

THE STORY BEGINS

(MARK 1:7-11)



Today we begin the course of readings which will cover the Gospel according to Mark during the season known as Ordinary Time.

Each of the evangelists has his own understanding of who Jesus is. Mark makes it clear from the first line of his narrative that Jesus is “the Son of God”, and he underlines this in our episode today, in which the divine voice identifies the newly baptised Jesus as “my Son, the Beloved”. This declaration comes to Jesus personally: it is not audible to those others who are present. Thus we, the readers or hearers of the Gospel, are let into the secret of who Jesus is, but no one else in the story is privy to this information. None of the characters really understands who Jesus is, until the centurion at the cross proclaims that he was indeed the Son of God.

The baptism of John the Baptist was a sign of people’s admission of their sins and their desire to amend their way of life. Jesus is showing solidarity with all those who wish to live a decent life, open to the word of God, and it is by identifying himself with such individuals that God reveals who he is and the Spirit comes upon him. We are invited to accompany Jesus in his ministry in Galilee and on his journey to Jerusalem. Mark’s vivid and fast-paced story will challenge us, as well as the persons we encounter on the way, to ask ourselves, “Who is this... ?” ■

SAY

Jesus is God’s beloved Son.

LEARN

Mark’s version of the Gospel is the oldest, written probably about AD 70 in Rome.

The symbolism of the dove in the story is obscure; its meaning is not clear.

Jesus’ being baptised is a sign of his solidarity with sinners.



DO

Take an afternoon and read through the whole of Mark’s Gospel version, preferably at one sitting.



REFLECT

The four Gospel versions are not meant to be simply biographies of Jesus. They are, rather, statements of the evangelists’ different understandings of the person of Jesus: this is one of the reasons why the four narratives are distinct and present apparently inconsistent versions of the same event or saying of Jesus. So, for instance, Mark does not include the instruction from the heavenly voice, which says “Listen to him”. The experience here is that of Jesus himself, not of the witnesses round about.

The Gospel of Mark was written before the versions of Matthew and Luke: we may find Mark’s presentation more difficult and challenging. We may find ourselves relieved that we are not faced with the same questions that the disciples, for instance, have to confront and how they misunderstand what is happening. As we follow the narrative over the next weeks, Mark is inviting us to put ourselves in the shoes of the people whom Jesus meets and to ask ourselves what we would do in their situation.

The scriptures are the word of God, alive and active and confronting us today. This may sound like something alarming, but we might remember the first line of Mark’s Gospel version, that it is “Good News”. The fact that we begin with Jesus showing solidarity and identifying himself with those people who are open to the word and willing to examine their lives and amend them where necessary is a sign of hope for us all. Also, we might remember that at our baptism, we received the Holy Spirit, which tells us that we are given the power to live as disciples of Jesus. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened,
and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,
and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

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

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.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan
and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,
grant that your children by adoption,
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,
may always be well pleasing to you.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.
Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and you will have good
things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.
See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples,
a leader and a master of the nations.
See, you will summon a nation you never knew,
those unknown will come hurrying to you,
for the sake of the Lord your God,
of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.
Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take
pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who
speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the
heavens and do not return without watering the
earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide
seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the
word that goes from my mouth does not return
to me empty, without carrying out my will and
succeeding in what it was sent to do.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Isaiah 12

Response:

With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

1. Truly, God is my salvation
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. (R.)
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his
name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. (R.)
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of
Israel. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 John 5:1-9

A reading from the first letter of St John.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ
has been begotten by God;
and whoever loves the Father that begot him
loves the child whom he begets.
We can be sure that we love God's children
if we love God himself and do what he has
commanded us;
this is what loving God is –
keeping his commandments;
and his commandments are not difficult,
because anyone who has been begotten by God
has already overcome the world;
this is the victory over the world –
our faith.

Who can overcome the world?
Only the man who believes that Jesus is the
Son of God:
Jesus Christ who came by water and blood,
not with water only,
but with water and blood;
with the Spirit as another witness –
since the Spirit is the truth –
so that there are three witnesses,
the Spirit, the water and the blood,
and all three of them agree.
We accept the testimony of human witnesses,
but God's testimony is much greater,
and this is God's testimony,
given as evidence for his Son.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

John saw Jesus coming towards him, and
said:

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the
sin of the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 1:7-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist
said: "Someone is following me, someone who is
more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel

down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have
baptised you with water, but he will baptise you
with the Holy Spirit."

