

May 2, 2021

Dear parishioners,

We pray that the true joy of the Easter Season – the glory of the Resurrection of Jesus – continues to be with us each day.

This time of the year, the celebration of Baptism comes to mind. It is the season of new life and hope. Of course, since I was baptized as a baby, I do not have direct recollections of that awesome moment of grace that I experienced personally. However, I do have many wonderful and vivid memories of celebrating the sacrament of baptism as a member of the clergy. I recall performing my first baptism as a transitional deacon together with a young family at the parish in Glastonbury where I was assigned for the summer all those years ago.

I fondly remember celebrating the baptisms of my own relatives and close friends; that is always a particular joy. Of course, the many sacramental experiences with parishioners throughout the years at multiple baptismal fonts in different churches are always special. One of the most meaningful baptisms in which I officiated took place in the intensive care unit at a local children's hospital, following strict safety protocols. That was very emotional. God's love and care were palpable in so many ways that day.

Indeed the sacrament of Baptism is truly wonderful. However, do we remember the promises made during the ritual? Are we all trying to live out those promises with courage and fidelity? Turn to Our Lord with hope – and embrace the call to discipleship made known to us through our baptism. Do not be afraid. This is a great opportunity.

Thank you for your faithful witness and generosity.

All the way – to God's embrace.

Sincerely, Father Lavorgna