

## *Parish of Ribbleton*

St. Mary Magdalene (SMM) The Ascension (ASC) -Longsands (LS)

*Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January*

*The Baptism of Christ*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*The heavens opened and the father's voice resounded:*

*'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

### **PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted  
children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

### **FIRST READING** (Isaiah 43:1-7)

But now, this is what the Lord says – he who created  
you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel:  
'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and when you pass through the rivers, they will not  
sweep over you.  
When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned;  
the flames will not set you ablaze.  
For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
your Saviour;  
I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your  
stead.  
Since you are precious and honoured in my sight, and  
because I love you, I will give people in exchange for  
you, nations in exchange for your life.  
Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your  
children from the east and gather you from the west.  
I will say to the north, "Give them up!"  
and to the south, "Do not hold them back."  
Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the  
ends of the earth – everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and  
made.'

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Psalm 29)

*The response to the psalm is*  
**The Lord is enthroned as King for ever.  
And in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'**

Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name;  
worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness.  
The voice of the Lord is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the Lord thunders over the mighty waters. **R/**

The voice of the Lord is powerful;  
the voice of the Lord is majestic.  
The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;  
the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.  
He makes Lebanon leap like a calf,  
Sirion like a young wild ox.  
The voice of the Lord strikes  
with flashes of lightning. **R/**

The voice of the Lord shakes the desert;  
the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh.  
The voice of the Lord twists the oaks  
and strips the forests bare.  
And in his temple all cry, 'Glory!' **R/**

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord is enthroned as King for ever.  
The Lord gives strength to his people;  
the Lord blesses his people with peace. **R/**

**SECOND READING** (Acts 8:14-17)

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria.

When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

**GOSPEL** (Luke 3:15-17, 21-22)

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.

John answered them all,  
'I baptise you with water.

But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.'

When all the people were being baptised, Jesus was baptised too.

And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven:  
'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'



## Sunday Reflection

First of all, Happy New Year to you all. I hope you are keeping safe and well.

January 2022 and already we are facing challenging circumstances, one in particular is the increasing numbers of Covid cases in our parish.

Life has always been full of ups and downs and no doubt the coming year will bring further challenges to all of us in different ways, yet there will also be happy times and joyous occasions to celebrate.

One of the things David and I are looking forward to this year is the expected arrival of another Grandson at the end of March – a first baby for Christopher and Emma.

There is much excitement in the family as we see photos of the nursery taking shape in preparation and enjoy conversation relating to the new baby, the main questions being

‘What are you going to call him?’

‘Have you chosen a name yet?’

‘Will he be given the name or middle name David after his Grandfather?’

Names are important, aren't they?

It certainly seems we are reminded of this in our reading from Isaiah today.

To be known by name indicates a closeness of relationship which is important to us as human beings and something we greatly value.

(As well as reflecting on the Isaiah passage I was remembering how in John's Gospel it was hearing her name spoken that made Mary Magdalene realise that she was in the presence of the risen Jesus).

In the beginning of Isaiah 43 we are reminded that God has called each one of us by name.

He knows us and loves us as the individuals we are, and he is with us throughout all the joys and sorrows of life.

Whatever this year holds, we can be assured that the redemption he brings is personal and he can meet our deepest needs.

Where there is anxiety and uncertainty about the future, the one thing we can be certain of is his love for us and the promise of his presence with us.

It is good to celebrate this today as we remember the Baptism of Christ because each person's Baptism is not only their decision to commit themselves to Christ, but also God's calling to each one by name.

Baptism not only celebrates our commitment to God, it also celebrates God's commitment to us.

At the Baptism of Jesus, the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form as a dove as he stood praying. God was confirming Jesus' identity as his Son in whom he was well pleased and also affirming his calling as the Saviour of the World.

As we journey through this New Year, we may not know what the future holds.

The main thing is knowing the one who holds the future and trusting that he is always there for us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God the Father

God the Son

and God the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Love and prayers,

**Linda**



## ***Intercessions***

Lord Jesus, Eternal Word, you were proclaimed as the Christ by John, the forerunner. Guide your church, and all who proclaim your word, in the paths of wisdom and love.