It was at this time that Jesus came from
Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the
Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of
the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and
the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a
voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the
Beloved; my favour rests on you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(all bow during the next three lines)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin
Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, the offerings
we have brought to honour the revealing of
your beloved Son,
so that the oblation of your faithful
may be transformed into the sacrifice of him
who willed in his compassion
to wash away the sins of the world.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

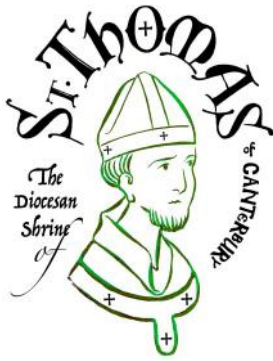
COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished with these sacred gifts,
we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord,
that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten
Son,
we may be your children in name and in
truth.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

NEWSLETTER



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ

Telephone: 01227 462896 Email: canterbury@rcaos.org.uk

Web Site: www.stthomasofcanterbury.com St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr John Howard

email: johnhoward@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Miss Linda Scott

St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): OPEN SUNDAYS FROM AFTER 9.30 MASS UNTIL 12 NOON

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Fr Tom Herbst (01843 230 774) email: tjherbst@gmail.com

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: Miss Lisa D'Agostini (01227 462539)

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Exec Prin: Mr M Walters; Academy Prin: Mr J Rowarth (01227 826200)

The Parish Office is Closed & Linda is working from home. Linda can access emails via the church email so please contact her this way initially.

ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED

6.00pm (Vigil): Ignatius Dempsey RIP (Al & Tim)

Sunday 10th Jan: The Baptism of the Lord

Mk1:7-11

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Fr Mike Gwinnell RIP

11.00am: Gail Fosbrook Birthday (*Tessa Metcalfe*)

6.00 pm: Fr Gerry Flood RIP

ORDINARY TIME BEFORE LENT

Monday 11th Jan: Feria

Mk 1: 14-20

7.30am: Sr Margaret McGrath - welfare

(*Monica & Terry Spratley*)

12 noon: Fr Ottone Cantore - welfare (*Bridget Rowe*)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

Tuesday 12th Jan St Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot

Mk 1:21-28

12 noon: Holy Souls (*Cherry Stone*)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

Wednesday 13th Jan: St Hilary, Bishop Mk1: 29-39

7.30am: Babs Gregory - return of good health

(*Anne Queenan*)

10.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Sean Drumm - RIP (*Hugh Connolly*)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

Thursday 14th Jan: Feria

Mk 1: 40 - 45

7.30am: Pauli Marr - welfare (*Simon & Mary Brown*)

12 noon: David and Gladys Murphy - RIP (*Elizabeth*)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

Friday 15th Jan: Feria

Mk 2: 1-12

12 noon: Intentions of Donav Family (*Pauline Ventress*)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

7.30pm: Francis Brown - RIP

Saturday 16th Jan: Feria

Mk 2: 13-17

10.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Alec McCarthy & Maisie Frawley (*Miriam*)

6.00pm (Vigil): Angela Tynan - RIP (E Corcoran)

Sunday 17th Jan: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jn 1: 35-42

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Anna Connolly - RIP (*Hugh Connolly*)

11.00am: John Aitken-Gray - RIP (*Myrna Gray*)

6.00 pm: Janet Sturge - RIP (*Brigid Rowe*)

2nd Collection: SVP

PARISH MATTERS

Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Pat Gill, Angeline Frizell, Alan Skeet, Louisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Barbara Brett, Mary Dittrich, Pat Gibson, Jenni Aldridge, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, Joan Sutton, Audrey Martin, Elizabeth Gilhenny, Bill Parker, Lucy Purbrick, Josie Carr, Simon Lam, Sr Anne Bross (formerly of our parish), Pippa Swan, Fr John Slater, Jennifer Lang, Pauline Lilford, Barbara Markham, Patricia Gray, Patrick Sellars, Fr Kevin Alban O.Carm, Sr Margaret McGrath and Angela Nichols

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Maria Bryant, Pamela Dodds, Roberto de Paco, John Todd, Carol Mary Kidby, Anna Hesketh, Tom Hodges, Rebecca Judge, Gertraude Katherine Brock, Vera Fletcher, Maria Daniels, Maria Prado, Hannelore Hall, Bernie Fisher, Joseph McKee, Tony Kenny, Michael Jones, Douglas Ricketts, Maurice Crosland, Patricia Collins, Andrzej Czupkowski, Chris Bateman, Pia Iannacci, Antonio Iannacci, Ellen Fitzgerald, Anna Koeller, Fr Michael Gwinnell, Ann Sexton, Paulina Manfredini, Fr Michael Boland and Fr George Webster

Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are this month:

Anthony Weber and Tedina Linehan

CHURCH OPENING TIMES: We are adjusting our church opening times for **Private Prayer** as follows:

Monday to Saturday 10h30 to 12h30. Mass at 12 noon.

