



Both Churches are under the Episcopal Care of the Bishop of Richborough;
And are served by a Priest of the Society of the Holy Cross.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD 2022

Every Sunday 9:15am	Solemn Mass (Ordinary Form/Extr Resp) Setting: Missa Simplicior/Credo VI	S Mary's	Pro Populo
Every Sunday 11:15am	Solemn Mass (Ordinary Form) Setting: Ky: xvi; Gl: xv; Credo III	S Saviour's	Pro Populo
1 st Sunday: 4:00pm	Solemn Mass (Extraordinary Form) Setting: Missa Simplicior/Credo VI	S Mary's	Pro Populo

Weekday Masses:

Day	Observance	Time	Mass	Church	Mass Intention
Thu	S Hilary	11:00am	Low Mass	S Saviour's	Churches dedicated to S Hilary
Sat	Of Our Lady	10:00am	Low Mass	S Mary's	The shrine at Walsingham

Confessions may be heard after any Low Mass, or by Appointment.

Welcome to S Mary's and S Saviour's: Restrictions: Unfortunately restrictions have recently been increased: therefore face coverings are again mandatory - except for those directly involved in the Liturgy or if you are exempt (for which you do not need to produce evidence!)

Receiving of The Holy Communion: Holy Communion at all masses is given in One Kind, at the Chancel Screen, socially distanced, and with masks removed to receive it.

Tea and coffee after Mass: are available at both churches after Solemn Mass on Sundays. We hope you will be able to stay – please continue to socially distance. I am aware that there are some people who may still be a little reticent about gathering after Mass.

Additional Mass on 1st Sunday of Each Month: there will be a Solemn Mass in the Extraordinary Form at 4pm every 1st Sunday of the month at S Mary's. I know for a number of people the 9:15 slot has become something of a struggle! :

The next 4pm Mass (EF) will be in February: February 6th marks the anniversary of the death of King George VI, and marks 70 years since Our current Queen became monarch: it would therefore be fitting if the Mass on February 6th be an anniversary Requiem mass for King George VI as we commence Our Queen's Platinum Year Celebrations!

Reflection on the Gospel (in place of the Homily today)

In many churches the font is close to the west door where we enter church, and it reminds us that baptism is the first of the seven Sacraments which we receive in life. S John the Baptist had no confusion about his place in the system of things: he baptised, but was not the baptiser as such, he was merely doing the job until the rightful owner of the position came along. Of course when he does come along, he asks S John to give him baptism – something S John really doesn't feel in a position to do – he is not fit to undo his sandal strap, let alone give him baptism.

There is a very dramatic image in the holy gospel reading: one of the clearest depictions we have of the Trinity. As Our Lord comes out of the water, we see him – the 2nd person of the Trinity – coming out of the water and being at prayer: we hear the voice of the Father – 1st person of the Trinity – speaking: and we see the Holy Spirit – the 3rd person of the Trinity – descending in the image of a dove.

Whilst we remember that Baptism is the first of the seven sacraments, we also remember that it is a starting point. Many of us are baptised as babies or small children, though not all of us. It is a time of beginning learning: a time of growing. That growing doesn't come to an end in adulthood – we carry on learning. Someone who is in their adulthood can still learn and discover just as children can.

As we celebrate this feast today, let us all think back to our Baptisms (even if we were too young to remember them) and give thanks for that sacramental gift, and to reflect on what we have learned, where we have come, and all the learning still to come.

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Please take this newsheet away with you!



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.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you...

Or

O God, whose Only Begotten Son has appeared in our very flesh, grant, we pray, that we may be inwardly transformed through him whom we recognise as outwardly like ourselves...

Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

"Console my people, console them" says your God.

"Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her

that her time of service is ended,

that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes."

A voice cries, "Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low,

let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed

and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,

say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God."

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,

his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,

gathering lambs in his arms,

holding them against his breast

and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 103

RESPONSE: *Bless the Lord, my soul!*

Lord God, how great you are.

1. Lord God, how great you are,

clothed in majesty and glory,

wrapped in light as in a robe!

You stretch out the heavens like a tent. R.

2. Above the rains you build your dwelling.

You make the clouds your chariot,

you walk on the wings of the wind,

you make the winds your messengers

and flashing fire your servants. R.

3. How many are your works, O Lord!

In wisdom you have made them all.

The earth is full of your riches.

There is the sea, vast and wide, with its moving swarms past counting, living things great and small. R.

4. All of these look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it, they gather it up: you open your hand, they have their fill. R.

5. You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. R.

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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I.

He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 3:15-16. 21-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, "I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world... Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIphon

Behold the One of whom John said:

I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth... Amen.