

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Baptism of Jesus

The First Sunday of Epiphany Year A



'This is my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased'

All-age Mass for the Parish Family
with the healing ministries

Sunday 11 January 2026

10.15 am

Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church



Safeguarding St Matthew's is committed to providing a safe environment for all who come. If you have any concerns, please speak with one of our *welcomers* or a *churchwarden* who may be identified by their lanyard. They will be happy to help you.

Live streaming Please note that this service is being streamed. You may sit where you wish. If, however, you prefer not to be seen online, please sit in a side aisle. The administration of *Holy Communion* will not be shown.

GDPR Some of St Matthew's services (most Sunday mornings and some special services) are live-streamed or recorded for those who cannot attend church in person. Under GDPR, the church must gain the consent of anyone whose image may be captured, as this constitutes collection of "personal data". This includes clergy, readers/intercessors, musicians and congregation. Whilst every attempt is made not to capture the faces of members of the congregation, this may occasionally happen if people turn around or move around the church during the service. The exception is communion, when the congregation is not filmed. The side aisles and back of the nave are so far as possible film-free areas not covered by the camera. Any-one whose personal data is collected must give their consent. Consent forms are available both in church and on the website. The full policy can be read on our parish website or on the noticeboards in church.

Toilet and baby changing facilities may be found at the base of the church tower. There is also a small servery.

For younger children In the north aisle (nearest to Collingwood Road), a carpeted area equipped with age-related Christian resources is provided. Please feel free to make use of these facilities.



Collection - 'Building a Generous Church'



Our response to God's generosity

We believe in a generous God, who longs for us to share his generosity with others. A generous life is therefore a hallmark of our faith and a testament to it, as the more generous we are, the more we reflect the generous God we believe in. Generosity is, therefore, at the heart of our faith, and our own generosity is a sure sign of our faith in action. Generosity is a spiritual gift, and we need to encourage people to seek this gift as they grow in their faith. The ministry and mission of The Church of England is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it.

We invite you to make a monetary offering towards the ministry and mission of St Matthew's Church. You may do so using any of the following methods:

Cash, cheques, stewardship envelopes - using the receptacle provided at the back of church. If you are a taxpayer please use the envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may also benefit from the Gift Aid (an extra 25p for every pound given) associated with your giving.

Contactless giving - using the terminal provided. Just press the button for the amount you wish to give - £5, £10, or £20, and then hold your bank card over the reader.

Giving on your smart phone - using the QR code printed below. It gives you the option of any amount, Gift Aid, and making a regular payment.

Giving online - click the donate button on the parish website or Facebook page and follow the instructions.

Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.



Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of Christ — the moment when Jesus steps into the River Jordan and something extraordinary happens. As Jesus is baptised, heaven is opened, the Holy Spirit comes down like a dove, and a voice from heaven says, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

This feast marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. In our Gospel from Matthew, we see Jesus standing in the water alongside everyone else, showing us that God comes close to us, sharing fully in our human life. In our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter reminds us that Jesus went about doing good, filled with the Holy Spirit, and bringing God's peace to all people.

Today is also a day to remember our own baptism. Whether we were baptised as babies or later in life, baptism reminds us that each of us is loved by God, called by name, and sent out to live as Jesus lived — bringing kindness, justice and peace into the world.

As we worship together today, young and old alike, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and ask God to help us listen for his voice, follow Jesus more closely, and share God's love with everyone we meet.

Reflection

To be baptised is to be christened,
that is, to be made like Christ.
But this doesn't happen automatically.
We have to grow into it.
Towards the end of his life a saint was asked if he was a Christian,
and he replied, 'not yet'.
Baptism is like the planting of a seed.
It will take a lifetime for this seed to grow and ripen.

Setting

The Mass of St Thomas

David Thorne

Order of Service

¶ Gathering to Worship God

S The Easter Candle is lit

S All stand at the sound of the bell

Call to Worship

Priest The voice of the Lord is strong and mighty
and calls you to worship.
The voice of the Lord is gentle and soothing
and affirms your worship.
The voice of the Lord is loving and eternal
and receives your worship with joy.

Hymn

The procession enters. The flags are presented

All sing **THE sinless one to Jordan came
To share our fallen nature's blame;
God's righteousness he thus fulfilled
And chose the path his Father willed.**

**Uprising from the waters there,
The voice from heaven did witness bear
That he, the Son of God, had come
To lead his scattered people home.**

**Above him see the heavenly Dove,
The sign of God the Father's love,
Now by the Holy Spirit shed
Upon the Son's anointed head.**

How blessed that mission then begun
To heal and save a race undone;
Straight to the wilderness he goes
To wrestle with his people's foes.

Dear Lord, let those baptized from sin
Go forth with you, a world to win;
And send the Holy Spirit's power
To shield them in temptation's hour.

On you shall all your people feed
And know you are the bread indeed,
Who gives eternal life to those
That with you died, and with you rose.

