

Parish of Our Lady of Fatima

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Parish Priest: Fr Justin Stirton

12th January 2020

Baptism of the Lord

Year A

Missal References

Page 158 (old), 75 (new)

Next Sunday's Scripture

Page 374 (old), 313 (new)

Next Sunday

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

Feasts of the Week

Monday

St Hilary

Friday

St Anthony, Abbot

Entrance Antiphon

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 29

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly powers,
ascribe to the Lord, the glory of his name;
bow down before the Lord, majestic in holiness.

The voice of the Lord upon the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord full of power;
the voice of the Lord full of splendour.

The God of glory thunders;
in his temple they all cry, "Glory!"
The Lord sat enthroned above the flood;
the Lord sits as king forever.

The Lord will bless his people with peace.



Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia.

The heavens opened and the Father's voice was heard: "This is my beloved Son, listen to him." ***Alleluia.***

Communion Antiphon

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

This Week's Diary

Monday	Mass	9.00am
	Finance Committee	5.45pm
Tuesday	Gospel Sharing	9.30am
	Griefshare	7.00pm
Wednesday	Adoration & Benediction	5.00pm – 6.00pm
	Mass	6.00pm
Thursday	Men's Prayer Group	5.00am – 6.00am
	Mass	6.30am
	Fatima School Dedication Mass: Gr 1-7	7.45am
	Rosary Team	9.30am
	Pastoral Council	6.00pm
Friday	Mass	6.30am
	Fatima School Dedication Mass: Gr 8-12	7.45am
	Confirmation retreat weekend	
Saturday	Mass	8.00am
	Martha Group	8.30am
	No Confessions (<i>Fr Justin will be at the Confirmation Retreat</i>)	
Sunday	Sunday Masses (<i>Fr Peter Lafferty</i>)	7.00am, 9.00am & 5.15pm

Please pray for the Sick, especially

Parishioners

<i>Anthea Jack; Sr Catherina; Joy Lees; Cameron Smith; May Dormehl; Jenny Ducray; Gladys Cole; Caron Martins; Lynne Brouard; Randy Tryon; Maryse Bowman; Gordon Urquhart; Milly van Gogh; Teresa Latouf; Daphne Rahmer; Maria Dus; Gerrit Snyders; Gladys Meyer.</i>	<i>Daniel Singery; Sandra Teodosio; Pat Sturgess; Verna Cavanagh; Mervin Moonsamy; Stella Gomes; Hannah Donaldson; Jean Leclezio; Debbie Macpherson; Amanda Ngongoma; Adrienne Paul; Maria Teodosio; Monique Saint-Georges; Bernie Patterson.</i>	<i>Jabu Ntuli; John Haswell; Carol Urquhart; Rosanne Maharajh; Peggy du Plessis; Ron Akal; Jenni Johnson; Jan Huiskamp; Eileen Chapson; Biran Bushnell; Shirley Kuzmanich; Patrick Murgatroyd; Nirasha Kannigadu; Lynne Roberts.</i>
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Relatives

<i>Tris Tillard's sister; Jo James' nephew, granddaughter & son; Maryse Bowman's nieces; Louise Kin's sister; Alma Osborn's grandson; Annette Hoyer's parents; Hugh Elliott; Heather Rorick; Stuart McGregor; Sharon Ellis' sister; Maude Quenet; Marjorie Mawbey's niece; Nancy Chettiar's sister; John Bremner's nephew; Maryse Wardell's mother; James White; Candice Houseman & Tracy Mendonidis' mother; Denise Irvine's daughter; Ann Appelgren's sister; Irene Helsdon's niece; Anna Kalinowska's mother; Tottie Bremner's nephew; Titi Pitso's brother; Fergus McDonnell.</i>	<i>Michelle Lock's father; Peter Squires; Norlie McDonogh's sister-in-law & brother; Lynne Tillard's brother; Mary Ann Salvage's 4 brothers; Michael Pearton; Richard Pearton's niece; Theresa Hoogewerf's aunts, sister & cousin; Ruth Florence's mother; May Dormehl's brother-in-law & daughter; Rita Abraham's sister; June Tatchell's mother; Fr Des brother & nephew; Peggy du Plessis' brother, sister, daughter-in-law & granddaughter; Ben Morasutti's son Jo; Nomusa Mkhwanazi's brother; Lisa Grant's father; Brenda Bennison.</i>	<i>Janice Cottingham's brother; Jean & Pauline Leclezio's son & daughter-in-law; Michael Quarsingh's brother; Duncan Miller's father; Terry Beechey's brother; Bronwyn Murgatroyd's mother & son; Mark McCall's nephew; Maureen Pistorius; Rory McDonogh's niece; Eleanor Scott's husband; Marie Claude Maujean's grandson Luc; Maureen Hutton's son & grandson; Jack Garbutt's son-in-law; Marcia Swanson's mother; Margaret Beechey's daughter, Chantel.</i>
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HOSPITAL CARE

Please advise the parish office if you or a family member will be admitted to the hospital so that we can provide pastoral care.

