

John the Baptist

MORNING PRAYER

Monday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

REFLECTION

The 25th June is the longest day of the year, and its the day the Church chooses to celebrate the birthday of St John the Baptist, exactly six months away from the birthday of Jesus. From the 25th June onwards, the days begin to shorten as we look towards the light of Christ coming into the darkness of the world.

The Church calls John the Baptist a 'Prophet', someone chosen by God to puts his message into human words.

But of all the prophets who spoke to the people of Israel, John the Baptist as the last of the prophets, is the one most associated with *seeing*, not speaking.

John recognised Jesus, in the womb of Mary, when he too was in the womb of his own mother Elizabeth.

John also recognised Jesus on the banks of the River Jordan. His job was to point out Jesus to everyone, so that they too can begin to recognise him as the 'Lamb of God'.

John the Baptist was the prophet who fell silent, because the Word of God was made flesh in the person of Jesus.

So instead of speaking, John just simply *points* towards Jesus. At this time of the year, when daylight is at its longest, we can ask ourselves how well we really see things as they are, and ask for the grace to recognise God at work in the world in which we live.

PRAYERS

Let us pray for those who promote the culture of abortions and refuse to recognise the human dignity of unborn babies.

May they be enlightened by the Word made flesh.

St John the Baptist: **Pray for them.**

In the name....

Birthdays

Tuesday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

For many long months before your birthday, you had been alive and living safely in the womb of your mother.

It is strange to think that the day you celebrate as being so special, your birthday, was really a very *traumatic* day, full of stress, and danger and probably full of great pain.

It is a blessing that you can't remember your first birthday! You were forced to leave the dark safety of the womb, and open your eyes on this world. But that was a moment to celebrate!

Every year, it is good to celebrate your birthday properly, because it was the beginning of the adventure of your life.

But God willing, the adventure has many more chapters to unfold.

It is also good to realise that your really stressful and difficult days are *nothing* compared to your first birthday, and that painful experiences can often lead to growth and maturity.

PRAYERS

Let us thank Almighty God for the gift of life, and pray for our parents, who co-operated with Him bringing us to our birthday. Lord, hear us.... **Lord graciously hear us.**

Let us pray for all of those living in the wombs of their mothers, that they be given the chance to grow into the image of the Son of God.

Lord, hear us...

Let us say together the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father...

St John the Baptist: **Pray for us,**

House Saint: **Pray for us.**

In the name....

Dying into Life

Wednesday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

As well as the birth of John the Baptist, at this time we also celebrate the feasts of St John Fisher, St Thomas More, and St Alban, the first English martyr.

We celebrate their feast days not on their human birthdays, but on the days that they died, leaving this world and being born into the world that awaits them as it await us too.

As martyrs, their death day was also their birthday into Paradise.

On your birthday, your mother laboured to give birth to you.

But on the day of your death, your mother Mary will labour to bring you to birth into the place that has been prepared for with her divine Son.

For this reason, every time we say the *Hail Mary*, we finish the prayer by asking her to pray for us *at the hour of our death*.

PRAYERS

So let us say together the Hail Mary and really *think* about what we are praying for.

Hail Mary...

In the name....

St John the Baptist

Thursday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Rosary intention for the unborn.

THE SECOND JOYFUL MYSTERY: THE VISITATION

*At the approach of Mary and Jesus, the child in the womb of
Elizabeth leapt for joy.*

*1x Our Father,
10x Hail Mary In the name...*

Friday

From the Morning Prayer of the Church

THE BENEDICTUS

**Little child, you shall be called
a 'Prophet of God the Most High'.**

**You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,**

**to make known to his people their salvation
through the forgiveness of all their sins,**

**the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.**

**He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and guide us into the way of peace.**

Glory be...