

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

*Serving St Benedict's, St Mary's & St Oswald's,
Warrington*



The Baptism of the Lord (C)

12 January 2025

Introductory Rites

Gathering Song

Joy to the world (156) omit verse 3

Greeting & Introduction

Beginning of the Jubilee Year of Hope

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.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading *(Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11)*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

Go on up to a high mountain,
O Sion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Behold your God!'
Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104

O bless the Lord, my soul.

- 1 O Lord, my God, you are great indeed!
you are clothed with majesty and glory,
robed in light as with a cloak.
You have spread out the heavens like a tent-cloth.
- 2 You have constructed your palace upon the waters.
You make the clouds your chariot;
you travel on the wings of the wind.
You make the winds your messengers,
and flaming fire your ministers.

Second Reading *(Titus 2: 11-14; 3: 4-7)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, bringing
salvation for all people, training us to renounce
ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-
controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,
waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory
of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave
himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness, and to
purify for himself a people for his own possession who
are zealous for good works.

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our
Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of works
done by us in righteousness, but according to his own
mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of
the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly
through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that being justified
by his grace we might become heirs according to the
hope of eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel *(Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people were baptised by John the Baptist and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Renewal of Baptism

Please join in singing:

**Water of life, cleanse and refresh us,
raise us to life in Christ Jesus.**

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Bidding Prayers

After each intention:

Lord of all hope. **R. Hear our prayer.**

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Music: And the glory of the Lord (*cf. Isaiah 40: 5*) – from George Frideric Handel's oratorio, 'Messiah'.

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. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Mass of Hope – Bernadette Farrell (559)

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
Holy Lord, Holy Lord, God of hosts.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed, blessed, blessed, blessed is he
who comes in the name,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

The Mystery of Faith

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

Our Father

Sign of Peace

Please exchange the Sign of Peace with those around you in whatever way is most comfortable for you.

Communion

Anthem: Christ is the Flower – Edward Chapman

Prayer after Communion

The Jubilee Prayer



**Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope.**

**May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.**

**May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.**

**To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen.**

Concluding Rite

Final Song

Lord Jesus Christ (772)

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