Words George Boorne Timms 1910-1997
based on Mark 1 vs 9-11 from English Praise (adapted)

Music Solothurn
Swiss traditional melody

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

The Greeting

All The Lord of glory be with you
and also with you.

The service is introduced

Saying Sorry to God

God has united us with Jesus through the waters of baptism,
and the power of the Holy Spirit.
So let us return to the Lord, renew our faith
and say sorry to God.

Confession

All God our Father,
always patient, full of love and truth,
you create us from nothing and give us life.
You give to your faithful people
new life in the water of baptism.
You do not turn away from us.
We confess that we have sinned against you,
and forgotten that we are to be like you.
Restore us and make us new
and bring us safely home to heaven
by following Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

God's Forgiveness

May the God of love bring you back to himself,
forgive † you your sins,
wash you clean
and assure you of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Glory to God

All 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.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

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.

The Opening Prayer

Priest Let us pray.

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.

All sit

¶ Hearing and Responding to the Word of God

First Reading

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right

is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

Acts 10.34-38

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

All stand

Gospel Reading

Acclamation

*1. Choir
2. Choir and Congregation*



Fintan O'Carroll

Choir A voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved:
with you I am well pleased.'

All **Alleluia ...**

S Please turn to face the Book of the Gospels

All The Lord of glory be with you
and also with you.

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

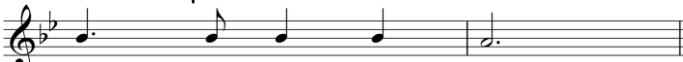


Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Matthew 3.13-17

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



All Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn

S The choir come and sit in the Nave

All WHEN Jesus comes to be baptized,
He leaves the hidden years behind,
The years of safety and of peace,
To bear the sins of humankind.

The Spirit of the Lord comes down,
Anoints the Christ to suffering,
To preach the word, to free the bound,
And to the mourner comfort bring.

He will not quench the dying flame,
And what is bruised he will not break,
But heal the wound injustice dealt,
And out of death his triumph make.

Our everlasting Father praise
With Christ, his well-belovèd Son,
Who with the Spirit reigns serene,
Eternal Trinity in one.

Words Community of Stanbrook Abbey

Music Herongate

Talk / Presentation

All sit

The themes of the day are briefly explored

Vidi Aquam

During which the presiding priest is led to the baptistry

Choir I beheld water, which proceeded out of the temple, on the right side thereof, alleluia;
and all they to whom that water came were healed every one:
and they say, Alleluia, alleluia.

Words from Ezekiel 47
Mode VIII
accompaniment by Stephen Moore

All stand

¶ Renewing the Promises at Baptism

At the baptistry

Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Do not stop them'.
We thank God for the gift of baptism by which Christ loves us
and welcomes us into his Church.

So I ask you all:

Will you support one another on your journey of faith?

All
We will.

God knows each of us by name and we are his.

Will you help one another to live and grow within God's family?

All
We will.

We all wander far from God and lose our way:

Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home.

In baptism we respond to his call.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin?

All
I do.

Do you reject evil?

All
I do.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

All
I do.

Do you trust in him as Lord?

All
I do.

Do not be ashamed of Christ. You are his for ever.

All
**Stand bravely with him against all the powers of evil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

All
Amen.

We Believe

Let us affirm our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

All **This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Our Prayers to God

Priest Blessed are you, Lord our God,
for you are our maker, our Saviour, and our guide.
Teach us to remember your presence, your love and your power,
that we may learn to rejoice in you.

Please kneel

From the ambo

Intercessor We remember before you all who are being prepared for baptism and confirmation.
We ask your blessing upon all who seek to reveal your love and your peace.
We pray for all preachers of the word and all who reach out in mission.
We pray that the Church may share in your mission to the world.
Lord, help us all to reveal your glory in our midst.

All Holy Trinity,
hear us and help us.

We ask your blessing upon all who are beginning new ventures and new work.
We pray for all who are being asked to extend themselves through learning and the development of their abilities.
We remember those who are entering into new relationships and we ask your blessing upon those who are newly married.

All Holy Trinity,
hear us and help us.

We thank you for our homes and our loved ones.
We ask your blessing upon those who are moving to a new home or who are moving away from their families.
We remember all who are homeless, all who live in poverty or hunger.
We pray to you for all who work to relieve the needs and suffering of others.

All Holy Trinity,
hear us and help us.

We remember before you all who feel confused or troubled at this time.

We pray for all who are distressed and those who are not able to cope with what is happening around them.

May they know your presence and your power.

We ask your blessing upon all who are ill at home or in hospital, especially those who are fearful or lonely.

(the acutely ill ...).

Holy Trinity,

All hear us and help us.

We rejoice in the gift of life and life eternal.

We ask your blessing upon our loved ones and friends who have departed from us.

(The recently departed ..., anniversaries of death ...).

We remember especially today those who have enriched our lives by their example and goodness.

May they rejoice in glory

and may we share with them in your eternal kingdom.

Holy Trinity,

All hear us and help us.

