



St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Stephen Harding Catholic Church

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Priest: Father Anthony Wild ☎ 01952 811299

Deacon: David Hill ☎ 01952 813004

Deacon: Wilf McSherry ☎ 07983 981931



Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday 9 January <i>Psalter week 1</i>	MASS 11am	BAPTISM OF THE LORD Christmas Season ends today	Parishioners
Monday 10 January		Monday of Week 1	
Tuesday 11 January	7pm	Tuesday of Week 1 Evening Prayer over Zoom	
Wednesday 12 January	Mass 10am	Wednesday of Week 1 <i>St Aelred of Rievaulx</i>	Steven Woodward RIP
Thursday 13 January		Thursday of Week 1 <i>St Hilary of Poitiers</i>	
Friday 14 January	7pm	Friday of Week 1 Rosary over Zoom	
Saturday 15 January		Saturday of Week 1	
Sunday 16 January	MASS 11am	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Day of Prayer for World Peace	Brian Eardley RIP & the Eardley Family

Feast Days Explained	Solemnities are in BOLD CAPITALS	Feast Days	Date
	Feasts are in NORMAL CAPITALS	EPIPHANY	6 January
	Memorials are in Normal Type	ST JOHN	27 December
	Optional Memorials are in <i>Italics</i>	St Anthony	17 January
		<i>St Aelred</i>	12 January

Parish Evening Prayer & Rosary Evening Prayer (Tuesday 7pm) over Zoom and the Rosary (Friday 7pm) over Zoom.? New pray-ers always welcome, contact sstomasandstephen@gmail.com.
Make this your New Year's Resolution?

There will be a Second Collection next Sunday for the Priests' Retirement Fund.

Please pray for the **happy repose of the soul of Brian Eardley** and for his family and friends.

Please pray for the **happy repose of the soul of Steven Woodward** and for his family and friends.



Please keep the following Parishioners in your prayers ... Danny Bonner, Pam Lovett, Niall Gallivan, Marie-Sophie Szymanski, John McGrath, Doreen Dodd, Faye Hargreaves, Mary Goodwin, Julian and Dawn Huxley, Sheila Minnery, Shane McGroggan, Doreen Warrilow, Sylvia Mary Stanworth, & all sick and housebound of the parish.



The Pope's Universal Intention for Evangelisation January 2022 For true human fraternity
We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.



Volunteers, please 1. Readers at Mass Please sign up on the list in the porch to read at Mass on dates that suit you. New readers would be very welcome, help and practice can be arranged.

2. Cleaners for the Church. Please contact Mary Bowler to set up a rota.



Missio Red Boxes A Big **THANK YOU** to all who returned their box. The total amount raised for the year came to **£593**. Please collect empty box from the back of the Church.

Used Postage Stamps THANK YOU, to those who have already handed in used stamps, and to those who will soon do so, in support of the Jesuit Refugee Service. Please **cut, not tear** from the envelope, and leave a large **margin** around the stamp. We collect used stamps, all of them, not just the Christmas ones, at any time of the year. Please place in the box in the porch.



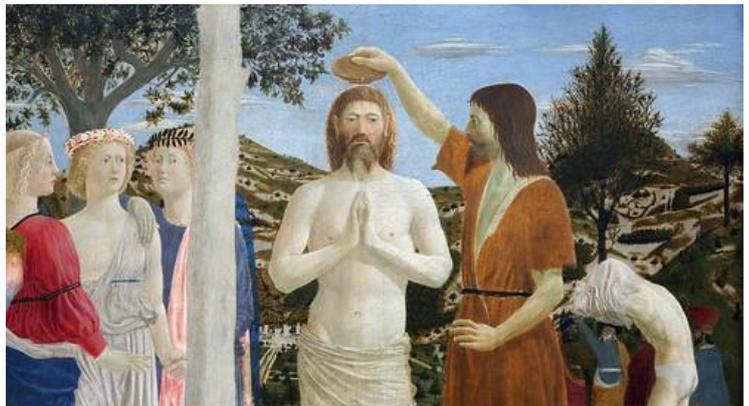
Saint of the Week St Hilary of Poitiers c315-367

Hilary belonged to a well-off pagan family, was highly cultivated, married, and later became a Christian. At about 35, he was elected Bishop of Poitiers, and was an outstanding opponent of the Arian heresy, which denied the divine nature of Christ. For this he was banished to Phrygia (Turkey) but later returned to France as the Arians thought he would be less trouble there. His extensive writings grew from this cause. He also wrote hymns as a tool for teaching Christian doctrine. He was known as a sympathetic and friendly man, and among those he influenced was Martin of Tours. He gives his name to the Hilary term of universities and courts of law, which begins around his feast day.



Gospel Luke 3:15-16,21-22 'Someone is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'



Have Faith in 2022

Faith is confidence in what we hope for and the assurance that the Lord is working, even though we cannot see it. As we move into 2022, we need faith more than ever. With the pandemic still looming and more unknowns ahead, faith is needed more than ever. Have faith and pray with us for a brighter year ahead.

A New Year Prayer

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.

Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see
the wonders of God and live
forever to praise Your glorious name.
Amen. *Redemptorists*

Commentary Now Luke celebrates the time when God gives the signal of the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Jesus is anointed for his prophetic mission by the Holy Spirit, the one who helps people to achieve God's plan. As we celebrate Jesus' great public beginning, we look at our own beginnings. If some of them look a bit half-hearted, we take consolation from the Gospel challenge to begin *again*. There probably won't be any doves or voices from heaven, but as God's people we make our start again. We are not alone. We make them in the power of the Spirit and in the love of the Father. So let us take courage to face our own road.

Denis McBride CSsR

Churches Together AGM - The next meeting will be the AGM on Sunday 23rd January - please note this will now be held over Zoom.



Market Drayton foodbank urgently needed

The Foodbank has no or low stock of the following items: If you are able to donate, please leave your items in the green bin in the Church porch:



Coffee, Tinned fish (not Tuna), Custard, Rice pudding, Long life cartons of fruit juice, UHT milk, Sponge puddings/ slab cake, Wash powder/ liquid/ tabs. THANK YOU!