

# AMPLEFORTH ABBEY

## 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (A)

The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me before he was before me. I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

## CHANGING THE GUARD



John the Baptist is on the frontier of two worlds: that of the Old Covenant and the New. While fully grounded in Israel's prophetic heritage, he points towards the radical change now dawning with Christ's public ministry. Instead of thwarted ambition and resentment, John offers a model of humble and joyful recognition that he has done his duty and now gives way to one greater than he. Like Simeon in the Temple, he has received the privilege of heralding the one so long awaited by Israel, and is filled with joy at having been faithful to his mission as he, John, moves towards his own martyrdom. This selfless 'changing of the guard' could be a lesson for those in every area of life that the manner of one's *leaving* a task has as great a potential for witness to the Gospel as one's performance of it.

## MASS TIMES IN THE ABBEY CHURCH

Sun.	16 Jan	2 <sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY (A)	10:00
Mon.	17 Jan	Mem. St. Antony of Egypt	12:35
Tues.	18 Jan	OCTAVE for Christian Unity	12:35
Weds.	19 Jan	Mem. St. Wulstan	12:35
Thurs.	20 Jan	Mem. SS Fabian & Sebastian	12:35
Fri.	21 Jan	Mem. St. Agnes	12:35
Sat	22 Jan	Feria	12:35

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## CROSSING THE DIVIDE



Cultural conflicts are much in the news – e.g. the plight of Christians in the Middle East and Asia. St. Wulstan (d. 1095) – a monk and the sole Anglo-Saxon bishop under William I is an encouraging example of how much can be achieved by patience and wise counsel. This is despite the shock St. Wulstan experienced at originally being required by William to yield his see to a Norman. Tradition has it that he visited the tomb of the late, revered, Edward the Confessor, who had appointed him; and placed his crosier at the tomb. No one else was able to withdraw it – and William relented; leaving Wulstan in his diocese of Worcester. William grew to appreciate his wisdom and his unique role as a bridge between old and new worlds.

## NAME-DROPPING

Pope Benedict has urged a return to Biblical names in infant baptism. Of course, the deeper reasons for this – one's integration within the Church's heritage, and expression of faith in the communion of saints – suffice in themselves. However, there are quite enough potential flashpoints



in family life without the millstone of a catchy – but rapidly-dated – name added to the tinderbox...

## WEEKDAY MONASTIC OFFICE IN THE ABBEY CHURCH

**6.00 a.m. Matins**

**7.30 a.m. Lauds**

**8.45 a.m. Little Hour**

**6.00 p.m. Vespers**

**8:15 p.m. Compline**