Parish Clergy: Fr Matthew Jakes, Fr Limnyuy Gamsi and Deacon Sebastian Grab

 Parish Priest:
 Fr Matthew

 Asst Parish Priest:
 Fr Lim

 Deacon:
 Deacon Sebastian

 Polish Chaplain:
 Rev Wlodzimierz Pajak

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Date	Feast	Time		Mass Time	Intention
Saturday 15th January 2022	Our Lady	9.30 am Polish 10.00 am 11.00 am Latin 4.00 pm Confessions 4.30 pm Vigil 6.00 pm Vigil		Holy Souls' St Bernadette's Holy Souls' Holy Souls' Holy Souls' St Bernadette'	Polish Priest's Intentions Mary Dempsey RIP Priest's Intentions <i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i> Onelia Cicioni RIP Fr Wlod Intentions
Sunday 16th January 2022	Second Sunday of the Year	9.00 am 9.30 am 11.00 am 11.15 am 4.30 pm Polish		St Norbert's Holy Souls' St Bernadette's St Thomas' Holy Souls'	Intention of Barbara Kirkham People of the Parish Eileen McNicholas RIP TBA Polish Priest's Intentions
Monday 17th	St Anthony	9.30 am 9.30 am		St Bernadette's Holy Souls'	Nancy Hickey RIP Michael and Margaret Hallahan
Tuesday 18th	Feria	7.30 am 9.30 am 11.00 am Polish		St Bernadette's Holy Souls' Holy Souls'	Peter Tran Van Anh RIP Intentions of Frances Wattam Polish Priest's Intentions
Wednesday 19th	Feria	10.00 am		St Norbert's	Intention of Babs Reevell
Thursday 20th	Feria	9.30 am 11.00 am Polish		Holy Souls' Holy Souls'	Intentions of Sue Pyman Polish Priest's Intentions
Friday 21st	St Agnes	11.00 am Polish 12.15 pm Funeral Mass 6.00 pm		Holy Souls' St Bernadette's St Bernadette's	Polish Priest's Intentions William Monteith RIP Mary Nguyen Thi Hong RIP
Saturday 22nd January 2022	Our Lady	9.30 am Polish 10.00 am 4.00 pm Confessions 4.30 pm Vigil 6.00 pm Vigil		Holy Souls' St Bernadette's Holy Souls' Holy Souls' St Bernadette's	Polish Priest's Intentions Thelma Towe RIP <i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i> Edward, Joan and Michael Riby People of the Parish
Sunday 23rd January 2022	Third Sunday of the Year	9.00 am 9.30 am 11.00 am 11.15 am 4.30 pm Polish		St Norbert's Holy Souls' St Bernadette's St Thomas' Holy Souls'	Sam Tonge RIP Intentions of Daniel Sheehan Eddie and Josie Pound RIP TBA Polish Priest's Intentions
The Pope's Prayer Intention for January 2022 For true human fraternity We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and			<u>Contact Priest Details</u> If you, or a member of your family is in hospital, or you would like a visit, please contact St Bernadette's Presbytery on 01724 844895.		
	be recognised, which originate from being rs and sisters in the human family.		<u>Second Collection this weekend</u> to be taken up at all Masses for the Sick and Retired Priests Fund.		

In your charity please pray for

William (Bill) Monteith; Maria Pajak and all who have died recently, may they rest in peace. Please pray for their families at this difficult time; for those whose anniversaries occur at this time; *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.* Please pray for for all who are sick and housebound and those who have no family to support them.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maria Pajak RIP, who has recently died. She is the mother of Fr. Wlodzimiriez, the Polish chaplain, and many of you will have seen her in church and know her by sight at least. Her funeral will be at Holy Souls Church on Monday 24th at 5pm, for the Reception of the body, and at 11.30am on Tuesday 25th for the funeral Mass. Everybody is welcome to the Polish Social Club afterwards for refreshments.

