



Sunday Readings

11th January 2026 - The Baptism of the Lord

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
who, when Christ had been baptized in the River
Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon
him,
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,
grant that your children by adoption,
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,
may always be well pleasing to you.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7

Thus says the LORD:
Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.
I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.'

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 28:1-4. 9-10. R/. v.11.

R/. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

O give the Lord, you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. **R/.**

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **R/.**

The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. **R/.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10: 34-38

In those days: Peter opened his mouth and said: 'Truly
I understand that God shows no partiality, but in
every nation anyone who fears him and does what is
right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent
to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus
Christ — he is Lord of all — you yourselves know what
happened throughout all Judea, beginning from
Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how
God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit
and with power. He went about doing good and
healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God
was with him.'

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation

Cf.Mk 9:8

Alleluia, alleluia!
The heavens opened and the Father's voice
resounded: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to
him.'
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:13-17

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan
to John, to be baptised by him. John would have
prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptised by you,
and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him,
'Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all
righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus
was baptised, immediately he went up from the water,
and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he
saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and
coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from
heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am
well pleased.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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.



The Baptism of the Lord

The Word of God

Saint of the Week



Because we live in the power of the Holy Spirit, in the power of our baptism, we are always orientated to the future, to the coming Kingdom. It's a difficult thought, for it is hard to imagine the future as keenly as we can imagine the past, but we have a lot of help. We have the Spirit of God, leading us on, the Spirit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-

control. We have the picture of the Kingdom that is the mass, a vision of a world without conflict and pain, a world in which all are reconciled. We have the power of the Holy Trinity pulling us on to a glorious future. We just have to step, not back, but forward to be lifted into a future that is a glorious affirmation of all that it is to be human under God. We just need to take that step, I repeat, not back, but forward.

It helps us to remember that the future is where God's promises are, the God who is reconciling all things to himself and who is bringing all things to fulfilment. All things are getting better, even if that process is far from clear to us now and, of course, we have to remember that as we are not there yet, we, and those around us are not yet perfect.

Prayer of the Week

A Prayer of St Aelred of Rievaulx

Sweet Lord, release wisdom from the seat of your greatness that it may be with us, toil with us, work with us, speak in us; may it, according to your good pleasure, direct our thoughts, words, and all our works and counsels, to the honour of your Name, the profit of the community, and our salvation; through our friend Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Monday 12th January 2026

**St Aelred of Rievaulx
(1110 - 1167)**



Aelred was born in Hexham in around 1109. His family was well connected and at an early age he was sent into the service of King David of Scotland. There he rose to the position of Master of the Royal Household. In time he became attracted

to the religious life, but he was also much attached to the life he lived at court and to King David himself. It took a considerable personal struggle for him at the age of 24 to give up his secular pursuits and to enter the newly founded Cistercian monastery of Rievaulx in Yorkshire in 1133. At 34 he moved from there and took charge of a new foundation in Lincolnshire. But within four years he had returned to Rievaulx as Abbot where he remained for the rest of his life. He died in 1167.

Aelred is remembered both for his energy and for his gentleness. His writings and his sermons were characterised by a deep love of the Scriptures and by a very personal love of Christ 'as friend and Saviour'. He was sensitive and understanding in his dealings with his fellow monks and under his direction the monastery at Rievaulx grew to an extraordinary size. He did not enjoy robust health and the last ten years of his life were marked by a long and painful illness. His position as Abbot required him to travel on visitation to monasteries not only in England and Scotland but even in France, and the physical suffering and exhaustion which this incurred seems to have been considerable. A contemporary account of the last year of his life describes him as being left helpless on his bed unable to speak or move for an hour after celebrating his morning Mass.

Aelred was a singularly attractive figure, a man of great spiritual power but also of warm friendliness and humanity. He has been called the St Bernard of the North.