The church will not be open in the afternoon.

Last chance to apply for a place at St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School

Do you have a child born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017?

Applications to be made for the Foundation Stage (reception Class) Intake starting September 2021 need to be in by midnight on Friday 15th January.

Go to the school website for all the necessary information on how to apply.

As a faith school, we have our own Supplementary Information Form which applicants will need to complete in addition to the Kent County Council online application form. This provides us with the applicants religious background/information. If the religion provides evidence i.e. Baptism/Christening certificate, please ensure this is supplied alongside the Supplementary Information Form.

<https://www.st-thomas-canterbury.kent.sch.uk/news/detail/admission-to-foundation-stage-reception-class-sept/>

From Fr Anthony ...

On the Feast of the Epiphany there is a tradition of announcing the moveable feasts, **usually in song**, for the coming year. **This gives a structure, a sense of timelessness, to the yearly rhythm of our faith.**

Although we didn't proclaim it at Masses on Wednesday here is the text for this year of 2021.

*"Know, dear brothers and sisters that we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection who is our Saviour. On the seventeenth day of February will fall Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season. On the fourth day of April, you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of Lord Jesus Christ. On the **thirteenth** day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the twenty third day of May, the feast of Pentecost. On the sixth day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. On the twenty eighth day of November, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen*

But we are also living at a time when we have been promised another timetable, **a new and unprecedented schedule**, concerning how the COVID vaccine will be administered. The government has set a target to offer vaccination slots to 13 million in the top four priority groups - including all over-80s - by 15 February. **We hope and pray this will start the process of our eventual return to some form of normality to our parish life.**

There are two other areas of our Christian life that we can, as a parish, focus on this year.

The first is the initiative, "The God who speaks". This began last year when we celebrated the 1600th anniversary of the death of one of the greatest minds in the Church's history, St Jerome, who translated the Bible in the Latin Vulgate. Our focus at the beginning of this new year is on the upcoming Sunday of the Word of God on 24th January. You can look at the website for ideas on how to mark this day. <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/sunday-of-the-word-of-god/> Some of our parishioners took part in the seven week Bible timeline course last year which they found helpful. This year 2021 is the Year of Mark and most Sundays the Gospel will be taken from St Mark.

The second **initiative** is for us as a parish to look for ways to be a missionary parish.

"Go, make disciples of all nations..." Matthew 28. These words established the Church's core mission, which have remained unchanged even as we have to navigate the uncharted waters of life in a Covid-19 world. We are starting our first online Alpha course is about to start on Wednesday, 20th January from 7.00 pm – 8.15 pm for 11 weeks. Some of the topics covered are:

Is There More To Life Than This?

Who is Jesus?

Why Did Jesus Die?

How Can I have Faith?

The group watches a 20 minute video each Wednesday and then discusses it afterwards. Having been on an Alpha course last year, one parishioner expressed how much she liked the course; she felt inspired by the videos and really enjoyed the debates/discussions. This is aimed at those who are seeking faith and answered to their questions about God and the meaning of life. Please pray for this new venture and for those who might sign up.

The COVID 19 vaccine we truly hope will bring safety and assurance to our daily life. As our new liturgical year begins, we can also take comfort in the familiarity of the Church's cycle of worship and challenge ourselves too with exploring new ways to enrich and deepen our faith, our life in Christ.

SECOND COLLECTION: Our retiring collection **next weekend, 16/17 January 2021** is for the **SVP**. Please give generously as usual.

MASS INTENTIONS 2021: There are many opportunities now open for you to have a Mass said for your intentions. Please email the Parish Office for a time and date. Donations can be made directly to the parish bank account or in cash to the Parish Office. Please Gift Aid. Thank you.

MASS STIPENDS.

Just a small reminder that all stipends for Mass Intentions are paid directly to our Priests. If you pay using the online or contactless options, please use the reference **MI DATE OF MASS** (e.g. MI 210127) so I can reconcile the amounts and ensure that our Priests receive stipends promptly and accurately. Thank you, Linda (Parish Administrator)

CONTACTLESS GIVING / ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

We have contactless giving available in the Parish. From the device in the church, receipts can be sent to you electronically. Try it out to see if it works for you! The office also offers contactless or electronic payments for Mass intentions and other transactions. Please see Linda if this is your preferred payment method of donation. If you donate directly into the Parish Bank account for a Mass donation, please send an explanatory email to Linda in the office - this helps with accurate record keeping.