



**The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice
of**

**St Saviour
Mortimer West End**

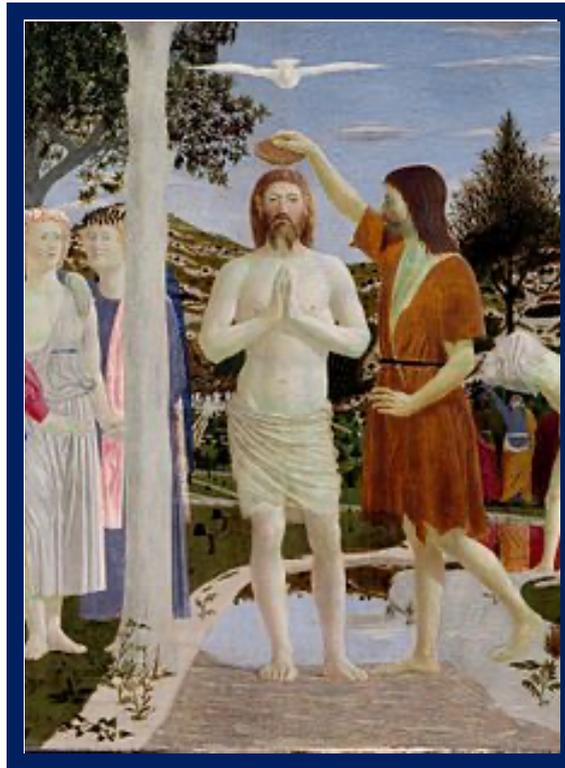
**St Mary and St John
Stratfield Mortimer**

**St John the Baptist
Padworth**

St Mary's Church of England School

St John's Church of England School

Diocese of Oxford



The Baptism of Christ by Piero della Francesca

The Parish Sunday Eucharist
for
The Baptism of Christ

9th January 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

at St John's Mortimer

and online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940>

Prayer Thoughts: *Wherever there is water there is life and, as Jesus' baptism in the river Jordan marked the beginning of his life's work, our baptism is the fount and celebration of our life's given 'work' which is to live by grace in the way of Christ.*
God bless, Paul

The Eucharist

This 'holy memorial' is known by various names: 1) 'The Eucharist' - which means 'Thanksgiving' - because Jesus offered himself in love; 2) 'the Lord's Supper' - or 'Breaking of the Bread' - because we celebrate it as a shared meal; 3) 'Holy Communion,' because we become one with Christ by receiving him; and 4) 'Holy Mass' - holy sending - because it gives us a mission: to go in peace to serve the Lord.

The 'objectives' of the Eucharist: The faith community gathers for the public celebration of the Eucharist in order to worship God; ask his forgiveness for sins; thank him for blessings received; listen to his voice in Scripture; present the needs of the world and our own needs too; offer our lives to him; gain spiritual nourishment and recharge our weakened spiritual batteries by sharing with him in Holy Communion. The simple structure of the Eucharistic celebration is organized to achieve all these goals.

If you are not able to come to St John's please do share in the weekly service online. May God bless us as we join together to worship. The present guidelines about cleaning, attendance, distancing, singing & speaking and receiving Holy Communion in churches will be followed carefully.

THE GATHERING SONG

**On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake, and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home
where such a mighty guest may come.**

THE GATHERING

Priest In the name of God - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
All Amen.

The priest may introduce the Eucharist.

THE GREETING

The greeting proclaims the presence of the Lord with us.

The Penitential Rite, the Gloria and the Opening Prayer follow. The purpose of these preliminary rites is to help the people, gathered for the celebration of the Eucharist, to join with each other as a worshipping community, and to prepare to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist - the Great Thanksgiving.

All The Lord be with you
 And also with you.

THE PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The Invitation to Confession - we call to mind our sins that we may repent of them / turn from them and ask forgiveness of God and each other.

Priest *The grace of God has dawned upon the world cf Titus 2.11.
 through our Saviour Jesus Christ.*

My dear brothers and sisters, as we come together as God's family
and prepare to celebrate the Eucharist, let us confess our sins
and seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

A pause for silent reflection follows.

All Lord, we have sinned against you:
 Lord, have mercy.
 Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, show us your mercy and love.
 And grant us your salvation.

The Absolution

All + Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us your sins,
 and bring us to everlasting life.
 Amen.

THE GLORIA

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

THE COLLECT

Priest Let us pray.

Together we spend a few moments in silence, realising, and giving thanks, that we are in the presence of God our Father to whom we make our prayers. The prayer 'collects' our thoughts.

Priest Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Liturgy of the Word consists of readings from the scriptures; a sermon/homily, which expounds the readings; the Profession of Faith, which is the Creed of God's people; and the Prayer of the Faithful or General Intercessions in which the people of God intercede for all humankind and all creation.