The Southern Cross Catholic Newspaper is available in the Baptistry for R12

Mini and Junior Church will resume today, 12 January.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Men of our Parish are invited to gather together with Christ over a cup of coffee for prayer, sharing and reflection, on Thursday mornings from 5.00am–6.00am, in the Upper Hall.

Visitors (men) are most welcome.

For more info contact Brian Hoogewerf on 0837800004.

Rosary Team will meet on Thursday 16th January at 9.30 am in the Upper Hall.

MORNING PRAYER

Friday mornings at 6.15am - before the 6.30am Mass.

Ministers of the Word Formation

There will be formation for all Ministers of the Word at 7.00 pm on Thursday 23 January.

Catechism Teachers Formation

There will be formation for all Junior School catechists at 8.45 am on Saturday 25 January.

GRIEFSHARE

The Griefshare team invite all those who have lost loved ones to come and join us, for a ten-week course starting on *TUESDAY 28 JANUARY at 7.00 pm in the Parish Hall.*

We are looking forward to having you join us.

The Griefshare team will be meeting in the Parish Hall at 7:00pm on Tuesday 21 January.

If you need further information contact Irene on 082 559 6331.

Altar Servers Registration

All *current* altar servers and those who wish to *begin* altar serving must take a Commitment form from the table in the baptistry, take the form home and read it carefully, sign the form as a sign of their commitment for the year ahead and take it to catechism registration.

Junior Catechism, Life Teen and Confirmation Registration and Beginning of Classes

- **Primary School Catechism** will take place after all Masses on Sunday 26 January. Classes begin on Monday 3 February. *Cost: R150 for the year.*
- **Life Teen** registration will take place after all Masses next Sunday, 19 January. Sessions begin at 6.30 pm on Sunday 26 January. *Cost: R280 for the year.*
- **Confirmation** registration will take place at the Confirmation camp, 24-26 January. Classes begin at 6.00 pm this Thursday 16 January. *Cost: R280 for the year.*

*Bring a copy of your child's **baptism certificate** unless you handed it in last year.*

Doctor? Architect? Policeman? Astronaut? Teacher? Parent? Priest?

What will your **Vocation** be? Come find out...

LIFE TEEN 2020

WHAT IS LIFE TEEN?

Our inspiring and engaging high school catechetical program which explores our great Catholic faith through Formation, Friends and Fun - **Sundays, from 6:30pm - 8:00pm.**

All teens in Grades 8-11 are required to join us towards preparation for Confirmation.

MORE INFO?

Contact Brad Tomlin on 0725021866 or find us on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Engaged Encounter

All who wish to marry in our Archdiocese must give *six months' notice* to their parish priest and attend the Engaged Encounter weekend. The next weekend will be 21-23 February. *Book early* to secure your place!

Volunteers to serve tea and coffee after *all* Masses

We would like to serve tea and coffee after *all three Masses*. We need more volunteers. Please contact Ana at 031 563 5554 or email admin@fatima.org.za

MASSES FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Please contact the parish office to request Masses to be celebrated for special intentions, especially for the faithful departed on the anniversaries of their deaths. The Mass stipend is R40.00 per Mass. It is appropriate to attend those Masses if possible.

Mass Intentions

12th January 2020 – 19th January 2020

Sunday	7.00am	Pro Populo
	9.00am	Roger Brouard RIP
	5.15pm	For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
Monday	9.00am	Pious Lists
Wednesday	6.00pm	Celebrants Intention
Thursday	6.30am	Celebrants Intention
	7.45am	In Thanksgiving – Our Lady of Fatima School Girls
Friday	6.30am	Celebrants Intention
	7.45am	In Thanksgiving – Our Lady of Fatima School Girls
Saturday	8.00am	Holy Souls RIP (<i>Maria Teodosio</i>)
Sunday	7.00am	Henriette Hallot RIP (<i>Esmé Halot & Maryse Bowman</i>)
	9.00am	Alex & Hanoon Kayat RIP (<i>Cheryl van Pletzen</i>)
	5.15pm	Pro Populo

Pilgrimage to Holy Sites in Italy: 17-26 May 2020

Join our pilgrimage to Italy in the footsteps of the Apostles Peter and Paul, St Francis of Assisi, St Clare, St Benedict, St Padre Pio and other great saints. Renew your faith in Jesus Christ as you visit, celebrate Mass and pray at places steeped in the faith of centuries of pilgrims.

Many photos of the places we will visit can be seen on our **Pilgrimage Facebook Page**: facebook.com/groups/685911015223206/. **Itineraries** and **reservation forms** are available in the baptistry, in the foyer downstairs and on the above Facebook Page.

Cost: R32 495 pp sharing based on 2019 exchange rates (subject to fluctuations).

Includes return flights from *Johannesburg*, airport taxes, 7 nights accommodation (dinner, bed and breakfast), guides, coach, entrance fees, basic insurance.

For further information contact Fr Justin.

Denis Hurley Centre Notices

Immediate Vacancy for Fundraising Manager

The Napier Centre 4 Healing is looking for an experienced professional fundraiser to help support its efforts to transform the lives of street-dwelling drug users.

