

# Saint Charles Swinton

Parish Newsletter

11 January 2015

The Baptism of the Lord.

Page 119 in Mass Book.



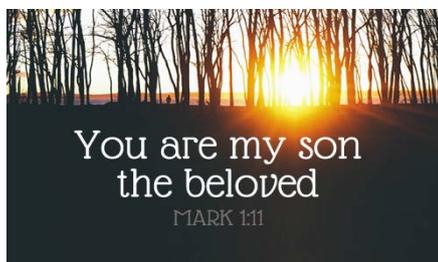
## Jesus, really, truly, human?

### Why was Jesus baptized?

Even for the early church, as the canon of scripture itself was being formed, it seems to have been a controversial question. If Jesus goes before John for the "baptism of repentance," it seems that Jesus himself is a sinner. The account from the Gospel of Matthew suggests as much when giving voice to John's reluctance: "It is I who need baptism from you, and yet you come to me!"

Mark's Gospel begins with John's proclamation, "for the forgiveness of sins," and the promise that "someone greater than I is to come." The next moment, we see the "someone," whose sandal straps John is not worthy to untie, receiving the sign of repentance from John, not giving it. It is not only a special irony. It is a central image of the redemptive mystery. Jesus enters into radical solidarity with all men and women, taking upon himself even the condition of our sinfulness, himself having not sinned. The "one more powerful" assumes the position of weakness. It is precisely in this that he is beloved. And it is from this baptism sign that he is sent.

He was like us in all things but sin, the author of Hebrews reminds us when discussing Jesus' high priesthood. And yet we balk at the statement. "If he did not sin, how could he really be like us? How could he be fully human?"  
continued over...



## The Coming Week.....

### Sunday 11 January The Baptism of the Lord

This feast begins what we call "Ordinary Time" in the church's year. In other words the time when there is no particular season.



Our Sunday scripture readings this year are based on a continuous reading of the Gospel of Saint Mark.

### Monday 12 January. 8.30am Mass

7.00pm Jubilee planning meeting.

### Tuesday 13 January 8.30am Mass

7.30pm Parish Development Group meet.

### Wednesday 14 January 9.15am Mass in school - Year 5. All welcome.

7.30pm Wednesday evening Scripture reflections begin once again.

### Thursday 15 January 8.30am Mass

7.30pm. Women Speaking Wisdom: The series continues at St. Joseph's Convent, Greenleach Lane. We will be discussing the Book of Judith. Contact Sr. Joan for more details  
[joankfmsj@gmail.com](mailto:joankfmsj@gmail.com) or 971-7842

### Friday 16 January No Mass in church this morning.

### Saturday 17 January St Anthony, Abbot

Inspired by the words of the Lord "Sell everything you own and give it to the poor" Anthony retired to the Egyptian desert at the age of twenty. He attracted many followers, who shared his ascetic life and bequeathed to the Church an example of life spent in solitude and total devotion to prayer. He died in the year 356, aged about 105.

9.00am Mass in Cemetery

10.00am Sacramental Programme, Unit 4. We are People who Celebrate God's Word.

11.30am - 12.00noon  
Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### Sunday 18 January. Second Sunday of the Year

A day of Special Prayer for Peace in the world. "Slaves no more, but brothers and sisters"

6.30pm Service to celebrate the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity, which begins today, at Holy Rood Church, Moorside Road.

**Prayer Lunches.** During the following week there will be a time to meet, reflect, pray and eat a simple lunch in each other's churches. The reflections will be based on the material provided this year by Christians from Brazil. **Timetable on notice board.**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Further ahead....**

### Saturday 24 January. Wedding - Kyle James Walton & Louise-Anne Howell.

*We misunderstand this because we misunderstand our humanity as well as our sin.* Christ has come not only to reveal the divinity to us; he has come to reveal us to ourselves. Not only is he truly God. He is truly human. And he is truly human precisely because he does not sin. All of our sin is nothing other than the rejection of the truth of our humanity.

*Jesus' utter acceptance of our humanity,* his drinking of our cup fully, his sharing of our wounded condition, reverses our sinful rejection of our creatureliness. His baptism, then, is at the heart of his mission to heal us. He enters even the wounds of our self-rejection, without having made the rejection himself. He accepts full solidarity with us even if it means being seen as sinner.

