

# SENIOR SCHOOL

*St Mary's Fortnightly Newsletter for teenagers*

**"Whoever walks  
with the wise  
becomes wise,  
but the  
companion of fools  
suffers harm."**

**Proverbs 13:20**



## WHAT'S GOING ON @ ST MARYS

Christmas ends on 6th January when the Wise Men visit, twelfth night as it's also called. The cribs are in church until 2nd Feb, the 40th day, as St Luke tells us the baby Jesus was presented in the Temple on this day.

## A SAINT TO KNOW

Can a leopard change his spots? Well, once there was a guy called Saul who went round killing Christians. One day he put that all behind him, saw Jesus, got baptised and his name was changed to Paul. This St Paul wrote most of the New Testament and we ask his prayers today especially on 25th January.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Why is water used in Baptism? Baptism is about becoming a member of the Body of Christ. Water is used because Jesus was baptised in water and as a sign of purification, a way to symbolise the washing away of sin and moral uncleanness. After our baptism we are born anew.

## WHO DO YOU TO LOOK UP TO?

Growing up there were lots of singers, actors and popstars that I dreamt of being. I sang their songs using a hairbrush in the mirror to my pretend fans, copied their dance moves from their music videos and interviewed myself on why I was so amazing.

But what is it about these people that made us want to be like them? What did they do to earn our respect? This question is such an important one, because choosing our role models and who we look up to determines how we behave. The Bible tells us to "Be imitators" of Christ.

When you became baptised your parents chose a set of Godparents for a special lifetime role in helping to bring you up in the Christian faith. They are asked to be an example to the newly baptised in the way they go about their Christian lives. Having people in your life who's actions are rooted in faith is the easiest way to live a life pleasing to God.

Whether it's your uncle, Godmother or even a friend, find someone who's kindness, hope and love inspires you to make better decisions and live a fulfilling life..

"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." - John 8:12



## **BAPTISM /CHRISTENING (MEANS THE SAME THING)**

*by Father Morris*

There's lots of survival guides out there, I often see people reading them on the tube: "The game of life and how to succeed," and other such naff titles. They all omit the obvious problem with people's lives: the need for God. Blessed are those who know they need God.

Baptism makes us members of the Body of Christ, ensuring our lives are united with the life of Jesus Christ. We are buried in to His death and raised with Him to eternal life (Romans 6:4). We are therefore given everything we need in Baptism to get to Heaven, which is a wonderful demonstration of God's love and kindness.

Sadly a minority of Christians think that baptising babies doesn't work, that it needs topping up when they are adults, when they "understand the faith," when they can make the profession themselves, they need "believers' baptism" (not a term in the Bible). In the Bible we hear of "households" being baptised (Acts 10:48, 16:15 and 33, I Corinthians 7:14). This term specifically would have meant slaves and children were being baptised. This was shockingly radical! It meant the Christian community realised Baptism to be about God's grace and not a test of individuals based on the world's view.

Baptism also cleanses us of our sin. We're all born with some inherited guilt, which the Church calls "Original Sin." We see this concept in the Psalms, for example: "Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me." Baptism is a fresh start. Sadly we will sin again and we are given ways of dealing with that, apologising through confession and being rehabilitated through the Mass and through acts of charity and devotion.

As we get older people will start asking us to be godparents and it's a chance for us to reflect on how we live out our discipleship of Jesus Christ. Being a godparent is being a role model. Sadly too many of us have just accepted that the next generation is going to be less Christian than we are. Our prayer should be that our godchildren will be more devout and more faithful to Christ than we are. They'll learn our good habits but sadly also our bad habits and so it is with extra resolve that we seek to ditch that which we don't want to pass on to others.

God looks on us all with immense love, seeing us reborn in the waters of baptism.

**Keep in touch with us at St Marys**

**<https://www.facebook.com/StMarysLansdowneRoad/>**

**Email: [s.marysoffice@btinternet.com](mailto:s.marysoffice@btinternet.com)**

**Website: <https://www.smarystottenham.org/>**

**Phone: +4420 8808 6644**