

**Entrance Antiphon****Cf. Mt 3: 16-17**

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.

**Collect**

O God, whose Only Begotten Son  
has appeared in our very flesh,  
grant, we pray, that we may be inwardly transformed  
through him whom we recognise as outwardly like  
ourselves. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**First reading****Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11**

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God.  
‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her  
that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned  
for,  
that she has received from the hand of the Lord  
double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness  
a way for the Lord.  
Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.  
Let every valley be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low.  
Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;  
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
and all mankind shall see it;  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.  
Shout with a loud voice,  
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.  
Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah,  
‘Here is your God.’

Here is the Lord coming with power,  
his arm subduing all things to him.  
The prize of his victory is with him,  
his trophies all go before him.  
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,  
gathering lambs in his arms,  
holding them against his breast  
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

**Responsorial Psalm Psalm 103(104):1-4,24-25,27-30***Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.*

Lord God, how great you are,  
clothed in majesty and glory,  
wrapped in light as in a robe!  
You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

*Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.*

Above the rains you build your dwelling.  
You make the clouds your chariot,  
you walk on the wings of the wind,  
you make the winds your messengers  
and flashing fire your servant.

*Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.*

How many are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your riches.  
There is the sea, vast and wide,  
with its moving swarms past counting,  
living things great and small.

*Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.*

All of these look to you  
to give them their food in due season.  
You give it, they gather it up:  
you open your hand, they have their fill.

*Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.*

You hide your face, they are dismayed;  
you take back your spirit, they die.  
You send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the earth.

*Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.***Second reading****Titus 2:11-14,3:4-7**

God’s grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation  
possible for the whole human race and taught us that  
what we have to do is to give up everything that does  
not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must  
be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here  
in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for  
the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the  
glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He  
sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all  
wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very  
own and would have no ambition except to do good.

But when the kindness and love of God our saviour  
for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was  
concerned with any righteous actions we might have  
done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own  
compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing  
water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit  
which he has so generously poured over us through  
Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should  
be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking  
forward to inheriting eternal life.

**Gospel Acclamation****cf. Lk 3:16**

Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I.  
He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

**Gospel****Luke 3:15-16,21-22**

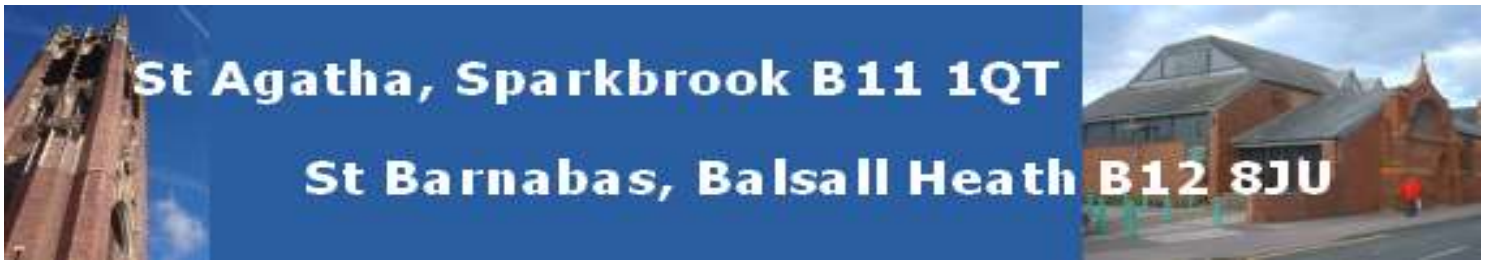
A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people,  
who were beginning to think that John might be the  
Christ, so John declared before them all, ‘I baptise you  
with water, but someone is coming, someone who is  
more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the  
strap of his sandals; he will 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.’

**Communion Antiphon****Jn 1:32,34**

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.



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## **12<sup>th</sup> January News/prayers**

### **The Baptism of the Lord**

Mass times on Sundays:

St Barnabas' at 9.00am

& St Agatha's at 11am

#### **St Agatha's Patronal Festival:**

Saturday 8th February 2025 at **12 noon.**

**Please invite your friends and think  
about what you would like to bake!**

**The next PCC meeting is due to  
be held on Sunday 19th January  
after Mass at St Agatha's.** Thank  
you to all who have sent in reports  
already. Please let Priscilla have any  
other reports asap.

**Walsingham Pilgrimage 2025**  
30<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June. If you are  
interested in going, please see  
Catherine Goodier.

We pray for our parish, for all who live and work within our parish boundaries; holding them up for God's blessing. We pray for all pupils who attend the schools within our parish. We pray for St Agatha's Boxing Club, and St Barnabas' Nursery. We commend to you all who are sick or in any kind of need. We pray for the Fr Michael, Fr Sergei, Church Warden Martin and the congregation of the Russian Orthodox Parish of All Saints, who meet at St Agatha's on Saturdays.

We ask your help for all in positions of responsibility in our churches. We pray for our priest Fr Thomas Singh and his wife Sandhya as they minister in our parish. We pray for Bishop Paul.

We pray for each individual member of our congregations that we may be faithful to our vocations and worthy ambassadors of our Catholic faith.

#### **St Agatha's Prayer**

Let your forgiveness be won for us by the pleading of Saint Agatha, who found favour with you by her chastity and by her courage in suffering death for the gospel.

#### **St Barnabas's Prayer**

God our Father, You filled Saint Barnabas with faith and the Holy Spirit and sent him to convert the nations; help us to proclaim the gospel by word and deed.

We pray for those who are in need or ill:  
HM The King, HRH The Princess of Wales, John Gregory,  
David Stokes, Peter Rouillard, Mike Lock, Jean Tomlinson, Elaine Stanley, Janet Gregory,  
Donnette Rigg, Ava Crossley, Phil Lee,  
Roger McDonald, Fr Balwant Singh,  
Esther Micklewright, Robert Smith  
Fr. John Luff, Carole Luff  
We pray for those who have died recently.

However much we heat our buildings they are difficult to make warm.  
Please feel free to dress warmly and bring a blanket if you need to!