In the Liturgy of the Word God speaks to us of redemption and salvation and nourishes us with his 'word.' We are not only listening to past history. The God who speaks to Israel and to the early Church speaks to us today through the power of the Holy Spirit working within us as we listen to him and as he reveals the pattern for our lives. 'The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double edged sword but more finely...it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts' (The Letter to the Hebrews 4:12).

THE FIRST READING - ACTS 8: 14 - 17. - Read by Sarah Theaker.

Reader A reading from The Acts of the Apostles.

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

At the end of the reading:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Now we hear the Gospel (the Good News) and acknowledge that we are his people and called to be part of his mission to the world inasmuch as we share his message and his life with faith, hope and love.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

Luke 3:16.

He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL READING - ST LUKE'S GOSPEL 3: 15 - 17, 21, 22.

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you .

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

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.'

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 upon you.'

At the end of the Gospel

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON - Fr Derek

We are a Eucharistic community - united around word and sacrament. Through the readings God has spoken to his people of his redeeming love and of the nourishment which his Spirit gives. The sermon reflects on our readings and relates them to our Eucharistic celebration and to our ordinary daily life.

After the sermon there may be a short period of silent reflection.

THE PROFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH - THE CREED

We make the profession of faith in response to the word of God written in the Gospels and spoken in the sermon. We testify that God is our Father who gives us new life through his Son and who calls us together in the power of his Spirit to be a Eucharistic people, a 'thanksgiving people', a living community of his abiding self-giving love.

All We believe and trust in God the Father who made the world.

We believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world.

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God. Amen

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL OR GENERAL INTERCESSION

We are invited to pray for all people and for all creation and for the needs of the Church's mission in bringing Christ's Gospel to the world. Through baptism we have been made one with Christ, our great high priest, and we share in his prayer before the Father for the needs of the Church's mission to the world and for of people. Our prayer flows from our listening to the Gospel and sermon by which we have been made more aware of our Christian commitment.

This Prayer of the Faithful, or General Intercession, is announced and consists of a series of intercessions; we pray for the universal Church and its mission and for our bishop and for our benefice - our parishes and our two Church schools; for the world, for our Queen and country, for our local communities, families and friends; for the sick and suffering and for all in pain; and we remember those who have died. And in communion with Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all the Saints of God we entrust one another and all people and all creation to God's saving love.

Priest: Let us pray to God our Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and in union with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, the Prince of Peace.

The deacon or minister continues:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith, strengthen Justin our Archbishop, Steven our bishop, Olivia our area bishop, our benefice, our Church schools of St Mary's and St John's, and all our missions and ministries and all your Church in the service of Christ, that we may be united in your grace and truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world...

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen; our Government; our Parliament; our District and Village Councils; give wisdom to all in authority; and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and peace; that people everywhere may honour one another and seek the common good...

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, your Son shared the life of a family: protect in your love our families, our friends, our neighbours, and this community of which we are a part, and may we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us...

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we pray to you for all who suffer in body, mind or spirit...; give them hope; and bring them the joy of your salvation...

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we remember before you all who have died recently ...; and all our loved ones gone before us; may we be reunited in heaven.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Mary, John the Evangelist, John the Baptist and all your saints, we commend ourselves and all people and all creation to your unfailing love...

Priest Merciful Father,

All Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

At the Last Supper Christ 'took some bread and when he had given thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying "This is my body which will be given for you; do this in remembrance of me". He did the same with the cup...' (Luke 22:19-20). The Church, joyfully obedient to the Lord's command, celebrates the Eucharist taking care that our 'liturgy' corresponds to the words and actions of Christ: 1) Taking bread and wine - we take our own gifts to the Altar, such as our time and talents and our money for the poor and for ministry. 2) Giving thanks (the meaning of the word Eucharist) - in the Eucharistic Prayer the priest, in the name of us all, says the great hymn of our thanksgiving to God for the whole work of salvation, in which the offerings become the Body and Blood of Christ. 3) The breaking of the one bread is a sign of the unity of the faithful - a sign of the unity which comes through sharing in Christ. 4) And in Holy Communion we receive Christ. In this way, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, the Church tries to carry out what the Lord asked his disciples to do in remembrance of him.

THE PEACE

We acknowledge and give thanks for our unity with one another in Jesus Christ our Lord, which his death and resurrection have brought to us. He is the peace between us. The sign of peace echoes Christ's own resurrection greeting to his disciples. Before we share in the same bread we express our love for one another in Christ and pray for peace and unity (cf Luke 1.78,79).

Priest *To crown all things there must be love, cf Colossians 3.14,15*
to bind all together and complete the whole.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

THE PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

The peoples' gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. The offerings of money is made and promised to support the wider ministry and work of the Church. Taking the Gifts: We give thanks to God for the gifts in the following words.

