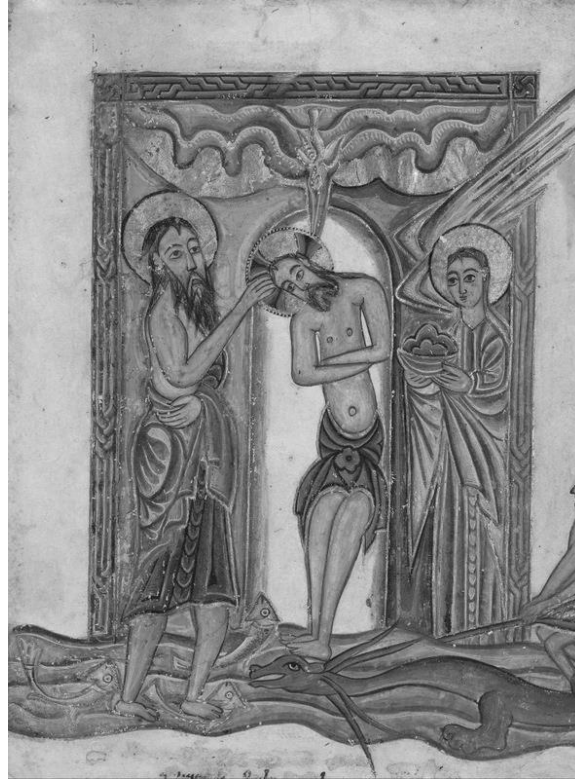


SAINT JOHN'S MALONE



Baptism of Christ 1615

Artist: Mesrop of Khizan, active 1605-1651 (Schwabach)

First Sunday after Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord

Welcome to Saint John's especially all who are visiting today.

An audio *loop system* is in operation for

those with hearing aids. The order of service is available to download from the website and the 10.30am is livestreamed on St John's Malone YouTube channel. Those baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity and are communicant members of their own church are welcome to receive Holy Communion, according to conscience.

Today: Sunday 12th January 2025

9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

The Eucharist ~See service booklet for 10:30am if available or below for page references in the BCP 2004

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Collect

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
Grant to us, who are born of water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading **Isaiah 43: 1-7**

43But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia* and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,
and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

⁶ I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
and to the south, 'Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Second Reading **Acts 8: 14-17**

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading *Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Luke chapter three beginning at verse one. **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ***

Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Refreshed by these holy gifts, Lord God,
we seek your mercy:
that by listening faithfully to your only Son,
and being obedient to the prompting of the Spirit,
we may be your children in name and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Services this week

Wednesday 15th

11:30am Funeral Service of Charles Kenny, priest.

7:30pm Zoom Compline

Thursday 16th 10.30am with prayer for those in need will take place in the Side Chapel. The prayer list is in the Side Chapel.

A cup of tea/coffee is now available after this service.

Next Sunday: Epiphany II 19.01.25

9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel

10.30 a.m. Family Euchaist Coffee/tea follows this service and all are welcome.



Notices: | Sign up for the regular email Update at secstjohns@btconnect.com

Contactless Payments The Select Vestry has made a new contactless payment device available in the parish from today and may be used for any donations you'd like to make at social time after the service in the hall.

Giving and Stewardship in St Johns' much of our income received is through the Free Will Offering Scheme using either envelopes or increasingly, by Standing Order. Standing order forms are available by asking the Churchwardens or contacting the Office or secstjohns@btconnect.com. Alternatively if you wish to make a donation then the account details for St John's are also available from the Wardens. Your donations help us maintain our buildings and support ministry and outreach here in St John's and more widely.

Organising your wedding in St John's

Weddings are special occasions in the life of any family and of the Church. We'd be delighted to talk to anyone contemplating their wedding in St John's. When considering getting married please check possible dates with the Rector before confirming any other arrangements. It is

expected that couples will make a regular commitment to the life of the Church in preparation for marriage.

Hospital Visiting

The Rector would appreciate knowing if parishioners are going into or are in hospital or discharged and is pleased to offer pastoral support.

Safeguarding

The Rector, select vestry and parish leaders are committed to uphold the good practice to the parish's ministry with children, young people and vulnerable adults. Should you have any concern or suspicion regarding child welfare in the parish please contact a member of the

Parish panel.

