

Parishes of the Forest and Newent
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Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
(Year B)
10th January 2021



Sunday Mass available from 3pm)
Wednesday Mass available from 9am)
Friday talk available from 9am)

<https://vimeo.com/forestrcchurch>

The Good and Bad News!

It's not a surprise that we're in lockdown again but a surprise that public Mass can continue. Schools shut but Churches open seems a bit odd. Is it to do with the strength of the lobby? The lobby to keep Churches open and the recent lobby by teachers and others to have schools closed. I am pleased to offer Mass for you but each one of us needs to take personal responsibility. Just because you can go to Mass doesn't mean necessarily that you should. Mass will continue on-line and we aim to reinstate the Wednesday Mass again. Perhaps for those of you able to attend Mass in Church, it is good to remind ourselves of social distancing. Greeting people after Mass is much safer outside in the open air.

One task I still have on my list is how do I explain that we are justified before God because of Christ? I will have another go at trying to explain it but haven't been successful so far. Although we struggle with sinful human frailty there is also a freedom in knowing that we are completely forgiven through the Cross. Three scripture texts that refer to this are;

John 3:17 'For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved';

St Paul to the Romans 8:1 'Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus'; and my favourite,

Hebrews 10:14 'By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying'.

I probably still won't find the right words to explain it but it's worth a try. As one kind soul once said about my sermons, "We know what you're trying to say Father, you are sincere, it's just a pity you haven't found any of the shortcuts!"

Bless you all
Barnabas

Masses

Please book a place by phoning the following contacts for each Church, thank you.

Saturday 9th January 6pm Lydney To book phone Dot and Brian 01594 560054

Sunday 10th January 9am Cinderford *To book phone Fiona 01594 516175*

11am Newent *To book phone Mary 01531 822156*

Tuesday 12th January 10am Coleford *To book phone Beverley 01594 861345*

NO private prayer in the Church due to continued building work.

Wednesday 13th January 12 noon Newent To book phone Mary 01531 822156

Thursday 14th January 10am Lydney To book phone Dot and Brian 01594 560054

Saturday 16th January 6pm Coleford To book phone *Beverley 01594 861345*