Priest **BREAD**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

All Blessed be God for ever.

WINE

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All Blessed be God for ever.

OUR TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURE/MONEY

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have the gifts of our time, talents and money to offer. May our offerings of our gifts be a sincere sign of our gratitude and our dedication to your service.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

*The priest prays quietly: Lord God, we ask you to receive us and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer you with humble, contrite and thankful hearts.
The priest washes hands as an expression of the desire for inward purification, praying quietly: Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin.*

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Priest Pray my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Priest Amen.

Heavenly Father, send the Holy Spirit upon us that we who celebrate the baptism of your beloved Son may be transformed so as to be ready to share his cup and be strengthened to serve him in our care for others and for all creation.

All **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Eucharistic Prayer is the centre and high point of the whole Christian celebration. This great prayer of praise and thanksgiving proclaims the wonderful works of God and through it we join ourselves with Christ in praise and thanksgiving to God the Father and in offering ourselves to him in union with Christ's self-offering on the cross. We express our share in the prayer, which is said by the priest on behalf of all the people, by listening inwardly and joining in the acclamations (joyful shouts or songs) and the Sanctus (the Holy, Holy, Holy which concludes the preface), the memorial acclamation and the great 'Amen' which concludes our Eucharistic Prayer.

Priest The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

In the Preface we praise God for his mighty acts:

And now we give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose willingness to live the way of righteousness is the pattern of our calling to live his way. Therefore in our joy we sing to your glory with all the choirs of angels:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We pray to the Father for the sending down of the Holy Spirit and recall the Lord's Supper.

Priest We thank you, loving Father, because when we turned away you sent to us your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

He gave his life for us upon the cross. He shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread.

He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

‘This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.’

After they had eaten he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

‘This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this to remember me.’

So, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit upon us and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.
Help us, Father, to love one another as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.
And now with Mary, John the Evangelist, John the Baptist, and all your saints, we give you
glory, through Jesus Christ and in the strength of your Holy Spirit, today and for ever.

All Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

The communion rite lays strong emphasis on peace, unity and our prayer for forgiveness. We come together to the Lord's table in accordance with the Lord's command, 'Take, eat... take, drink', as a community bound together by the love of God manifest in Christ. We can all be confident in Christ's mercy as we respond to his call to come to his table. Our communal recitation of the Lord's Prayer - the prayer he taught us - prepares us for Holy Communion with our Lord.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The priest takes the host and breaks it over the cup, praying quietly: 'May this mingling of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.' 'Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread' (1 Corinthians 10:17)

Christ's gesture of breaking bread with his disciples at the Last Supper gave the Eucharist the name of the 'breaking of bread.'. This gesture signifies that we who share one bread and one cup are made one. The breaking of the Eucharistic bread becomes a sign of unity and charity as the one bread is distributed to the family of God's people.

Priest We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

The priest prepares quietly for Holy Communion. We may all join quietly in this prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit your death brought life to the world. By your holy body and blood free me from all my sins and from every evil. Keep me faithful to your teaching, and never let me be parted from you. Amen.

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Priest Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. *cf. John 1: 29*

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

The sign of communion is more complete when given under both 'kinds' since then the sign of the eucharistic meal appears more clearly. However, we live in exceptional times when communion can only be given in one 'kind.'

The priest takes the host, raises it a little and shows it saying: The Body of Christ. And the same with the cup saying: The Blood of Christ. When receiving Holy Communion the response and assent to Christ is:

+ Amen.

DURING HOLY COMMUNION

The choir may sing:

As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit shield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.*

I want you more than gold and silver,
only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
and the apple of my eye.

You're my friend and you're my brother,
even though you are a king.
I love you more than any other,
so much more than anything.

After Holy Communion we may keep a further period of silence.

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

Priest Let us pray

*The priest invites us all to pray that the Holy Eucharist will have its effect in transforming our lives and bring us all to God's kingdom.
We pray together silently for a while before the Post Communion prayer.*

Priest Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

THE NOTICES FOR THE COMMUNITY ARE GIVEN.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

All The Lord be with you.
and also with you.

THE BLESSING

Priest May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of living water,
welling up to eternal life,
perfect in you the image and likeness of his goodness and glory;
+ and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

All Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN

*Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name;
you are mine.*

**When you walk through the waters, I'll be with you.
You will never sink beneath the waves.**

**When the fire is burning all around you,
you will never be consumed by the flames.**

**When you dwell in the exile of the stranger,
remember you are precious in my eyes.**

**You are mine, O my child; I am your Father,
and I love you with a perfect love.**

Please donate regularly to support the Church's mission and work. *The church here needs your help in order to serve our villages, our diocese, our nation and our world in the future. Our doors have been closed due to Covid 19 and with no regular Government or Church of England funding we have lost significant income. Please see the website to see how to give efficiently.*