Rev Canon Stephen Fielding 9066 6644

Mrs Patricia Armstrong 07854005699

Dr Anthony Stevens 07710647080

READINGS

The first Sunday after Epiphany gives us a "God's-eye-view" of Jesus. We get a sense of the person and calling of Jesus from a divine perspective, and the message is clear: in Christ, God partners with us, and invites us to partner with God. In addition, God gives us the power we need, through God's Spirit, to fulfill our calling to be co-workers with God. The possibilities that this theme presents for worship are very exciting.

May our worship this week immerse us in the depths of God, and fill us with the power of God's Holy Spirit.

READINGS:

Isaiah 43:1-7: God's people have no reason to fear, for God has redeemed them, and they will not be harmed when passing through water or flame. God will bring the children of God's people from the four corners of the earth, and will bring together blind people who can see and deaf people who can hear to bear witness to how God has saved and liberated God's people.

Psalms 29: A song in praise of God and of God's mighty voice which is strong and majestic, and which shakes the earth. Yet, God gives strength and peace to God's people.

Acts 8:14-17: The apostles, having heard the news that the Samaritans had accepted God's word, laid hands on the Samaritan believers and prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit, which they did.

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22: The people wonder whether John the Baptist is the Christ, but he denies it and proclaims that another is coming who is more powerful than he is, and who will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Then Jesus is baptised by John along with the other people, and the Spirit descends on him and he hears God's voice affirming him.

REFLECTIONS ON THEME:

The theme this week, as with every first Sunday after the Epiphany, is the baptism of Jesus. However, this year, the focus is less on Jesus, and more on how God's people are invited to participate in the baptism and to receive God's Spirit. In the Isaiah prophecy, God's people are promised liberation and salvation, even though they pass through water and fire, and they are called to witness to God's saving acts. In the Psalm, God's voice is celebrated, which shakes the earth, but which also – by implication in the Psalm – strengthens and brings peace to God's

people, even as God's voice affirmed Jesus. In the reading from Acts, the Samaritan believers, who have been baptised in the name of Christ, now receive their own "baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire" when the apostles lay hands on them. Finally, in the Gospel, Luke reminds his readers of John's prediction that Jesus is the one who will baptise them in the Holy Spirit, and, in this context, Jesus baptism is related, along with the voice of God that affirms and strengthens him. What this means is that our meditation on Jesus' baptism this week is not just an exercise in holy remembering. It is not just about Jesus. Rather, it is an acknowledgment that God is still at work in the world, and still invites us to participate in God's saving and liberating work. But, to do this, we, like Jesus, will need to be strengthened and empowered. We will need to be baptised in the Holy Spirit.



Urgently needed food items - in order of priority.

Long Life Juice UHT Milk Oats Jams/Honey/Spreads Tinned potato/Instant Mash Pulses (chickpeas/kidney beans/lentils) Coffee/Tea Tinned Fruit Custard/Rice Pudding Shampoo/Shower Gel | Household cleaning items - Fairy liquid / anti-bac spray/ washing powder etc

Donations to the Foodbank can either be placed directly into the basket at Tesco Newtownbreda or donate directly to the Foodbank. Or please place items in the baskets in the church entrance vestibule/porch.

Open for donations every Wednesday 1-3pm and every Thursday 10am-12pm. Our warehouse is Unit 4, 23 Sunwich Street, Belfast, BT6 8HR Any questions regarding donating please call us on 07743332489 or email us on info@southbelfast.foodbank.org.uk

www.malone.connor.anglican.org



@malonestjohns

Thank you for your generosity | We depend on your gifts of time treasure and talent to keep ministry in St John's running. To make an offering in support of the parish please give at the welcome table near the church door or by scanning this QR code. Please use Gift Aid if you can. To set up regular giving, which helps our ministry planning, please contact Joanne Macartney at treasurer.stjohns@hotmail.com
<https://givealittle.co/c/stjohnsdonate>



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CCLI licence No. 1996325 Streaming License No. 524611 St John's Malone Charities Registration Number NIC101984 The Parish Office for administrative matters, or for information about organisations connected with St John's (90667861) e-mail: secstjohns@btconnect.com

The Rector, Rev. Canon Stephen Fielding can be contacted on pastoral matters (90666644)
e-mail : malone@connor.anglican.org

Please take this booklet home with you for the readings, notices and reference during the week and recycle.