We pray for the leaders of your church in its many forms throughout the world.

May they, with all your people united in one baptism, draw closer in love and be united in your service.

We ask your blessing on those who lead our church: on our bishops, Julian, Philip and Jill, and on Archdeacon David.

We pray for Fr John, Fr Chris, Linda and Captain David, giving thanks for their ministries among us.

We pray too for Ron and Jacqueline, our parish wardens, and for those who work to support our parish and our worshipping communities.

We hold before you the person you are calling to minister to our parish, and those with the task of appointing them. May they be guided by your Holy Spirit.

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

Lord Jesus, you baptise with the Spirit and with fire. Cleanse your people of indifference, self-interest and despair. Strengthen and renew us to withstand all the trials and challenges of the faith.

We pray for all who find their lives threatened or disrupted because of their faith, among them your children in India, Nigeria and Indonesia.

Bless and strengthen those called by you to work in difficult and dangerous situations to bring your light to a dark world.

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

Lord Jesus, you were humble and obedient in your baptism, ready for service.

Speak to the hearts of those who rule and govern our world, and give them the courage to uphold justice and mercy for all peoples.

May they lead the nations in the paths of peace and righteousness.

We we pray for our government and members of parliament. Grant them wisdom and discernment in the decisions they must make.

We hold before you those whose lives are damaged and destroyed by violence and warfare, or by extremes of weather. We pray for those driven from their homes and communities, among the people of Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Yemen, and all struggling to survive in refugee camps this winter.

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

Lord Jesus, you call all to come to you, and make no distinction between people.

Teach us our dependence on your grace.

We pray for all who live and work in our parish and for those who work for their health, comfort and wellbeing. May they know the presence of your Spirit in their lives. We remember those in our communities who are without work or home, and those struggling to hold families together. We pray too for those who use the Community Pantry and foodbanks in our city.

We ask your blessing on those who work to support and encourage those in need.

May our worship lead us to action as we serve you by serving all those you have given us as neighbours.

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

Lord Jesus, fulfilment of the promises of old, you give hope to all who suffer or are in need, fear or despair.

We pray for those who are sick in body, mind or spirit, and those unable to care for themselves.

Bless those who work to bring them healing, comfort and relief. We hold before you the staff of our NHS hospitals and emergency services.

We hold before you those who need your healing touch: those named on our prayer list, those known to us, and those in our communities suffering from covid. May they know the assurance and joy of your presence.

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

Lord Jesus, bringer of hope, you share with all the faithful the riches of eternal life.

We pray for those who are in the presence of death and those who mourn the loss of a loved one - may they know the comfort of your presence.

We remember before you those who have died this week in the ongoing conflicts and disasters of our world.

We pray for those known to us who have died recently, and those whose anniversary is around this time.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

Lord Jesus, beloved Son of the Father, you anoint us with the gift of your Holy Spirit.

Remind us of our baptismal vows, so that our faith may be renewed and strengthened, and we rejoice to serve you in our daily lives.

We bring to you now the silent prayers of our hearts for ourselves and those we love.

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

*Merciful Father, Accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ Amen*

If you would like to sing:

Hail to the Lord's anointed  
<https://youtu.be/EkrepBvrLI4>

Be Thou my vision  
<https://youtu.be/DORM8ttY1ws>

Songs of thankfulness and praise  
<https://youtu.be/XjT2SPzLw90>

Do not be afraid  
<https://youtu.be/v2rO0LhSWJ0>

Make way, make way  
<https://youtu.be/aICQ7fb0hEA>

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## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January Second Sunday of Epiphany

9:30am Morning Worship at The Church of the Ascension  
11:00am Morning Worship at St. Mary Magdalene's

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### ***Mid-week services and activities***

Tuesday 10am – 12 noon – Community Pantry at ASC  
Tuesday 11am – Service at Preston Private Nursing Home  
Wednesday 10am – Eucharist at SMM  
church remains open for private prayer until 12 noon.

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### ***Dates for your Diary***

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January:**  
**PCC Meeting at the Church of the Ascension**  
**Starting at 7pm with a Eucharist**  
**followed by meeting at 7.30pm.**

#### **PARISH OFFICE**

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