

St Paul's Knightsbridge
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SERVICES THIS WEEK:

SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

14 January 2017

Family Mass at 09:00

Sung Eucharist at 11:00

Preacher: Fr Nick Mercer

Mon 15 January: Feria of Epiphany

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 18:00

Tues 16 January: Feria of Epiphany

Mass at 8:00

Wed 17 January: St Anthony of Egypt

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 19:00

Thu 18 January: Feria of Epiphany

**THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN
UNITY BEGINS (TILL THE 25TH)**

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 18:00

Fri 19 January: Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 18:00

Sat 20 January: Feria of Epiphany

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 12:00

THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

21 January 2017

Family Mass at 09:00

Sung Eucharist at 11:00

Preacher: Bishop Michael Colclough

Home thoughts from abroad

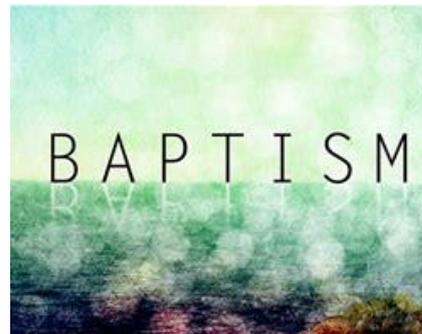
By the time this newsheet goes to press, I'll be landing in Hong Kong for a brief visit. Not holiday, but a baptism, in the Anglican Cathedral of St John. Indeed, it occurs to me as I type that by the time most of you are reading this, I'll already be on my way back! A flying visit in every sense.

What will little Joseph look like? Last time I saw him in London he was just weeks old and didn't give much away. By now, I imagine it will be possible to begin to detect the likeness of his two brothers, or perhaps his father or his mother. But that is just looks and physicality. What of his character? His temperament?

What makes us 'us' is a complex recipe, isn't it. Heredity does its bit. Much of who we turn out to be is, as we say, 'in our genes.' But it isn't just biology. It is nature *and* nurture – early experience also that shapes us and hones our malleable interior character. When it comes to the complex recipe of what makes up human life, there are many variables – all of which help to enrich the world with people of glorious diversity.

What, I wonder, does the rite of baptism add to this complicated mix?

One church I know (actually its vicar, who is an angular person!) says on its website that it 'doesn't do pretty baptisms.' By this I don't think they mean that they aspire to ugly liturgy, but rather that they are keen to help people to understand how important baptism is. And it is true that for some in our society, a public baptism has become little more than a 'pretty' occasion, an excuse for a celebration, some flowers and a nice party at which to gather friends in thanksgiving for a new birth. While this is an important thing to do, it is not entirely what the Church understands baptism to be for!



Rather our baptism is a moment of grace and of encounter with the closeness of God, and an invitation to embark on a distinctive way of life. It means undertaking (or having godparents undertake on your behalf) a daily walk with Jesus Christ through the complexity of life. This journey both shapes the world around us for good (as we strive to be Christlike in our dealings with the world – longing for justice, searching from truth, striving to be compassionate and to love others as we are loved), and also that shapes us (as we seek to grow in knowledge of God's love and to understand what it means to live lives of dignity as beloved children).

Baptism isn't just an excuse for a party: it is a moment of choice and a point of destiny – one that, through God's grace and over a lifetime, shapes us just as much as nature and nurture do, if we remain open to God and to each other.

Pray for Joseph this morning. And pray for ourselves, that we too may continue to be shaped 'for good,' and for God.

Fr Alan Gyle

THIS WEEK: Church cleaning on Saturday 20th January

Volunteers, please join us for a fast and frantic post-Christmas clean up of the church in readiness for our Patronal Festival. Roland Brunner invites your attendance from 10am on Saturday 20th January – wearing old clothes and bringing dusters! All welcome. Coffee, biscuits and a glass of wine in generous supply.

