

### Come to the water

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, the moment when God reveals who Jesus is. Our readings are rich with water imagery. Water is a powerful symbol throughout the Scriptures, from the story of creation and the crossing of the Red Sea, to the wedding feast at Cana and Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well. It is a symbol of life and newness, an opportunity for God to reach out to us, be present with us and teach us something, as well as an opportunity for cleansing and a fresh start.

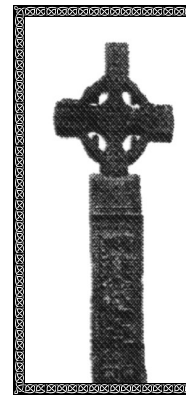
Our gospel today tells of Jesus being baptised by John in the river Jordan. This immersion in water marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry. By approaching John for baptism, along with all the others, Jesus is identifying with the people and allowing himself to be counted among sinners. It is a sign that he submitting to God's will. At this crucial moment, as soon as he emerges from the Jordan, Jesus sees the heavens open and the voice of God confirming him as 'Beloved Son'. It is a moment of divine approval, confirming Jesus' identity and launching him on his new mission.

The baptism of Jesus is a reminder of our own identity and mission. We are beloved daughters and sons of God, sisters and brothers of Jesus, members of God's family. In today's first reading we are invited: 'Come to the water all you who are thirsty'. We are called to the water, to that moment when we recognise who Jesus is, who we are, and our mission to live as children of God.

*'In order to live a life of holiness, we must first receive new life from God — we must be born from above.'*

*J. Vernon McGee*

**Eva wants to involve you in her mission-** I'm Eva Newell, I'm 19, from Clones and I'm currently serving as a missionary with NET Ministries Ireland. I am sharing my faith with young people and encouraging them to embrace the life of the Church. I'm part of a team based in Cork city and will be based here until June 2021. To keep up this work, I need your help. You can email me at [evanewell11@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:evanewell11@hotmail.co.uk) or go straight to the Net Ministries website to "donate to a missionary" and you will find my name and you can donate that way. I want to let you know I'm loving this work I am doing and all the support means a lot. Contact my email or phone on 089 2332 960 for more info. I'm praying for all of you. God Bless. Eva Newell



## Parish of Clones

Sacred Heart, Clones  
St Alphonsus, Connors

Parish Office

10.00am—4.30pm (Monday—Friday)

Telephone: 047 51048

Email: [clonesparish@gmail.com](mailto:clonesparish@gmail.com)

Website: [www.clonesparish.com](http://www.clonesparish.com)

10th January  
2021

First Week  
in  
Ordinary Time

### Masses and Intentions for the Week

#### The Baptism of The Lord

Vigil	7.30pm	Liam McDermott, Beechgrove
Sun 10th	11.30am	Jimmy O'Neill & Deceased Relatives, Follum Gabrielle Bannon, Gorteen (Month's Memory)
Mon 11th	10.00am	People of the Parish
Tue 12th	10.00am	
Wed 13th		No Mass from Sacred Heart Church, Clones
Thurs 14th	10.00am	
Fri 15th	10.00am	<b>St Ita, virgin</b>
Sat 16th	10.00am	<b>Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> Pauline Kelly, Carn Gardens

#### Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil	7.30pm	Joseph & Edward Beggan, Clonkeencole
Sun 17th	11.30am	Liam McKiernan (1st Anniversary) & John & Catherine McKiernan, Cloniston

**Government Restrictions in N. Ireland:** Due to new government restrictions, Sunday Mass will not be celebrated in St Macartan's Church until further notice.

### Masses for the week

**Saturday 7.30pm Sacred Heart, Clones**  
**Sunday 9.00am St. Alphonsus, Connons, 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays**  
**11.30am Sacred Heart, Clones**  
**Weekdays: Mon-Sat in Sacred Heart Church at 10.00am**

**Death:** We pray for Phyllis Monk (nee Corrigan), Drogheda & Clones

### Sacred Heart Church Readers:

**16th Jan** Vigil Jim McMahon  
**17th Jan** 11.30am Aoibhlinn McDonald

**Altar Society** Eileen Maguire, Elizabeth McDonald & Ann Farnan

### Baptism of the Lord – 10 January

Whenever there is a sudden downpour of rain, you often hear people saying ‘the heavens opened.’ The phrase is used about the baptism of Jesus in today’s gospel. Baptism does not remove us from the world. It saturates and soaks us in the muddled waters of every human need. As baptised people, we are embraced as God’s ‘beloved’ through his living Spirit.

### *Pope’s Intention for January*

*May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.*

**Is the One who “baptized you with the Holy Spirit” asking you** to consider a call to serve as a priest, a deacon or in the consecrated life? Speak to your local priest or your Diocesan Vocations Director, or email the National Vocations Office on [info@vocations.ie](mailto:info@vocations.ie)

**Parish Mobile (in case of emergency): 085 817 6203.**

### Schools in Clones Parish

<b>St Comhgall’s</b>	55329	<b>St Tiarnach’s</b>	51398	<b>St Macartan’s</b>	677 51100
<b>Gael Scoil Eois</b>	52162	<b>Largy College</b>	51132		

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In most years, this feast is celebrated on the Sunday after Epiphany. When Epiphany falls on either January 7 or 8, the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the Monday after Epiphany.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism; it was a preparation for the Christian Baptism we celebrate today, and through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received. In accepting John's baptism, Jesus, though sinless, united himself with all sinners.

The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, Jesus' baptism was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, the voice from heaven speaks to all who are present. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his baptism shows that something new is beginning through the baptism and ministry of Jesus.

The baptism of Jesus is considered an important manifestation of God in the person of Jesus, another epiphany. Jesus' baptism inaugurates his mission. Mark's Gospel moves quickly from the report of Jesus' baptism to Jesus' temptations in the desert to his ministry in Galilee after John's arrest. The end of the ministry of John the Baptist is the beginning of Jesus' ministry. In an analogous way, our Baptism inaugurates our mission as Christians.

Surprisingly, on this the last day of the Christmas season the Gospel does not tell a story from Jesus' childhood. Instead the Gospel reveals Jesus' relationship to God: the Son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. We believe that through Baptism we are also made children of God.

**SVP Clones** thank all those who contributed so generously to the Christmas collection. A sincere thanks also to those who donated vouchers. This generosity allows us to help many.

**All Liturgies in Sacred Heart Church are broadcast on the Parish website**