



**UNDERSTANDING ISLAM**  
*For Christians and all who want to  
know Muslims better*

A course is taking place at St Mary's Monastery, 8 Clapham Park Road (entrance opposite main door to church) on Wednesday evenings, 7.30-9.30pm from **7<sup>th</sup> January – 18<sup>th</sup> March**. The course is led by Dr Chris Hewer who, for many years, has been helping people to appreciate the essence of Islam so that Christians and Muslims can live and work together. Please see the leaflet in the porch.

**The Repository** has ordered plenty of new stock and will open as soon as it arrives.

**SOMETHING TO PRAY ABOUT**

We can join Pope Benedict in his prayer intentions for January:



*General:*

That the family may become more and more a place of training in charity, personal growth and transmission of the faith.

*Mission:*

That the different Christian confessions, aware of the need for a new evangelisation in this period of profound transformation, may be committed to announcing the Good News and moving towards the full unity of all Christians in order to offer a more credible testimony of the Gospel.

**Next Sunday will be Peace Sunday** which offers us an opportunity to reflect on the Holy Father's World Peace Day message. This year's theme is "Com-bating Poverty – Building Peace". **Pax Christi**, the international Catholic Movement for Peace, has produced prayers and resources to help us reflect on the theme and on its work. Pax Christi – the Peace of Christ – is involved in campaigning on issues such as the arms trade and the Middle East and offers programmes that develop education for peace and seek alternatives to violence. The 2009 World Peace Day message encourages us to explore the links between poverty and war an conflict, and to pray and act to create a more just and peaceful world.

If you would like to offer some practical support to Pax Christi, please pick up one of the envelopes at the back of the church and give what you can. To join Pax Christi or to find out more about its work, pick up a leaflet from the back of the church or write to: Pax Christi, Watford Way, Hendon, London NW4 4TY or visit [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)

**Recently deceased:** We pray for **Dagmar Linderholm**, late of Leithcote Gardens, who died on New Year's Day. Her funeral Mass will be here at English Martyrs on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30am. Our sympathy and prayers are with her sorrowing family and friends.

**Thank you** for your generous Christmas offerings, gifts, cards and messages – they are much appreciated.

Thank you also to all who contributed in any way to our Christmas celebrations, either in the liturgy or by preparing the church. Today, the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, is the last day of the Christmas season. *Fr Gerry*

**Catholic Children's Society – change of name:** In order to comply with the Government's new Equality legislation, the society will work under the new name of **Cabrini Children's Society** from 1<sup>st</sup> January. This will enable the Society to continue fundraising in parishes and schools. Please see the noticeboard for full details.

**White Flower Appeal:** The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children will be holding its annual White Flower Appeal this weekend. In common with the Catholic Church, SPUC defends and upholds the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. Please give generously to this worthy cause.

**FRIENDLY MONK (January 12th)**

**St Aelred**, the son of a Hexham priest, was born in Northumbria in 1110 and ended his days as a monk of Rievaulx, north Yorkshire, in 1167. He is probably



best known for the book he wrote entitled "Spiritual Friendship". In some ways controversial, Aelred fought against the idea that a monk should not enjoy friendship with particular individuals, although this was the

thought of the time. It seems so obvious to us in our century but in his day Aelred had to argue that God created men and women for friendship and that to live without friendship was to live like a beast and not a caring human being. He pointed to the importance of Lazarus, Martha and Mary in Jesus' own life and he pointed out that the spiritual basis of friendship allows as person to come closer to God as well as bringing all the benefits and consolations that intimacy with another entails.

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#### SUNDAY MASSES

SATURDAY  
6.30pm

SUNDAY  
9.30 & 11.30am  
5.30pm

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

MON - SAT  
9.30am  
TUES Eucharistic  
Service

#### CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY  
10.00-10.30am  
&  
5.30-6.15pm

All Mass  
Intentions are as  
recorded in the  
**Mass  
Intentions  
Book**

#### LITURGY TEAMS

Today:  
**LUKE**  
Next Sunday:  
**JOHN**

# Church of the English Martyrs - Streatham

For the hard of hearing, an Induction Loop is fitted in the Church

## Communique

11<sup>th</sup> January 2009

The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ

## BAPTISM RING?

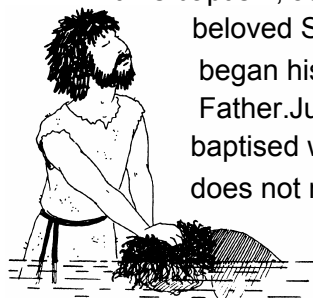
If a man or woman wears a ring on their finger, it's often a sign that they are married. It's a way to remind themselves and others that they've committed themselves to another person totally and forever. If they're to be faithful to each other, they have to live out their commitment day in, day out.

The same is true of baptism. Baptism is a sacramental sign that we have been given salvation in Christ. But just being baptised doesn't mean we're saved. Our baptism has to be a genuine sign, like the ring. We have to live out our baptism rather than simply acting as though it was something that was over and done with one Sunday in church long ago.

The difference between a wedding and a marriage is that a wedding only lasts a day but a marriage lasts a lifetime and needs

### WORD FOR TODAY

At his baptism, Jesus was revealed as the beloved Son of God as he publicly began his mission of revealing the Father. Just because most of us were baptised when we were babies, it does not mean that baptism is a childish thing. To



walk daily in baptism means to accept the challenge of being part of a kingdom whose values challenge the world. And it means not being afraid or embarrassed about wearing our baptism on our sleeves.

working at day after day.

Perhaps we could say that a Christening takes a day but a baptism takes a lifetime. Christians need to work at their baptism just like a married couple need to work at their marriage.

When a person is baptised by being fully immersed in water, what we are witnessing is really a type of funeral. We are saying that this person is now dead and buried, going down into the tomb with Christ and rising again to new life in Christ.

So when we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, we are reminded that every day brings a fresh opportunity for us to work on our own

baptism: to offer God the best we have. Baptism is not a step that some adults can take. For those of us who have already taken it, today's feast is an occasion for thanksgiving and recommitment.



**Do join us for our Monday evening meetings at 7.30pm in the church to reflect on the scripture readings for the following Sunday. Those adults preparing for baptism or reception into the Church, and members of the liturgy team for the following Sunday also attend. You are most welcome to join us**



### Next week's Readings: Sunday

Samuel 3: 3-10, 19; Psalm 39; Corinthians 6: 1-13, 17-20; John 1: 35-42.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Fridays 8.25am.**

**Feasts this week: Sat: St Anthony, abbot.**