Who's who this Sunday

At 09:00

Celebrant: Fr Nick Mercer

At 11:00

Celebrant: Bishop Michael Colclough

Deacon: Fr Nick Mercer

Subdeacon: Roland Brunner

Reader: Rob Clouston

Preacher: Fr Louis Darrant

Intercessor: Melissa Longley

This week: Prayer Branch

If you would value meeting informally with other members of St Paul's to pray and reflect on Scripture then the Prayer Branch would welcome you. It's a small, lay-led group meeting once a month in a home of one its members. The next Prayer Branch takes place in the evening of Tuesday 16th January. For further details please speak to a member of the clergy team.

St Paul's Cathedral



The new Adult Learning programme from St Paul's Cathedral is now available – copies on the book stand at the back of church. Highlights of the term ahead include a seminar by Mark Oakley and Paula Gooder on 'Scandal & Glory: The Cross in the Bible and in Poetry' on Tuesday 13th March and another on 'Who am I?: Identity, Faith and Being Human' with Rowan Williams and John Swinton on 16th April. Both a free admission events. In addition to these there are many other events, talks, and spiritual explorations. Please pick up a copy and book your places.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.spkb.org

AND REGISTER FOR OUR WEEKLY EMAIL

Patronal Festival 2018

A feast of worship, music and fellowship lies in store in celebration of our Patronal Festival.

Thursday 25th January, 7pm
CHORAL EVENSONG

Festal Choral Evensong for the Conversion of St Paul with the choir and musicians of St Paul's Knightsbridge. Followed by a reception.

Friday 26th January, 1pm
LUNCHTIME RECITAL

A 'drop-in' lunchtime recital with the Royal College of Music's Mayler Quartet. A free event with soup lunch.

Saturday 27th January, 2pm
"COME AND SING!"

Ever wondered what it would be like to sing with the church choir? This is your chance. Michael Papadopoulos, Michael Solomon Williams and Adam Mathias will lead an afternoon of working on favourite choral classics by Parry, Rutter and Vivaldi before putting on a short, informal concert at 4.15pm at which family and friends are most warmly welcome! Tickets- £10 for participants at www.spkb.org. No charge for audience members. Followed by drinks.



Sunday 28th January, 11am
FESTAL ORCHESTRAL MASS

The Choir of St Paul's Knightsbridge with the Royal College of Music ensemble.
Spatzenmesse – Mozart
How lovely are the messengers – Felix Mendelssohn
O salutaris hostia – Rossini
Preacher: The Vicar

Followed by a drinks party to bid farewell to Fr Louis Darrant as he leaves for Spain.

Candlemas

Although the season is already long-forgotten by the world 'out there,' our pondering of the mystery of the Incarnation which began at Christmas only ends at **Candlemas, Friday 2nd February 2018**. That day there will be a mass at 7pm, followed by a cocktail party. Please join us – and to help with the calculation of numbers, add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of church.

Phil Davies

We are pleased to announce that Phil Davies, currently one of our two churchwardens, will join the staff team on 1st February in a new fulltime role shaping future programme at St Paul's and guiding us through our Fundraising and Capital Project. He joins Anne Hayward who is our new consultant Head of Fundraising. Phil will step down as Churchwarden next Sunday, 21st January – and on that day, at 12:20pm after the main mass, we will hold a Extraordinary vestry Meeting to elect a successor.

Please pray for...

We pray this week for:

Sarah, Bishop-Designate, and for +Pete Broadbent our acting Bishop;
For poets and writers;
For creative artists;
for the homeless and for all refugees and migrants;
for peace in the Middle East and for the holy city of Jerusalem

Among the sick and those in need:

John King; Ingrid Gray; Gregori Galitzine; Maya Habboush; Nora Shishkovskaya, David and Ruth; Federico Fernandes;

And we pray for the recently departed:

Barbara Lockhart-Smith; Mark Whittow; Bernard Gordon-Lennox; Margaret Agnew.

And we pray for those whose year's mind falls at this time:

Shauna Gosling - 14th;
Arthur Stuart Duncan-Jones (priest, sometime vicar) - 19th; Donald Bertram Harris (priest, sometime vicar) – 20th;
Stan Sherrington – 20th