

Thought for the Week
12th January 2020
The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

So, Christmas is over for another year. The decorations have been put away, our lives return to a 'normal' routine and around me I notice people becoming less joyful and more careworn. 'It's the post-Christmas blues' I was told – 'just returning to normal life'. I understand this, but today's readings remind us that 'normal life' should be joyful. We are God's 'children by adoption' the Collect tells us, a people chosen by God to 'serve the cause of right' (Isiah 42:6), We are called as His children, to 'give the Lord glory' (Ps 28:1) and we are asked to do this as one family, for God accepts and loves 'anybody of any nationality' (Acts 10:35). Is this not cause to rejoice? Even in the quieter days of January, even in the darker days that follow a loss, even in the trials and tribulations of living in this modern world, with all its pressures and conflicts?

Across the world, at macro and micro level, there are many problems, politically, socially and economically. We, as individuals, encounter some – or perhaps all of these on a daily basis or at some time in one form or another. However, we should approach these troubles with calm patience, trusting in the Father's love, holding strong to our faith, and supporting one another. It is hard at times, but we are blessed in this parish to have leaders and parishioners who care, to have people who live their faith, people to whom we can turn should we need to, people who can be the inspiration that helps us to be better ourselves.

Yes, Christmas is over – but we can, and should, take the joy of Christmas with us wherever we go – and share it with all we meet, rejoicing in the knowledge that we are sons and daughters of the living God. I hope that throughout 2020 I will be able to do that, and that you will too.

A Parishioner