

The Baptism of the Lord and the First Week of Ordinary Time.

This weekend the Church celebrates the feast of the **Baptism of the Lord** and event which sees the completion of the Christmas season and the return to **Ordinary Time** with its green vestments and the proclamation of the **Gospel of St Luke**. We will remove all the symbols of Christmas from our Church and store them away until next Advent and Christmas. Ordinary Time will run until **Ash Wednesday on March 06th**. Thank you to all parishioners for all the efforts made to celebrate Advent and Christmas so very well. All for Jesus, all for Jesus, this our song shall ever be!!

Was Jesus born on December 25th? During the time of the Roman Empire between December 17th and 25th the **Festival of Saturnalia** was celebrated in honour of Saturn the god of farming. Activities in the fields were limited as were the hours of daylight. A time of relaxation and merriment following the harvest and in praise of Saturn took place. People decked their homes in greenery, burnt candles in honour of the god, gave each other gifts, ate well. Even slaves were given free time. The Roman historian Catullus described it as '**the best of times**'. In the year 350 AD **Pope Julius I** reordered the liturgical calendar of the emerging Christian Church and established the feast of Christmas to celebrate the birthday of '**the all conquering son**' a celebration which gradually took the place of the birthday of Saturn hailed as 'the unconquered sun'. Thus many of the practices we celebrate during Christmas were derived from previously established practices. In time the **Franciscans** would introduce the crib scene while different European countries introduced the practice of having Christmas trees in homes. In this country the marriage of Queen Victoria to her German husband, Prince Albert, encouraged the German tradition of having a Christmas tree to celebrate Christmas. Now every home and probably every Church has a Christmas Tree as part of its Christmas decorations.

The week of prayer for **Christian Unity** begins on the week of the 18th of January and ends on the feast of the conversion of St Paul on the 25th.

Last **August** copies of applications for **First Holy Communion** were distributed through school together with the parish programme for preparation. All families whose children are eligible for **First Holy Communion** were given these documents. Our parish has pledged to give its best (before God) to pass on the Faith in support of the efforts of the school and parents. **We will continue to do so**. It is vitally important that we all give our children the best of example and encouragement during the brief months of preparation. Not to do so means that the event becomes and end in itself without acknowledging the long term commitment to ongoing practice of the faith and commitment to the Lord and his Church. We want to be a parish that is noted for its authentic commitment in preparing our children for Sacraments. **Sunday morning is the Mass for children preparing for the Sacrament of the Blessed Eucharist**. We went so far as to change the time of Mass to facilitate attendance! Children preparing for Sacraments should have their attendance **cards stamped after Mass**.

This month's **Pro Life Mass** in on Wednesday 16th January in Blessed Duns Scotus in the Gorbals. Adoration at **7.00 pm** Mass at **7.30 pm**. The celebrant is **Fr Matthew Carlin**.

*Response to the Psalm: Bless the Lord, my soul. Lord
God, how great your are.*

Attendance: 250, Collection: £738

Thank you to the parish for this generosity.

Lately Dead: *Charles Victory Johnston, Catherine Keetings*

Months Minds: *Anne McKenna,*

Anniversary of: *John Michael Kane, Matthew Smith, Teresa Smith,
Stephen Kimminis, John Comerford, Joseph Kelly, Snr., George O'Neill,
Brian Mulligan, Rose Ellen Reilly, Cathie Slater*

Last weekend we were asked to take a collection for Peace and Justice. This was duly taken up on Saturday evening. Fr. Bergin forgot on Sunday morning! Apologies, could we take up a collection for Justice and Peace on Sunday morning?

Prayer For The Week

O Christ, you are within each of us.
 It is not just the interior of these walls
 it is our own inner being you have renewed.
 We are your temple not made with hands.
 We are your body.
 If every wall should crumble
 and every church decay,
 we are your habitation.
 Nearer are you than breathing,
 closer than hands and feet.
 Ours are the eyes with which you,
 in the mystery,
 look out with compassion on the world.
 Yet we bless you for this place,
 for your directing of us, your redeeming of us,
 and your indwelling.
 Take us outside, O Christ, outside holiness,
 out to where soldiers curse and nations clash
 at the crossroads of the world.
 So shall this building continue to be justified.
 We ask it for your own name's sake.

Amen.



Administrator:
 Revd W. G. Bergin

ST. TERESA'S R.C. CHURCH

Address: Benford Avenue, Newarthill,
 Motherwell, ML1 5BE

Telephone: 01698 832920

Email: fatherbillthepadre@gmail.com

Parish website: www.stteresa-newarthill.org.uk
 A Scottish Registered Charity No. 11041

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Weekly Schedule	Time	Intention
Sunday 13th Jan. <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	10:00am 4:00pm	John Michael Kane and Stephen Kimminis Devotions and Benediction
Monday 14th Jan. <i>St Kentigern/Mungo</i>	9:05am 9:30am 1:30pm	Short Morning Prayer Rose Ellen Reilly and Cathie Slater Mass in Carstairs Hospital
Tues 15th Jan.	9:05am 9:30am 6:30pm	Short Morning Prayer George O'Neill and Brian Mulligan Reception of the Body of Catherine Keetings
Wed 16th Jan.	9:30am	Requiem Mass for Catherine Keetings
Thurs 17th Jan. <i>St Anthony the Abbot</i>	9:05am 9:30am	Short Morning Prayer 70th Birthday of Bill Kane
Friday 18th Jan.	9:05am 9:30am	Short Morning Prayer Jospeh Kelly Snr. and John Comerford
Saturday 19th Jan. <i>St Faolan</i>	4:00pm 4:30pm	Holy Rosary Matthew Smith and Teresa Smith

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers
Saturday 19th Jan.	J Burns	C Dabernig, C Morrisey, A M Lynn
Sunday 20th Jan.	C Scullion	P Mackle, M Nugent, P Cullion