For more information on how to apply, see the poster on the website or email

HR@napiercentre.org Applications close on 31st January 2020.

Society of St Vincent de Paul - APPEAL FOR FOOD

Please bring **at least one** of the following food items to Mass and place it in the Food Basket before all Sunday Masses. *Cup a Soup packs, 1kg mealie meal, Baked Beans in tomato sauce (410g), Pilchards in tomato sauce (410g), etc*

SSVP Bank Details:

Account Name	Society of Saint Vincent de Paul		
Bank	First National Bank	Account No	62033860786
Branch	Durban North	Branch Code	220426



SSVP has also gone digital!! – This is the Zapper code for SSVP which allows you to donate either R100 or R150 or R200 or your own amount.

TOYS FOR HAPPINESS CAMPAIGN – THANKS

The Knights of Da Gama thanks parishioners for the generous donation of toys and financial contributions. These were used to bring joy to the many underprivileged children in and around Durban and outlying areas.

The Knights of Da Gama, with the generosity of the Durban community, collect, refurbish, pack and distribute toys to bring joy and happiness to hundreds of children each year.

Thanking you in anticipation of your continued support to this worthy cause.

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Year A

12 January 2020

Commentary

First Reading (Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7)

This is the first of Isaiah's famous '*Servant Songs*'. It is chosen for today's feast because of the parallels between v1 and the Gospel: as God takes delight in his chosen one, and endows him with his spirit, so the Father's favour rests on his beloved Son, and the Spirit descends on him like a dove.

The identity of Isaiah's servant is very mysterious. There are limitations to the view that the servant personifies Israel, or is a known individual; it seems best to conclude that Isaiah had an ideal figure in mind. He would enjoy a unique closeness to the Lord; he would establish God's order (*'true justice'*) among the peoples, though in a gentle and compassionate manner; he would bring light and freedom to the oppressed.

In a particularly striking phrase, the servant is said to have been appointed '*covenant of the people*'. A covenant is an agreement made between two parties. An individual may mediate such an agreement, but how can an individual actually **be** the agreement? This can only properly be understood of the covenant between God and man, made in Jesus Christ. The language of theology speaks of the person of Christ uniting in itself the two natures, divine and human; the poetry of Isaiah speaks of a figure who is both uniquely close to God yet in total solidarity with mankind as he compassionately establishes justice on earth. Moses had mediated the covenant between God and Israel, but Jesus Christ, who is both God and man, actually **is** the covenant between God and all men. In this, as in all other respects, he fulfils the prophecy of Isaiah.

Second Reading (Acts 10: 34-38)

Cornelius was a Roman centurion who '*feared God*'. His heart was with the Jewish faith, even though his gentile origin excluded him from formal membership of God's people. His story is intimately bound up with Peter's vision at Joppa, in which it was revealed to the apostle that physical descent was not a condition for salvation: '*God does not have favourites.*' Anyone who acknowledges God's supremacy (*'fears God'*) is already qualified to be saved; all that is then necessary is for him to believe in Jesus Christ, and receive Baptism. This is exactly what happens in the case of Cornelius and his household. The feast of the Baptism of the Lord is a celebration of the universal nature of God's saving outreach to the world. No matter what our natural birth, anyone may be born again of water and the Holy Spirit.

Gospel (Mt .3: 13-17)

Matthew, alone of the evangelists, records John's reluctance to baptise Jesus. In the immediately preceding passage, John had declared his inferiority to Jesus, who would bring a new baptism '*in the Holy Spirit and fire*'. Surely John needed Jesus' baptism, not Jesus John's? Furthermore, John baptised '*for repentance*', but what need of repentance had Jesus? Jesus, however, insists that he receive John's baptism, *since 'thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness'* (RSV). What does he mean?

We note that Jesus does not 'need' baptism; it is 'fitting' that he receives it. 'Righteousness' means doing what is right, acting in accordance with God's law. This is a quality which the scribes and Pharisee possess, but which in itself is insufficient and needs to be surpassed (5:20). Jesus is the one who does this, not by abolishing the law, but by 'fulfilling' it (5:17). In the Sermon on the Mount, he invites his listeners to fulfil the law by living it in a new spirit of humility, generosity and love. Strictly speaking, there is no need for Jesus to be baptised, but he humbly submits himself to this ritual 'to fulfil all righteousness'

Jesus associates John very closely with himself in this fulfilment: '*thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.*' John stands for the old dispensation, Jesus brings the new, but again it is not a matter of abolishing the old, but of transforming it. To that end, Jesus cooperates with John. By receiving John's baptism Jesus actually raises Baptism to a new level; it moves beyond a mere ritual of repentance (*though it remains that as well*) and becomes the gateway to the grace which Jesus will bring by his death and resurrection. John's baptism celebrated a certain righteousness; but the baptism which Jesus institutes celebrate the fullness of righteousness, a righteousness based on the perfect union with God which he embodies, This is the sacrament which we have received, and which makes us, like Jesus, beloved, favoured children of the Father.

Scripture Readings For Next Sunday

Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6

1 Corinthians 1: 1-3

John 1: 29-34