



Feast of the Birthday of John the Baptist

Replacing the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

His father
asked for a writing tablet
and he wrote:
"His name is John".
And they were all astonished.

Luke 1:63

The purpose of John the Baptist's ministry was to point to the Messiah, his cousin, and then to bow out gracefully when Jesus came. We can have no higher ambition than to prepare the way for the Lord and then leave ourselves and our work in his hands.

John the Baptist

It is an indication of the importance of John the Baptist that this feast takes precedence over the celebration of Sunday as, even the 'Ordinary' Sundays are celebrations of the Lord's Resurrection.

Also significant is the fact that today we celebrate his birth, only Mary has a feast day for her birthday. All other feast days are on or near a saint's death; and we honour John the Baptist's death also (29th August).

29th June - This Friday, a Holyday:

The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul

Masses:

- **Thursday— Vigil Mass: 7pm at OLMC**
- **Friday: 10am St Patrick**
(This replaces the usual 10am Mass at OLMC)

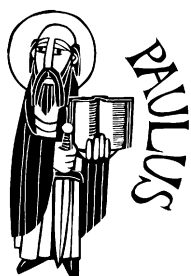
The Church of the apostles was lucky enough to have both. Paul was the fearless preacher of Jesus and Peter was the leader who helped the Church to grow and develop in the years that followed Christ's death.

Today we celebrate the feast of these two great saints who had such an influence on the development of the Church. And we recognise that their strength and influence came despite their human failings.

Peter's Pence

There will be a retiring
Collection for Peter's Pence
throughout the world on this
feast.

Peter's Pence is used for
charitable work throughout
the world distributed at the
discretion of the Pope.



FAITH IN FOCUS: A DISTURBING MESSAGE?

He's a shadowy figure, impressive but slightly perplexing. Everybody knows that John the Baptist was a cousin of Jesus, the son of Elizabeth and Zechariah. But some people think that he joined a type of separatist monastic community, the Essenes, who lived in the desert close to where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found.

They were a zealot group that was looking forward to the imminent coming of the Messiah who would once more set up the kingdom of Israel according to the promises that were made to their ancestors in the bible. Only those who adhered strictly to the Law would be part of this kingdom. If nothing else they were fundamentalists.

Certainly we do come across John in the desert, a strange character aged about 27, wearing a leather belt and camel hair tunic and living off locust and wild honey, and we know that he was preaching a message of repentance, getting people to be immersed in the waters of the River Jordan. Whether he was part of the exclusive Essene desert community we cannot say, but he converted many people and prepared the way for Jesus' preaching. He told his own disciples to follow Jesus and he was beheaded in prison by Herod.

Many people refer to John the Baptist as the hinge between the Old Testament and New Testament prophets.

The job of a prophet is to be a spokesperson for God. We may balk at the thought of wearing a sandwich board and walking up and down the high street with Gospel messages. But because of our baptism we have each been called to be prophets, pointers, signposts and spokespeople for God and the Gospel.

Maybe John the Baptist stands as a reminder of how necessary this is in a world that seems to be looking for compass points.



Holyday, 29th June, Saints Peter & Paul

Please note the times of Masses in the box on the right. The evening Vigil Mass is at OLMC because the Polish community celebrate Mass at St Patrick's on Thursdays. So, the Mass on Friday is at St Patrick not OLMC.

There will be a retiring collection for Peter's Pence after each Mass.

Adoremus: Eucharistic Congress Developments:

- The list of **fringe** or **parallel events** have been published. There are copies at the back of church but a flyer will soon be published for wider distribution. St Patrick's will be used for a vocations exhibition.
- Carmelite Monastery** Allerton, this Sunday at 3.30-5pm. **The Unexpected Gift: the spiritual journey of a deaf person** A talk by Denise Armstrong-Hart giving a personal reflection on experiencing the Eucharist as a deaf person. After the talk there will be adoration and evening prayer.



Fundraising Meeting Meeting for the fundraising team on Thursday 5th July t 7.30pm after the 7pm service. New members to the team welcome.

Sponsored Walk The sponsored walk from Southport to OLMC has raised over £600 and there is still some more to come. Well done and thank you Bella and all who sponsored her.

St Patrick: Summer Programme for Children The Missionaries of Charity are holding the usual Summer event for children from 30th July to 14 August, Monday to Friday 2-5pm. Contact the sisters in Seel St for more information.

