

**A festival for June  
Birth of St. John the Baptist  
June 24th**

This year this festival falls on a Sunday. The biblical story of John, the son of Elizabeth and Zechariah, begins even before his birth. His leaping in his mother's womb is seen as an anticipation of the birth of his Redeemer and the good news of Jesus Christ is related in all four gospels as beginning with John as Christ's forerunner. He seemed to have a predestined rôle akin to that of the Old Testament prophets, particularly in encouraging the people of God to live lives worthy of their calling and in imminent anticipation of the coming of the Messiah. He is seen as endowed with grace from before his birth, and consequently the Church has always kept the celebration of this day with greater solemnity than that of his death (on August 29th.)

Almighty God,  
by whose providence your servant John the Baptist  
was wonderfully born,  
and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour  
by the preaching of repentance:  
lead us to repent according to his preaching  
and, after his example,  
constantly to speak the truth,  
boldly to rebuke vice,  
and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**St. Augustine of Canterbury,  
Highgate**



*June 24th, Birth of St. John the Baptist*

**CHURCH NEWS**

**June 2018**

## The Vicar's Letter

Dear friends,

Twenty miles from Highgate is the town of St. Alban's. At its heart is the fine abbey of St. Alban, the cathedral church of the Diocese of St. Alban's. It is said to have been built on the site of the execution of Alban, and seems to have been a place of pilgrimage since the fourth century. With many twists and turns, destruction and re-building, a church has stood on the site bearing witness to the story of Alban which itself witnesses to Christ. Alban's story? He is remembered on June 22nd. Alban was a soldier in the Roman city of Verulamium (now St. Alban's) who gave shelter to a Christian priest fleeing from persecution, hiding him in his house for several days. Greatly influenced by his devotion to prayer, Alban received instruction from the priest and was converted. When the priest's hiding-place was discovered, Alban dressed himself in the priest's cloak and was arrested in his place. Tortured by the Roman authorities, Alban refused to renounce his faith. He was beheaded probably in the year 250, and so became the first British martyr.

Alban's is a story of change in response to faith seen in another, and then that faith becoming his own. I wonder if you find any parallels in your own life? Do you share your faith? Has another seen it and been positively influenced? How might this happen? In every generation Alban reminds us to live out our faith.

With my best wishes and prayers,  
Fr. Peter

## Church contacts

### VICAR

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### CHURCHWARDENS

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*The following may be contacted through the church  
phone number and email address:*

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Emma Cardoso	Sunday School
Sergio Cardoso	Treasurer
Mary Maclean	Electoral Roll
John Morley	PCC Secretary
Toby Nangle	Gift Aid
Carol Noble	Rotas
Natalie Sodeau	Safeguarding
Richard Winder	Servers

**Enquiries with regard to baptism, weddings  
and banns of marriage should be made to  
Fr. Peter**

## Looking ahead

### July

1 St. Augustine's Festival, and concert at 6pm

### August

12 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

### September

20/21 London Open House Weekend

## The Vicar's Notices

**ORGAN RECITAL** on Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3-4pm as part of the Stroud Green Festival ***Borrowing Bach*** by Marion Bettsworth, who has played several times for us on a Sunday. Followed by tea with the organist. This recital explores relationships between borrowing and "the borrowed" in sacred and secular organ music, played on our magnificent organ.

### **ORDINATION OF FR. MATTHEW TOPHAM**

Fr. Matthew used to be a worshipper here and was ordained deacon last year to serve as curate at St. Mary's, Tottenham. Please pray for him as he is ordained priest on June 24<sup>th</sup> and presides at Mass for the first time on June 25<sup>th</sup>, at St. Mary's.

### **SUMMER CONCERT**

We are hosting a youth choir 'Unisono' from Germany who Sunday July 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm who will be performing 'Missa in Jazz' by Peter Schindler. Free admittance.

## Calendar for June 2018

- 2 Mass at 12 noon
- 3 CORPUS CHRISTI  
Parish Mass, Procession of the Blessed  
Sacrament and Benediction at 10am
- 10 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY  
Parish Mass at 10am
- 17 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY  
Parish Mass at 10am
- 20 Mass at 10am
- 23 Mass at 12 noon  
Organ recital at 3pm
- 24 BIRTH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
Parish Mass at 10am
- 27 Mass at 10am
- 30 Mass at 12 noon

## Bible readings for the Parish Mass

- 3 CORPUS CHRISTI  
Genesis 14.18-20  
1 Corinthians 11.23-26  
John 6.51-58
- 10 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY  
Genesis 3.8-15  
2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1  
Mark 3.20-35
- 17 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY  
Ezekiel 17.22-24;  
2 Corinthians 5.6-10, 14-17  
Mark 4.26-34
- 24 BIRTH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
Isaiah 40.1-11  
Acts 13.14b-26  
Luke 1.57-66, 80