

## Holy Baptism

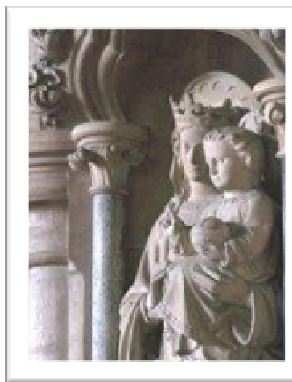
**IT IS** sometimes forgotten that Holy Baptism, the gateway to all other sacraments, is an event of unsurpassed importance. It is as important as the birth of a child, because it is the spiritual birth which leads to everlasting life and an eternal relationship with God. We no longer believe that unbaptised babies are in 'Limbo' or that unbaptised adults are lost for ever but none of us knows quite what happens to those who do not share Baptism.

Children are baptised with at least one sponsor, but not more than two – a man and a woman. The sponsor(s) must be Catholics in good standing and be prepared to help the parents care for the child spiritually, and, in the last resort, materially too. Adults have one sponsor only – a Catholic in good standing – and are always confirmed also at their Baptism. Thus infant Baptism may happen throughout most of the year, but adult Baptism only at the Easter Vigil and by arrangement with the Bishop. Nowadays it is quite usual for the Parish Priest to confirm newly-baptised adults at the Easter Vigil but the Bishop remains the normal minister of Confirmation.

Baptism has to be in Church and should be at the Font. The water in the Font is blessed at the Easter Vigil and retained throughout Eastertide. At other times, water is blessed for the occasion and disposed of to earth immediately afterwards. It is not used in the Holy Water stoup at the Church door, even though Holy Water in that stoup is a daily reminder of Baptism. Hence we bless ourselves the first time each day we enter the Church and as we finally leave.

There are various ceremonies attached to Baptism. Signing with the sign of the Cross and symbolic healing with the oil of exorcism take place before the pouring of water, or immersion in the Font. After the Baptism there is Chrismation – or, for adults, Holy Confirmation – the clothing in a white robe, the giving of a copy of the Easter Candle and the '*Ephphatha*'. *Ephphatha* is the Greek form of a Syro-Chaldaic or Aramaic word meaning 'Be opened,' said by the Lord when healing a man who was deaf and dumb (Mark 7:34). This ceremony is a moving prayer that the newly-baptised will be open to hearing and proclaiming the Gospel. The Font is covered, so that blessed water is not defiled, and we now have a splendid new Font cover. Nearby there should be an aumbry containing the sacred oils. At St Mary's this aumbry is at present next to the organ – where the Font used to be – and therefore has to be moved. Sometimes salt is blessed and used in the water. This is not to render it undrinkable but to prevent algæ forming in the water. A little detergent powder would work in that respect!

*Fr Andrew*



St Edmund Campion Deanery, Old Berkshire-  
Thames ISIS Pastoral Area  
[www.thamesisis.org.uk](http://www.thamesisis.org.uk)  
**EAST HENDRED CATHOLIC PARISH**  
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St Patrick's Church, East Ilsley  
[hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)  
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<b>Sunday</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> <b>March</b>	<b>Sundays: Year B</b> <b>THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT</b> <b>Confessions: 8.45am St Mary's</b> <b>Mass: 9.30am St Mary's</b> <b>Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's</b>	<b>Divine Office: Week 3</b> [PURPLE] <i>Pro populo</i> <i>Pro populo</i>
<b>Monday</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> <b>March</b>	<i>Third Week of Lent</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary's	[purple]
<b>Tuesday</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> <b>March</b>	<i>Third Week of Lent</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary's	[purple]
<b>Wednesday</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> <b>March</b>	<i>Commem. of SS Perpetua &amp; Felicity</i> Adoration: 11.45am St Mary's Mass: 12.15pm St Mary's followed by Interment of Ashes	[purple]  <i>RIP Kathleen Doyle</i>
<b>Friday</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> <b>March</b>	<i>Third Week of Lent</i> Mass: 8.30am Hendred House <i>Adoration: 3pm at Hendred House</i> Stations of the Cross: 5.30pm St Mary's	[purple] <i>Holy Souls</i>
<b>Saturday</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> <b>March</b>	<i>Third Week of Lent</i> Confessions: 8.45am St Mary's Mass: 9.30am St Mary's	[purple]
<b>Sunday</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> <b>March</b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT</b> [MOTHERING SUNDAY] <b>Confessions: 8.45am St Mary's</b> <b>Mass: 9.30am St Mary's</b> <b>Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's</b>	<b>Divine Office: Week 4</b> [Rose] <i>Pro populo</i> <i>Pro populo</i>
	<b>Confessions: as advertised or by appointment</b> <a href="http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a>	

