



ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
**SACRED HEART & ST GERARD**  
BELLSHILL ~ EST. 2018

Baptism of the Lord C  
9<sup>th</sup> January 2022

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### Services this Week

Tuesday	6.00pm 7.00pm	Confessions until 6.45pm Mass in Sacred Heart
Wednesday	10.00am	Mass in Sacred Heart
Thursday	9.30am	Mass in St Gerard's <i>Confessions after Mass</i>
Friday	10.00am	Funeral Mass in Sacred Heart <i>Michael Campbell RIP</i>
Saturday	4.00pm 5.30pm	Vigil Mass in St Gerard's Vigil Mass in Sacred Heart
Sunday	10.00am 11.30am	Mass in St Gerard's Mass in Sacred Heart

### The Scriptures

**First Reading**  
Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11

**Psalm 103**  
Bless the Lord, my soul!  
Lord God, how great you are.

**Second Reading**  
Titus 2:11-14. 3:4-7

*Alleluia, alleluia!*  
*We saw his start as it rose and  
have come to do the Lord  
homage.*  
*Alleluia!*

**Gospel**  
Luke 3:15-16.21-22

## Justice & Peace

There is a second collection to support the work of Justice and Peace in the church. There is a box as you enter the church.

### Please Pray for

#### Michael Campbell RIP

*whose remains will be received into the church on Thursday at 6.00pm. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday at 10.00am in Sacred Heart.*

#### Mary Malone RIP

*(Mansefield Road)*

*whose remains will be received into the church on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 6.00pm. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00am in Sacred Heart.*

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
And let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. Amen.*

## Coming to Mass

All Masses remain open and free for people to attend without major restriction. However please bear in mind that the churches will be well ventilated and you are asked to maintain a respectful distance and hand sanitise on entry. Please wear a mask to help protect yourself and others. It is also helpful to take a lateral flow test before attending Church.

The Church will continue to open no more than 30 minutes before the start of Mass and we will return to trying to keep an empty row between people and 1m distancing. If you are uncomfortable please feel free to move to a quieter part of the Church.

## Thank You

The collection last weekend was £1235. The parish also receives an average of £430 weekly in electronic donations.

## **Please remember in your prayers**

### **Sick:**

Baby Felix Durnion, Jackie Chinskie, Betty McDermott, Lorraine McCarthy, Leanne McGovern, Billy Mosedale, Thomas O'Donnell, Marcella Taylor, Fr Raymond Jaconelli, Avril Fannon, Matt MacDonald, Jean Murphy, Megan Carlin, Jamie Devine, Elizabeth Lunny, Margaret McMahon, Tom Downie, Annie Taggart, Betty McAuley, Angela Ferguson, Mary Hughes, Wilma Dempsey, Marion Desmond,

**Recently Dead:** Michael Campbell, Mary Malone, Michael McDonald, Sister Frances Reilly OCV

**Months Minds:** Gerry Seary, Agnes McGrath,

**Anniversaries:** Rose Bramman, Tommy Cavanagh, Elaine Ogilvie, Maeve Coyle, John & Lily Connor, Matthew Julius,

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## **Retreat**

Fr Stuart will be on retreat from Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January until Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January. The Spiritans from Carfin will celebrate Mass during this time.

## **Crib Collection**

The Christmas collection at the crib supports the work of St Margaret's Children and Family Care society. The box is in front of the crib for donations.

## **Parish Building & Finance Meeting**

on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January  
at 7.00pm in Sacred Heart Church

Everyone is welcome to discuss the repairs and maintenance of our churches and halls as well as the financial implications of these decisions for our parish finances.

Assuming there are no new restrictions, I plan to have this meeting. Using the Church will allow a large number of people to socially distance.

## **Homily of Pope Francis on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord 2020**

Just like Jesus who went to be baptised, you too are bringing your children.

Jesus replies to John: "let all righteousness be fulfilled" (cf. Mt 3:15). To baptise a child is an act of justice towards them. Why? Because at Baptism we offer a treasure, at Baptism we offer a pledge: the Holy Spirit. Baptism endows the child with the strength of the Holy Spirit: the Spirit that will defend and assist each of them throughout life. This is why it is so important to baptise them when they are little, so that they may grow with the strength of the Holy Spirit.

This is the message that I would like to give you today. You have brought your children today so that they may receive the Holy Spirit within them. And make sure that they develop in the light, with the strength of the Holy Spirit through catechesis, assistance, education and your example at home... This is the message.

I do not want to say anything more important than this. Only some advice. Children are not accustomed to come to the Sistine chapel. It is their first time! They are not used to being closed in an environment that is also a bit stifling. And they are not used to being dressed like this, for a feast day as beautiful as today. They will feel a bit uncomfortable at times. And one will start [to cry]... – the concert has yet to begin! – but one will start then another ... Do not be alarmed: let your children cry and scream. Rather, if your child cries and complains, perhaps it is because it feels too hot: remove something; or because it is hungry: breastfeed him, here, yes, always comfortably. Something I also said last year: they have a "choral" dimension: it is enough for one of them to start to "sing" and everyone follows and there will be a concert. Do not be alarmed. It is a beautiful homily when a baby cries in church. It is a beautiful homily. Make sure that they are all right and let us move forward. Do not forget: you let the Holy Spirit enter children.