

**MASSES— 8th to 15th Jan 23**

Sun	08	9.30am	Deceased members of Keeney family, Aston William (Good health) Mabel Braganza (B'day remembrance), George Obi (5th B'day)
		11.30am	Alice Wambui (Spl int), John Charles (Safe recovery)
Mon	09	9.30am	Mary Flanigan (RIP)
Tues	10	9.30am	Peggy Brady (Get well)
Wed	11	9.30am	Felix Miranda (Good health)
Thurs	12	9.30am	May McCrave (RIP)
Fri	13	9.30am	Pope Benedict VI (RIP)
Sat	14	9.30am	Sr. Silvana Rodrigues (RIP)
Sun	15	9.30am	Stephanie Osagie (B'day), Arthur J. Belson (Spl int) Kieran Lehane (RIP)
		11.30am	People of the parish

**Lectors**

**08/01/2023**

**15/01/2023**

9.30am	Anthonia A. , Nicholas (R)	Desma, Creshel (R)
11.30am	Tasha, Florence E. (R)	Bishop Ullathorne Students

**Eucharistic Ministers**

<b>9.30am</b>	Betty O (E)	11.30am	Patricia, Vera (E)
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**The sick of the Parish:** Rose Hogan, Norah Griffith, Mary Mulrone, Gerard Griffith, Maria Clear, Ann Crowley, Christopher Browne, Jarek, Benny & Bridie McAndrew, Teresa McAffer, Andrea, Chinasa Okosisi, John, Mr. Tran, Damian Curristan, Owen Darroch.

**Anniversaries during the week :** Thomas Patrick Joyce, Patrick Gannon, Nora O'Brien, Michael Hogan, Jim Davis, Con O'Driscoll, Eileen Helen Teresa Coleman, Thomas Joyce , Mary Ellen Healy, Thomas Earley, Mark Brennan, Rev Fr Richard Placid Rea, Winifred Browne, Peter McCabe, Kathleen Kooghan, Isabel Carson, Thomas Shaughnessy, Margaret Cooke, Ethna Veronica Bannon, Isabel Read, Bridget Christine Barnes, Michael Edward Terence Thornburgh Hanbury , Neil Ferry, Andrew Doyle, Patrick Doyle, Daniel Lanaghan .

**Saint of week: Angela of Foligno:** People who live in the United States today can understand Saint Angela's temptation to increase her sense of self-worth by accumulating money, fame or power. Striving to possess more and more, she became more and more self-centered. When she realized she was priceless because she was created and loved by God, she became very penitential and very charitable to the poor. What had seemed foolish early in her life now became very important. The path of self-emptying she followed is the path all holy men and women must follow. The liturgical feast of Saint Angela of Foligno is celebrated on January 7.

**GRATITUDE**

“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.”

“Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds.”



A.J. Missions

St. Osburg

Ss. Mary & Benedict

St. Elizabeth

**Parish Newsletter –Baptism of the Lord — 8th to 15th Jan 2023**

**BAPTISM A MARK OF OWNERSHIP**

Livestock theft and disputes among African farmers were solved by the technique of branding, which was used so as to identify the owner of the animal. A heated branding iron was pressed against an animal with the intention of leaving an identifying mark. The mark showed who the right owner was. When the animal went missing, those who found it, new exactly where to return it.

The transatlantic slave trade, degraded the African people and robbed its perpetrators of their humanity. Families and communities were displaced that to find her children the African mother, made a painful ritual of branding her children. Using a red-hot heated rod, she marked them so that, if the slave hunter raided the village, she could identify them in case they were killed or went missing. If in case they were taken to unknown lands, by looking at their body markings, they would identify each other as brothers.

Today, we celebrate the baptism of the Lord. John the Baptist introduced it to mark out those who were ready to change their lives by renunciation of sins and welcome the Messiah. The baptism of John made those who received it to belong to the awaited Saviour. It made them a people of the new covenant. It was a mark that indicated which side someone belonged to.

The baptism of John, prepared the people to wait for the coming of the Saviour, but what happens when the Saviour himself joins the que for baptism? This is not for you, John told Jesus, who insisted that he too be baptised, not because he was a sinner, but to purify the waters in which you and I would be baptised and claimed children of God and members of his family the Church. By being baptised in the same waters in which all the people were being baptised, Jesus washed our sins away, shared his mission with us, we became prophets and kings like him, we are priests of God.

When we were baptised, we were marked out for Christ. Baptism implanted in our souls the seal of ownership which can never be taken away from us. Remember the analogy I started with of a farmer marking out his animals or a mother marking out her children in case they were kidnapped. In the same way, the baptism we received is a mark that we belong to Jesus Christ.

In the second reading, St. Peter has told us that God loves us all, he has no favourites, we are all his children. Baptism, made us a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people that belong to God.

We have just began a new year 2023. Let us remember that our baptism kept us together as a community, as a family as a parish. Jesus Christ has been at the centre of our life. Because he is the beloved Son, we too in him have become beloved children of God. Let us listen to him, believe in him and follow him. Let us constantly be conscious of who we are, that we are baptised, that we belong to Jesus, that we are a people on pilgrimage to God. Let us encourage each other to move on towards our eternal destination—God.