Priest Merciful Father,

All accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Stand

¶ Preparing to meet Jesus in Bread and Wine

Hymn

S A monetary collection is taken. Please give as you are able using any of the ways indicated at the front of this booklet. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.

S The children are invited to stand either side of the altar

All

WHEN Jesus came to Jordan
To be baptised by John,
He did not come for pardon,
But as his Father's Son.
He came to share repentance
With all who mourn their sins,
To speak the vital sentence
With which good news begins.

He came to share temptation,
Our utmost woe and loss,
For us and our salvation
To die upon the cross.
So when the Dove descended
On him, the Son of Man,
The hidden years had ended,
The age of grace began.

Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
To keep the vows we make,
This very day invade us,
And every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
The gift we covet most:
To share the resurrection
That leads to Pentecost.

Offering the Gifts of Bread and Wine

Father, we celebrate with great joy
the day when Jesus revealed himself as your beloved Son
who takes away the sins of the world.
Accept these gifts of bread and wine
that we may become one with Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Prayer over the Bread and Wine

The Lord of glory be with you
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Children Why is it right to give thanks and praise?
Adults **Listen, and we will hear.**

Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.
You give us sun and moon and star-lit sky,
everything that gives us light,
light for our eyes, our hearts, our minds.
You give us the gift of baptism
that by your Holy Spirit we may be made one with Jesus
and follow our calling.

You made us all, each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels and sing your praise:

All sing **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 thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and 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.

Children **Why do we share this bread and wine?
All** **Listen, and we will hear.**

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.'

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,
and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Children How do we follow Jesus Christ?

Adults Listen, and we will hear.

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 and Joseph and all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

All Amen.

If you are able, please remain standing

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, we are your new creation, brought to birth by water and
the Spirit, and so we pray:

*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.

Sign of Christ's Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

S The children and their leaders return to their seats

Please sit

Breaking of the Bread

All We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.

Invitation to Communion

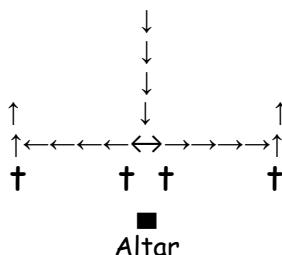
All Christ is the bread which has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread for ever.

The clergy and other ministers receive Holy Communion

Giving of Communion

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

Holy Communion, alternatively God's blessing, is administered standing at a 'station', as indicated below. Please approach the clergy via the centre aisle and return to your seat via the side aisles. If you wish to receive God's blessing, please bring this booklet with you. Thank you.



Healing ministries

§ Please note that having received holy communion or a blessing all are invited to receive the laying on of hands and the sacrament of anointing in the Lady Chapel.

Spiritual Communion - for those watching at home

Act of Reception

All In union, blessed Jesus,
with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church
where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day,

(and remembering particularly my own parish ...)

I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving,
for creation and all the blessings of this life,
for the redemption won for us by your life, death,
and resurrection,
for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

(and particularly for the blessings given me ...)

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament,
and, since I cannot at this time receive communion,
I pray you to come into my heart.

I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart,
my soul, and my mind.

Let nothing separate me from you;

let me serve you in this life until, by your grace

I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.

Amen.

The choir sing Agnus Dei

Motet

A New Year Carol

Benjamin Britten 1913-1976

Choir Here we bring new water from the well so clear,
For to worship God with, this happy New Year.
*Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,
Open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,
Open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.

S All sit for a time of personal reflection and thanksgiving

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

All stand

All Loving God,
you shine on us and meet our every need.
Teach us to walk in the strength of this food
as children of your light,
so that we may truly be your beloved sons and daughters.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn

The flags are returned to their bearers

All CROWN him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own:
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

Crown him the Virgin's Son,
The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won
Which now his brow adorn:
Fruit of that mystic Rose,
As of that Rose the Stem;
The Root whence mercy ever flows,
The Babe of Bethlehem.

Crown him the Lord of Love!
Behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds yet visible above
In beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye
At mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace,
Whose power a sceptre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
And all be prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end,
And round his piercèd feet
Fair flowers of Paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years,
The Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
Glassed in a sea of light,
Where everlasting waves
Reflect his throne - the Infinite!
Who lives - and loves - and saves.

¶ Going out to Serve God

All The Lord of glory be with you
and also with you.

God's Blessing

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 upon you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Sending Out

All Go in the light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary

And the Glory of the Lord from 'Messiah'

George Frideric Handel 1685-1759

- § Please remain standing until the procession has departed
- § Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those who wish to listen to the organ voluntary
- § Do please join us for refreshments in the parish centre.

This evening at 5.30 pm

Solemn Congregational Evensong

Epiphany Carol Service

followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre

4.00 pm Sunday 18 January

Our next all age mass

Sunday 1 February at 10.15 am

The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 5
who has generously financed
the production of this week's service booklet.

**Please take this booklet home
as an aid to prayer and reflection during the week,
and then re-cycle it.**

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