## THIS WEEK AND LOOKING AHEAD

### TUESDAY LENTEN LUNCHESES!

Soup, bread and interesting conversation at Monks Hollow, Newbury Road East Hendred, on **March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>** at 12.30 to 2pm. If you'd like to come, please call Mary Harrison on 01235 833584 for catering purposes. **All welcome.**

### CALLED AND GIFTED

It starts on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March** 9am - 4pm in Abingdon. For more information please visit the diocese website [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/calledandgifted](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/calledandgifted) or email Clare Simpson on [csimpson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:csimpson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) to book a place.

### QUIET MORNING

There will be a Quiet Morning at St Mary's on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March**. Mass at 9.30am will be followed by Adoration (10am to 12 noon). During Adoration there will be a short address and an opportunity for Confession. Coffee &c will be available.

### YOUTH GROUP SPONSORED WALK - SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

The Youth Group are once again taking part in a sponsored walk to raise money for CAFOD. We will be celebrating St Patrick's day by hiking along the Ridgeway and would greatly appreciate it if you would sponsor us. We are hoping to raise about £300 for CAFOD, so any donation would be great. You can give at our justgiving website at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stmarysyouthgroup2](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stmarysyouthgroup2). Thank you.

### CONCERT AT DOUAI ABBEY

St Matthew Passion by Schutz and The Little Match Girl Passion by Lang on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March** 2018 at 7.30pm. Please take a leaflet from the back of the church or go to [www.douaiabbey.org.uk/concerts](http://www.douaiabbey.org.uk/concerts)

### CHRISM MASS AT ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

The Pastoral Area is once again running a bus to the Cathedral for the Chrism Mass on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March**. More information from poster in church. Please call Didcot parish office to book a place on 01235 812338, or email [didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). All bookings must be received by **19<sup>th</sup> March**.

### PARISH COLLECTION

Last Sunday collection raised a total of £935.50 of which 87% was Gift Aided. We raised £459 for CAFOD.

### FORTHCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

Clergy Assistance Fund: 11<sup>th</sup> March



Find us on

**NEWSLETTER** | Please send all notices for next week's Newsletter to Maria at [hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) by **Wednesday 10 am**

## WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

### BAPTISM AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.



### THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

*Sr Catherine, Mary Wallace, Brenda Paddon, Alfie Bartlam, Jadvyga Adasko, Angus Clark and Ann McCarthy.* Names remain for four weeks.

### THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Those who have died recently and those with anniversaries at this time: *Amy Stibbs, George Dunn, Ellen Cuddihy, Alice Couling, Alice Pilcher, Thomas Mulford, Breda Smith, Jo Barr, Margaret Brown and John Curley.*

**HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION** - Evangelization: ***Formation in Spiritual Discernment.*** That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.

### APF RED BOXES

It is time again to hand your boxes to your promoters. Doesn't time whip along! Thank you in advance for all your contributions and also a big thank you to the new Red Box holders. I will be in contact with you all soon and give you a box if you have not got one yet. Thank you. Margaret Maytham

### GATHERING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

We have completed our reading and study of the life of King David as given in books 1 and 2 of Samuel in the Old Testament. We next turn to the New Testament and will look at Paul's letter to the Romans. There will not be a meeting next month, March 6<sup>th</sup>. We shall resume on Tuesday, **April 10<sup>th</sup>**, in the parish rooms at 7.30. Come and join us.

### MASS INTENTIONS

Envelopes are available for requesting Mass Intentions. The usual offering is £10 and neither this sum nor the use of the envelope is essential! Intentions should be passed to Fr Andrew. When there is a historical intention on the Newsletter—a Foundation Mass for example—this is liable at short notice to be rearranged in place of a present pastoral concern. Except in very unusual circumstances, the Sunday Mass is offered '*pro populo*', that is, for the whole people of the parish. This is required by Canon Law.

### ARE YOU NEW TO OUR PARISH?

If you have recently joined our parish, please complete the registration form (yellow or green sheets at the back of the church).

### COFFEE AFTER MASS

Please join us for a cup of coffee at St Mary's Parish rooms after Mass. All donations go to a good charity - eye camps.