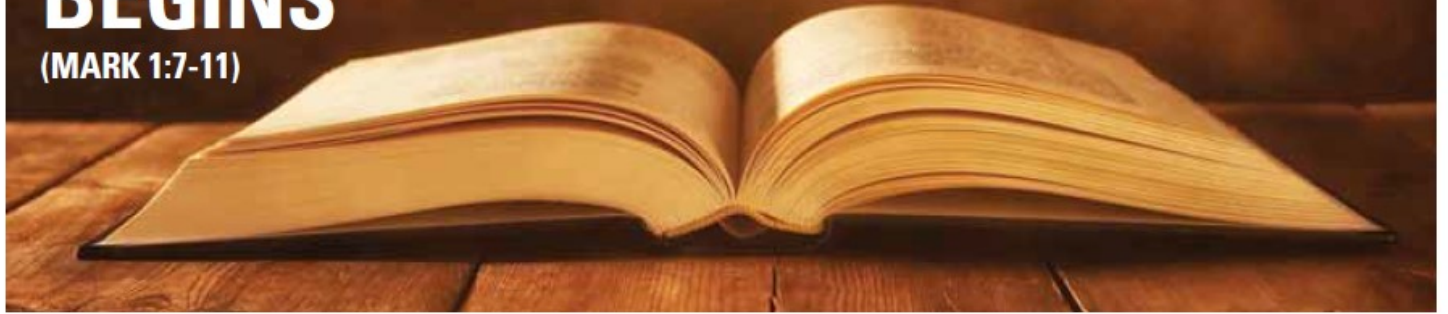


THE STORY BEGINS

(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.

- 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.)
- 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.)
- 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.

Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon
1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL

We are a *LiveSimply* parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson Tel: 01235 520375
Office Hours: 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesday to Friday
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

We live stream all services

Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230
Visits at JR Hospital: Priest/Chaplain 01865 221732
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office
Parish Website: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

Please note that during this pandemic period, and until further notice, the Parish Office opening hours will be from **Tuesdays to Fridays from 10.30am to 12.30pm**. Outside of these times, Fr Jamie will respond to urgent phone messages as soon as he can.

PRIVATE PRAYER

We are blessed that the church can be open, but for **private prayer only**, on the following days and times:

- ✠ **Tuesdays: 12pm to 1pm**
- ✠ **Fridays: 12pm to 1pm**

MASS BOOKINGS:

On Monday 11th January you can book for Masses from Sunday 17th to Saturday 23rd January.

PLEASE remember to give as many dates and times when you could attend – otherwise you may be disappointed. Also be clear on the number of people you are booking for and let us know if you would like to attend more than one Mass during the week.

HOW TO BOOK FOR MASS

No Internet Access?

Phone **07395 946827** EACH MONDAY between 10am and 11am ONLY to book a place for the FOLLOWING week

Have Internet Access?

DON'T phone. Instead, email: contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk EACH MONDAY, to book a place for the FOLLOWING week

NEWSLETTERS

Please remember that we are currently still not able to offer newsletters or any other printed material in church. Please bring your own with you if you would like to (you can download it from our website).

1st Week of Ordinary Time (Year B)

Attendance through booking system only, but also available on our live stream

Sunday 10 January

10.15am Mass
6.30pm Mass
2.00pm Polish Mass

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

(Jim Shuttleworth, RIP)
(Letitia Fay, RIP)

Monday 11 January

9am Mass (Gina O'Hanlon, RIP)

Tuesday 12 January

NO Mass See: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse for other masses

Wednesday 13 January

7pm Mass (Lillian Brooks, RIP)

Thursday 14 January

9.30am Mass (Special intention)

Friday 15 January

7pm Mass (Geoff Castle, intentions)

Saturday 16 January

12pm Mass (Pat Castle, intentions)



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot today receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

SURVEY OF PEOPLE & PARISHIONERS

The Diocese want to understand better what you the people and parishioners of our Diocese think **and** what you consider is important as we journey **in** faith together. This will help us all to develop plans and priorities for the Diocese so that we can truly be faithful missionary people in a flourishing and vibrant Diocese that brings the joy and hope of the Gospel message to our communities and the wider world. The online questionnaire will run over Christmas and into the New Year and a link is available on the News page of our website. A paper version is also available for those unable to access the digital version: leave a message with name and address for Chris Smith the Diocesan Director of Communications on 02394 216496.

NEW YEAR'S WALK FOR CHRISTIAN AID

This year, the walk will take place at any time in January as a sponsored walk or making a donation, in a sort of 'treasure hunt' style, in which walkers go either alone or with a partner round several churches in Abingdon and find a letter of the alphabet 'hidden' somewhere near the church entrance. Details are now available from Angela Waterhouse, aqua_casa@yahoo.co.uk, or from Cliff Marshall at candpmarshall@btinternet.com

FORMATION FOR READERS

The Formation for Mission team, led by Sr Hyacinthe, will continue offering readers' workshops in 2021, Year of the Word in Portsmouth Diocese. The 2021 workshops will take place **in February (6th and 13th)** and **in April (17th and 24th)**. Participants need to have attended both workshop 1 and workshop 2, and completed a reading practice to receive a Diocesan *Recognitio*. Sign up for the workshops using this link (also available on the News page of our parish website): <https://www.godwhospeaks.org/readers>

JOURNEYING TOGETHER IN FAITH (JTIF)

Our parish sessions will resume online using Zoom from 6.30pm to 7.30pm on Mondays, beginning on **Monday 11th January**. These sessions are suitable for any adult with an enquiring mind who wishes to journey further in their faith. All sessions will comprise of a video and/or presentation, reflection, discussion and prayer. You can join in any or all of the remaining sessions – the programme is available on our website News page. Please feel free to invite others to these sessions as well. To obtain the joining information, please email: contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk

PRAYING THE ROSARY

Since the first lockdown in March, a group of parishioners have been praying the Rosary online using Zoom at 8pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. If you would like to join in, please email contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk to get the joining instructions.

FORMATION ON THE MASS

This January, Sr Hyacinthe from *The Formation for Mission team*, invites you to join them for a **Back to Basics Course on the Mass in 6 sessions** to refresh our understanding and deepen our love for the Mass. After lockdown, some of our friends and family, and even ourselves, may find it difficult to return to the sacramental practice of our faith. Taking time to discover or rediscover what we believe in our faith, how this is celebrated in the Mass, and how we are called to live it may be just what we need at the beginning of the year, to re-ignite our love for the Mass and find the words to encourage others to practice. Each session will end with a time of prayer. They will be led by Sr Hyacinthe and Angela Wood. This course will be especially helpful to catechists, readers and parents of First Holy Communion children, but it is open to everyone. It will be taking place on **Monday evenings from 7 to 9 pm, from the 11th January to the 15th February**.

Sign up for the course using this link (also available on the News page of our parish website): <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwof-mrpjltEtDVpuf54s7y-BFuAraTIVe6>



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany (the first being the feast of the Epiphany on 6th January) which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons and daughters of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.

PEACE SUNDAY

This will be celebrated next Sunday (17th January) when the Pope's Message for World Peace Day will be promoted at the request of the Bishops of England and Wales. There will also be an opportunity to donate to Pax Christi, the International Catholic Movement for Peace. More information will be available next week. The theme chosen for 2021 by Pope Francis is: 'A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace.'