

**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 Eucharist
for
The Baptism of Christ**

Sunday 10th January 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Prayer Thought: Wherever there is water there is life. As Jesus' baptism in the river Jordan marked the beginning of his ministry and life's work so our baptism is the source of our Christian vocation and marks the beginning of our ministry and life's work. God bless.

The Baptism of Christ

*The present rules and guidelines about attendance, singing & speaking in churches will be adhered to carefully.
This Sunday only the priest and the zoom operator may be at St John's.*

HYMN *Sung by Viv Adler*

**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 AND 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.

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

 The Lord be with you
All **And also with you.**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

*We call to mind our sins to repent of them / turn from them and to ask forgiveness of God and each other.
The Invitation to Confession*

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 acknowledge and confess our sins
and seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus our Saviour.

A pause for silent reflection follows.

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

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

The Absolution

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

THE GLORIA *Sung by Rhona Johnson*

**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

The priest invites us to pray.

Priest Let us pray.

Together we spend a few moments in reverent silence realising that we are in the presence of God our Father to whom we make our prayers. The priest 'collects' our prayerful thoughts into theme of this Christmas Day celebration in the Opening Prayer, which is either sung or said.

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.

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 of his plan 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 - The Acts of the Apostles 19: 1-7. Read by Camilla Ede

Reader A reading from The Acts of the Apostles.

Paul made his way overland as far as Ephesus, where he found a number of disciples. When he asked, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' they answered, 'No, we were never even told there was such a thing as a Holy Spirit.' He asked, 'Then how were you baptised?' They replied, 'With John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John's baptism was a baptism of repentance; but he insisted that the people should believe in the one who was to come after him - namely Jesus.' When they heard this they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus, and the moment Paul had laid hands on them the Holy Spirit came down on them, and they began to speak with tongues and to prophesy. There were about twelve in all.

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 *Sung by Sarah Theaker*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

John saw Jesus coming towards him and said:
This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

cf. John 1: 29

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL READING - MARK 1: 4 - 11.

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you .

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist was in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'After me is coming someone who is more powerful than me, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. And at once, as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

At the end of the Gospel

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE SERMON Fr Derek

We are a Eucharistic community in word and sacrament. Through the readings God has spoken to his people of his redeeming and healing love and of the nourishment which his Spirit gives. Our priest now reflects with us on the readings of the day relating them to our Eucharistic celebration and to our ordinary life.

After the sermon there is 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 love and care.

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 the needs of the Church and all people. Through baptism we have been made one with Christ, our great high priest, and we share in his intercessions before the Father for the needs of his Church and of all people. Our intercessions flow 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, our two Church schools; for the world, for our Queen and country, for our local communities and families; for the sick and all in pain, for all who are working on the front line at this time of Covid 19; and for the departed. And in communion with Blessed Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all the Saints of God we entrust one another and all people to God's saving love.

Priest Let us pray for the Church of Christ and for all the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

The deacon or leader 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 Blessed Mother, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all your saints, we commend ourselves and all people 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 carefully to the words and actions of Christ: 1) Taking bread and wine in The Preparation of the Gifts we take our gifts to the Altar. Gifts or money for the poor and the Church's ministry to the poor are also presented. 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. 4) And in the giving of Holy Communion we receive the Body and Blood of Christ as the Apostles did from his hands. In this way Sunday by Sunday and day by day the Church carries out in loving obedience to his command 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 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.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

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 ministry and work of the Church.

Taking the Gifts: The priest gives 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

We are all invited to draw near in prayer:

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 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 for ever.

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.**

The Preface praises God for his mighty acts:

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

The Acclamation Sung by Sarah Theaker

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, the Blessed Mother of our Lord, St John the Evangelist, St 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 of the Church 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 love. We are 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 Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:

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 entire Eucharist the name of the 'breaking of bread'. This gesture signifies that we who share one bread and one cup are made one. Through the breaking of the host the Eucharist is seen more clearly as a sign of unity and charity since the one bread is being distributed among the members of one family of God.

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.

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Priest Jesus is 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, for the time being, communion can only be given in one kind for those who can come to church. Whilst others join faithfully online. Please God, may we all soon be able to come together again to receive Holy Communion under both kinds at the Lord's table. 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.

HYMN DURING HOLY COMMUNION *Sung by Viv Bailey*

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down Thy head upon My breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad;
I found in Him a resting place, and He has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one, stoop down, and drink, and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in Him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise, and all thy day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found in Him my Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk, till traveling days are done.**

The vessels are cleansed and put away. You may wish to join with the priest who prays quietly:

Lord, may these gifts give me purity of heart. May they bring me healing and strength, now and ever. Amen

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 to God's kingdom. All 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

Priest The Lord be with you.

All **and also with you.**

THE BLESSING

Priest May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water
 welling up to eternal life, perfect in you the image of his 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.

 Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN *Sung by Gwen Adshead*

**Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.**

**Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.**

**Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.**

