 784734

Prayers for Healing:

Fourth Thursday of the month, 2 pm at
Carillon Cottage. Box for prayer requests
in Annexe or Tel: Colleen O'Farrell
(01892) 784734

News & Notices

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER:

If you would like an item included in the weekly newsletter, please phone or email the Parish Office by **Wednesday 10am** prior to the weekend.

WEEKDAY MASS:

Please note there will be no morning Mass this week as Fr Martin is away. Should you need a priest urgently please contact St Mary's, Crowborough (01892 654608), or St Augustines, Tunbridge Wells (01892 522525).

SACRED SPACE:

Advent Meditation – The God who Speaks. If you weren't able to attend Sacred Space at the Sacred Heart last Thursday, you have another opportunity at St Peter's Stonegate on Wednesday 13th December at 6pm. Just 45 minutes of beautiful music, readings and reflections for Advent. All very welcome.

NOURISH CHRISTMAS COLLECTION:

The collection of food donations for December/January will be taken **this weekend, 9th/10th December**. Thank you for your generosity as always.

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND:

Next week there will be a collection for Friends of the Holy Land, an organization established in 2009 to help and encourage Christians to flourish in the land of their birth and to ensure a secure presence where Christianity began. Their work is entirely non-political, and has the backing and blessing of Anglican and Catholic Bishops in England, Wales and Scotland, and elsewhere.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS – A note from Bishop Richard:

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it. Now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap>, or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government, or write to your MP, and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic Schools.

CHRISTMAS CONFESSION:

There will be an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas at the following parishes.

Our Lady Immaculate and St Philip Neri, Uckfield: Sunday 17th December, 4pm

Sacred Heart, Wadhurst: Monday 18th December, 7.30pm

St Thomas of Canterbury, Mayfield: Tuesday 19th December, 7pm

These times and venues are also displayed on the A Board in the Annexe.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

The times for Mass over the Christmas weekend are displayed on the A Board in the Annexe. Please make a note of them.

A NOTE FROM THE PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Your offerings on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are your personal gift to the Priest of your Parish. He receives no salary and depends personally on your generosity.

THE MOUNT NATIVITY PLAY:

All are warmly welcome to The Mount Camphill Community Nativity Play in the Commemoration Hall on Friday 15th December at 7pm. Refreshments will be served after the performance. Now that we have Robbie Goodall, who attends The Mount, as one of our parishioners, it would be wonderful for him if he could see some friendly faces from the Sacred Heart there.

PARISH AGM:

The Parish AGM took place last weekend. Thank you to the 30 parishioners who attended.

FATHER KEVIN GASKIN:

Father Kevin's headstone has now been installed. Many thanks to all who contributed towards this.

PILGRIMAGE TO DUBLIN:

Bishop Richard invites families to join him on a pilgrimage to Dublin for the World Meeting of Families from 22nd to 26th August 2018. This event includes a three-day congress exploring themes from Amoris Laetitia. Wonderful international speakers will lead sessions for adults, and there will be age-appropriate activities for children and young people. This will be followed by a concert-style "Festival of Families on the Saturday, and the event will conclude with Sunday Mass concelebrated by Pope Francis. For further details please contact wmof2018@dabnet.org.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

Please remember in your prayers all who are sick in our parish, and amongst our families and friends, especially Anne O'Rorke, Ann Mulleneux, Alan Boyd, Pat Davis, Mary Devereux, Pam Doherty, Jon Elsby and Ann Massini. We pray also for their families and those who love and care for them.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember in your prayers Elizabeth Driscoll, Philippa Harrison, Sheila Fleming and all who have died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

And finally ...

We cannot change anything unless we can accept it.

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