National Grandparents' Pilgrimage Sunday 22nd July, with Bishop Alan Hopes, Bishop of East Anglia, Shrine of Our Lady of Walshingham. Full details on the notice board.

Lourdes Pilgrimage Association The Archdiocesan pilgrimage takes place from 20-27th July this year. Those unable to go to Lourdes can join in spirit and prayer by joining the Lourdes Pilgrimage Association and praying with them during that week. For details see the leaflets at the back of our churches.

World Meeting of Families: Dublin 21-26 August 2018

Pope Francis will be present in Dublin for this event. For more details see the poster on the notice board or www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/Tickets/Tickets-Registration

Collections The final extra collections before the Summer holidays is on 8th July, **Sea Sunday**, a collection for the *Apostleship of the Sea*, supporting Seafarers.

OLMC Food Bank Our (unofficial) food bank common to most presbyteries is getting low on stock. Any non-perishable foodstuffs will be welcome. Please put in a plastic bag and leave in the sacristy at OLMC.

John Southworth

MASSES AND SERVICES

IN CHURCH THIS WEEK

- No Mass on Monday
Requiem on Tuesday replaces the 7pm Mass.
- Holyday on Thursday—Saints Peter and Paul
Please note times (and churches) below.

Sunday 24th June

Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist

Sat 5pm	Thomas Snr & Thomas Jnr Flannery	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Parishioners	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Bernadette Morgan	OLMC

Monday 25th June

9am NO MASS OLMC

Tuesday 26th June

12noon	Requiem: Catherine Lynch	St Patrick
7pm	NO MASS	OLMC

Wednesday 27th June

10am	Anne Chapman	St Patrick
1pm	Funeral Service: Maria McLean	St Patrick

Thursday 28th June

10am Florence Angland St Patrick

29th June: Feast of Ss Peter and Paul

Thursday Vigil Mass

7pm Sr Ambrose OLMC

Friday 29th June NB PLEASE NOTE CHURCH

10am Henry O'Neil St Patrick

Sunday 30th June

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 5pm Joe O'Toole OLMC

Sun 9.45am John Huyton St Patrick

Sun 11.15am Parishioners OLMC

Thursday Evening Service

7pm Replaced by the Feast of Ss Peter & Paul

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 4-4.30pm OLMC

Bonus Ball / Mount Carmel and St Patrick

The bonus ball for Wednesday 20th June was no 1
Winners won £30 each

Collections Many Thanks

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Envelopes £138.60 Loose £236.88 £375.48

St Patrick Envelopes £0 Loose £152.70

Box £16.00 Brick £5.00 Table Sale & Raffle £104.00

Please Pray For.... Those who have died: Maria McLean, Catherine Lynch

The sick: Irene Maloney, Betty Flannery, Tony Robinson, Carol Pickford, Betty Billingsley, Tommy Duffy, Audrey McKenna, Ian McCafferty, Betty Christian, Bernard Duffy, Helen Melarange, Jack Davies, Joan Higgins, Michael McNicholas, Billy Thompson, Freya Matheson, Rene Humphreys, Clifford Browne, Gary Hollinson, Jackie Heath-Anderson, Ted Cunningham, Anne Deuchar, Charlotte Rice, Irene Finneran, Lisa Balshaw, Mary Kewley, Claire Kearney, Lyn Barton, Betty Devine, Kathleen Devine, Joseph Baxendale, Ann Chapman, Nadia Kent, Susan Roberts, Alex Sielski, Lee Foster, Denise King, John Dunning, Emily Rolands, Angela Kent, David Majoury, Donald Smith, Pius Laizer, Maria Jones, Mary O'Toole, Sally Wilkins, Michael Murphy, Margaret Chung, David Stevenson, Thomas & John Paul Conroy, Keith Holden, Kathleen Crown, Joanne Fairbrother, Eileen Edwards, Erin Caulfield, Lisa Ginley, Lillian O'Connor, Owen Hall, Anne Brannigan, Thelma Mainwaring, Cheryl and Lenny Hart, Sheila Chapman, Elaine Gorry, Alexandra Reid, Winifred Williamson, Kathryn Reid, Wally Williams, Chrissy White, Nicholas Maher, John Hodson, Terry Macklin, Muriel Minshull, Maureen Ryan, Mary Ryan, Regna Lewis, David Shea, Steven Binks.