<u>Fr Matthew's Homily from the 9th January for</u> <u>The Lord's Baptism</u>,

For the early Christians the Baptism of Jesus was something of an embarrassment. Could Jesus, the sinless one, undergo a ceremony which implied repentance from sin? Their embarrassment is more understandable if we bear in mind that the baptism of John was very different from that of the Church. It required candidates to make an explicit confession of their sins. For Jesus, being sinless, this would have been something of a problem, and we are not told how he got around it. But it says a lot for the honesty of the early Church that it did not seek to cover up this controversial episode in the Lord's life. St. Luke, in his Gospel sheds light on why it was Jesus decided to be baptized. St. Luke does not place the genealogy of Jesus at the beginning of his Gospel. He gives us the list of Jesus' ancestors at the conclusion to his account of the Lord's Baptism. Why should this be? In contrast from Matthew, Luke uses his genealogy to journey back from Jesus into the past. Abraham and David appear, but without any emphasis. The family tree goes all the way back to Adam, and so to creation itself. Once Luke comes to Adam he says, "Adam the Son of God." This is a way of underscoring the universal scope of Jesus mission. Jesus is the son of Adam, who is in turn the son of God. Because Jesus is a man, we belong to him, and he to us. In him humanity starts afresh and reaches its destiny, but not only humanity. His body immersed in water symbolises the whole of creation starting anew. The immersion into the waters of Baptism is a symbol of death. The ancient mind understood the ocean as a permanent threat to the earth. There was a lingering memory of the great primeval flood which submerged all life, and might do so again. The River Jordan could also assume this symbolic meaning for those who were immersed in it. But the flowing waters of a river, like the Jordan, are also a symbol of life. It was an important giver of life to the surrounding arid lands. and still is to this day. Therefore, Baptism is also about new life. Rising from the waters to a new purified life. The early Christians interpreted Jesus' Baptism in terms of his death and resurrection. Jesus descended into the waters of the Jordan loaded with the burden of all mankind's guilt on his shoulders. Stepping into the place of sinners he bore our guilt down into the depths of the Jordan, representing death and hell. As Jesus rises again from the water the Father's voice calls out, "This is my beloved Son". This voice anticipates the Resurrection when Jesus is called out of the murky depths of death by the Father. Jesus himself followed this way of thinking, referring to his own death as a form of Baptism. (cf. Mk. 10.38).

These ideas are picked up in the icons of the Christian East. In the Icon of the Lord's Baptism the water is depicted as a liquid tomb, having the appearance of a dark cave. This is a symbol of the underworld or hell. Jesus' descent into this watery tomb anticipates his descent into hell, after his death. He did this to conquer the powers of evil. "When he went down into the waters, he bound the strong man," says St. Cyril of Jerusalem. The strong man, of course, is the devil, who had held mankind in slavery. St. John Chrysostom elaborates on this: "Going down into the water and emerging again are an image of the descent into hell and the Resurrection."

Drawing these threads together, the Baptism of Jesus is like a dress rehearsal of the Paschal Mystery, Jesus' death and Resurrection. His body descending into the waters represents not just humankind, but whole of creation. He descends, conquers the forces of evil and death, and rises again to a new life. He does this on behalf of us all. This is because, as St. Augustine says, he is, "More interior" to each one of us "than we are to ourselves."

<u>Peace Sunday' 16th January 2022</u> Theme of Pope Francis' World Peace Day: Education, work and dialogue between generations: tools for building lasting peace

In his message to parishes Pax Christi's National President, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon says: "This year has been one of unprecedented and continuing challenges. We are all conscious of the need to restore and rebuild our communities here and around the world, accepting that we need new ways of working and relating to each other. The Christian message of peace, through reconciliation, justice and nonviolence, can offer hope and direction in these times. I invite you to seriously consider ... making a donation to, the work of Pax Christi at this time as a way to make a practical contribution to continuing the work of peace."

St Bernadette's Bingo: Bingo Caller required

St Bernadette's Bingo is seeking a Bingo caller for every Wednesday session (7-9pm). Please contact Marie Gray or the Presbytery if you are able to help.

SVP Lunch Group

planned for 18th January has been postponed in light of high levels of infection with the Omicron variant in the area. As soon as conditions allow it will be rescheduled for a later date. Apologies to everyone for any inconvenience but this was deemed the wisest decision for everyone's health.

Synod 2021-2023 Deanery Meeting

Tuesday 25th January at 7pm (Zoom meeting). The link to this online meeting will be published next week. Diary Dates

Monday 31st January 2022 at 7pm: Holy Souls' PPC Meeting in the Church Hall

Monday 7th February 2022 at 7pm: St Bernadette's PPC Meeting in the Parish Centre

St Bernadette's First Holy Communion 2022

will commence in the coming weeks for children who are in Year 4 and above and are baptised Catholic. We invite all parents who would like their child to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist to submit a completed application form to St Bernaddtie's Proceedings of the Mandary 21 of Lorent

- Bernadette's Presbytery **by Monday 31st January**, 2022. Application forms are in the Church Narthex. <u>Covid Reminder</u>
- People with any symptoms of Covid 19 are reminded to stay away from Church.
- Please sanitize your hands when entering or leaving Church and when performing a public ministry in Church.
- Face coverings should be worn at all times unless one has an exemption or one is speaking publicly.
- O Good ventilation throughout our Churches should be ensured, and so over the winter period people are reminded to attend Mass in warm clothing. It is acceptable for both sexes to wear hats in Church if required.
- The main mode of transmission for the omicron variant and other forms of coronavirus is through the air. The danger of surface transmission is minimal and regular ordinary Church cleaning is sufficient to mitigate risk.
- The Bishop encourages people to get vaccinated and to obtain a booster whenever possible.