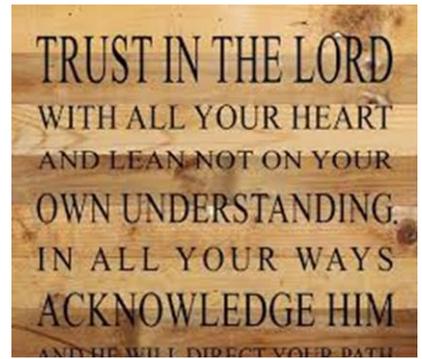




Coloma Catholic Life.



Baptism of the Lord - Sunday 10th January



Christians commemorate the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist; they recall how at this event the heavens were opened and a voice was heard proclaiming Jesus, while God’s spirit descended on him in the form of a dove. During this event God was manifest as three persons in one – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The first

miracle of Jesus, performed at Cana in Galilee, is also remembered at this time. It brings to a close Christmastide in the Catholic Church.

The God Who Speaks



Sunday of the Word of God is Sunday 24th January. In his Apostolic Letter issued on 30th September 2019, Pope Francis instituted the annual observance of the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time as “Sunday of the Word of God”, devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God. The full text of his letter is here:

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190930_aperuit-illis.html

Pope Francis



Prayer Intention for January:

Human Fraternity.

‘May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.’

Video:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-01/pope-s-january-prayer-intention-at-the-service-of-fraternity.html>

Tweet: The Father says to each one of us, as He did to Jesus “You are my beloved Son”. We are God’s beloved children. This is our deepest identity. It is the first point of the spiritual life and we are reminded about it by Jesus’ first public gesture.

Liturgical Year

Week: Baptism of the Lord

Colour: White

Echoes of God: Journeying with the Word of God



Run by David McLoughlin this is a journey through the whole Bible over the course of seven weeks. The course can be downloaded via the link below:

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/sunday-of-the-word-of-god/echoes-of-god-journeying-with-the-word-of-god/>

Religious Festivals This Week

Birthday of Swami Vivekananda 12th January - Hinduism

Born Narendra Nath Datta in 1863 in Calcutta, he was an Indian Hindu monk who became the chief disciple of the 19th century saint Ramakrishna. Vivekananda, as he became known, was a key figure in the introduction of the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world and helped to develop Hinduism during the latter part of the 19th century to the stage where it held the status of a major world religion. He died in 1902. He pioneered the development of the Ramakrishna Mission and the creation of the Ramakrishna Vedanta Centre movement first in India and then throughout the world, travelling widely and emphasising the devotional and social aspects of the teaching and practice of his beloved Guru, Ramakrishna.



Makar Sankranti / Lohri / Pongal 13th January – Hinduism - 13th – 14th January



Sankranti (Sangrand in Punjabi) is the start of a new zodiac sign i.e. the date is based on the solar rather than the lunar calendar. Tamils celebrate Pongal and eat a rice dish which gives the festival its name. For many Hindus it is a day for almsgiving and patching up quarrels and disagreements. Punjabis (including some Sikhs) celebrate the day as Lohri. Fires are lit outside and peanuts and sesame sweets are eaten round them. The traditional Punjabi meal consists of cornmeal chapatis and a mustard leaf dish. If a baby boy has been born during the previous year

he is carried around the fire.

Saints of the Week

Saint Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot - 12th January

Of noble birth, Aelred was reared at the court of King David I of Scotland, whose life story he later wrote and for whom he was royal steward. He entered the Cistercian abbey of Rievaulx about 1134, and from 1143 to 1147 he was abbot of Revesby in Lincolnshire. In late 1147 he became abbot of Rievaulx.

An adviser to kings as well as to ecclesiastics, Aelred in 1162 persuaded King Henry II of England to ally with King Louis VII of France in support of Pope Alexander III against the Holy Roman emperor Frederick I Barbarossa. Despite poor health,

Aelred led a severely ascetic life and made numerous visits to Cistercian houses in England, Scotland, and France. His spirituality, his Christocentric doctrine, and, in particular, his writings—considered among the finest produced in England during the Middle Ages—highly influenced the Cistercians and earned him the title



of “the Bernard of the north” (after the celebrated reformer Bernard of Clairvaux). By 1166 illness halted his missions.

Aelred’s surviving works deal with either devotion or history. *De spirituali amicitia* (*Spiritual Friendship*), considered to be his greatest work, is a Christian counterpart of Cicero’s *De amicitia* and designates Christ as the source and ultimate impetus of spiritual friendship. *Speculum caritatis* (*The Mirror of Charity*), which Aelred wrote at Bernard’s insistence, is a treatise on monastic life. His historical works include the incomplete *Genealogia regum Anglorum* (“Genealogy of the English Kings”) and *Vita S. Eduardi Confessoris* (*The Life of Saint Edward, King and Confessor*), written in honour of the translation of St. Edward the Confessor’s body in 1163, which he witnessed. His last work is *De anima* (“On the Soul”). *De spirituali amicitia* was translated in 1942 by Hugh Talbot, and in 1952 Talbot translated Aelred’s *De anima* and various sermons.

Saint Hilary, Bishop, Doctor 13th January



This staunch defender of the divinity of Christ was a gentle and courteous man, devoted to writing some of the greatest theology on the Trinity, and was like his Master in being labeled a “disturber of the peace.” In a very troubled period in the Church, his holiness was lived out in both scholarship and controversy. He was bishop of Poitiers in France.

Raised a pagan, he was converted to Christianity when he met his God of nature in the Scriptures. His wife was still living when he was chosen, against his will, to be the bishop of Poitiers in France. He was soon taken up with battling what became the scourge of the fourth century, Arianism, which denied the divinity of Christ.

The heresy spread rapidly. Saint Jerome said “The world groaned and marveled to find that it was Arian.” When Emperor Constantius ordered all the bishops of the West to sign a condemnation of Athanasius, the great defender of the faith in the East, Hilary refused and was banished from France to far off Phrygia. Eventually he was called the “Athanasius of the West.”

While writing in exile, he was invited by some semi-Arians (hoping for reconciliation) to a council the emperor called to counteract the Council of Nicea. But Hilary predictably defended the Church, and when he sought public debate with the heretical bishop who had exiled him, the Arians, dreading the meeting and its outcome, pleaded with the emperor to send this troublemaker back home. Hilary was welcomed by his people.

Take risks in your life..
If you win; you may lead..
If you loose; you may guide..
- **Swami Vivekananda**