*Jesus' baptism is one of his earliest great transformations of our human condition.* The first was that the Word itself could take human flesh. All the further implications would follow: that he would be tempted to reject this mission of transformation; that he would undertake all manner of healing and disarming of devils; that he would announce a kingdom to transmute all blindness, poverty, imprisonment, and darkness; that he would, at last, suffer the very fate of sin in death. Just as we now baptize our children to announce a new fate for the human body, the baptism of Jesus is the inauguration of that fate.

*Announced as sinner, wholly one with our condition,* Jesus, hovered over by the very spirit of God, is gazed upon by the Father who sent him and who now says to him and all of us who share his flesh—"This is my beloved, in whom I am well pleased."

*(John Kavanaugh SJ on Saint Louis Jesuits Sunday website)*

## Help Needed.....

**I am in urgent need of a volunteer to help me with the parish accounts.**

Day-to-day dealing with bills etc. is taken care of by Catherine in the office, while the Gift Aid side of the parish finances are now well organized by Christine Holden.

*The area of need is in entering details in account books (which can now be done in computer format).*

This need not be an onerous task if done from month to month. I usually end up with a marathon catch-up in January, by the end of which the Diocese wants the annual summary returned to them.

Given the distraction of a student these past years this has become more and more impractical and I have ended up just leaving all the papers with the diocese for them to sort out!

This might seem like an easy solution, but there are drawbacks to that and I would rather be on top of the process.

This would suit someone who has been used to dealing with figures and who now has too much time on their hands!  
Many thanks for your consideration.

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## Student Placements

The last four years we have been privileged to have seminarians from Valladolid staying with us in the parish. This year we are having a break as there are less students to place this year.

### Updates on previous years' students...

John-Paul was ordained as a deacon at Oscott seminary last month. Michael has left seminary formation and is now working for Dorset NHS in mental health care. Mohanraj and Gregory continue their studies in seminary. We keep them in our prayers as always.

## Further further ahead.....

**Lent!** Yes, next month. (Ash Wednesday is on 18 February)

The last few years we have held a Lenten series with the general theme "School of Prayer". One year it was on the theme of different traditions of prayer, last year it was "praying with the saints", the year in-between was dedicated to the Second Vatican Council documents.

This year's theme will be "Praying with the Old Testament" and will be on Saturdays at midday. So - put it in your diaries now. **More details before too long.**

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## At back of church...

**2015 Salford Almanac.** (Yearbook of the Diocese - find out who's where, Mass times, etc. £3.00)

**Catholic Papers.** Universe, Catholic Times, Catholic Herald, Tablet

**Crusader** - a really good read and free.

**Bible Alive** for January.

**Sacred Heart Messenger.** for January.

**2015 Calendars/diaries.** Please free to take - just make an offering to Cafod. *You can leave your unwanted spare (2015) ones there also for recycling*

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## A member of Churches Together in Swinton and Pendlebury

Parish Priest: Rev Mgr Paul F Smith STL • ☎ 0161 794 1089 • ✉ [paulsmith@saintcharles.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:paulsmith@saintcharles.freeserve.co.uk) website: [www.stcharlesswinton.co.uk](http://www.stcharlesswinton.co.uk)

Registered Charity No. 250037

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 11.30 am to 12.00 noon and after evening Mass

### BAPTISMS

By appointment. Parents are expected to attend a course of preparation.

### WEDDINGS

Six months notice is normally required.

### MASS TIMES

Saturday: 6.00 pm (First Mass of Sunday)

#### Sunday

- 8.45 am (Church Parade every second Sunday of the month)
- 11.00 am (with children's Liturgy of the Word)

Monday to Friday: usually 8.30 am

#### Holy Days

7.30 pm (eve), 8.30 am

**Saint Vincent de Paul Society**  
Monthly as announced

**Union of Catholic Mothers**  
First and third Tuesdays at 7.15pm

#### Beaver Scouts

Mondays in school at 6.00pm

#### Cub Scouts

Tuesdays in school at 6.00 pm

#### Brownies

Wednesdays in school at 6.00 pm

#### Rainbows

Thursdays in school at 6.00 pm

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**Thanks for your generous support of the parish over the past year.....**

**Offertory collections.....**

**January**

5  
12  
19  
26

**February**

2  
9  
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23

**March**

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**April**

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**May**

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**June**

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**July**

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**August**

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**September**

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**October**

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**November**

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**December**

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**SVP**

**January**

**February**

**March**

**April**

**May**

**June**

**July**

**August**

**September**

**October**

**November**

**December**

**CAFOD**

**January**

**February**

**March**

**April**

**May**

**June**

**July**

**August**

**September**

**October**

**November**

**December**

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