**9 January**

**The Baptism of Christ**

Eternal Father, who at the baptism

of Jesus revealed him to be your Son,

anointing him with the Holy Spirit:

grant to us, who are born again by water

and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to

our calling as your adopted children;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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**12 January**

**Aelred of Hexham,**

**Abbot 1167**

Almighty God, who endowed

Aelred the Abbot with the gift

of Christian friendship and the

wisdom to lead others in the way

of holiness: grant to your people

that same spirit of mutual affection,

so that, in loving one another, we

may know the love of Christ and

rejoice in the eternal possession of

your supreme goodness; through

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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**12 January**

**Aelred of Hexham**

**Abbot of Rievaulx**

Aelred was born at Hexham in 1109 and he entered

the Cistercian Order at Reivaulx in about 1133, after spending some years in the court of King David of Scotland. He became Abbot of Revesby in 1143 and returned to Rievaulx four years later to become Abbot

and to spend the remainder of his life. He was profoundly influential through his spiritual writings, which he began at the request of Bernard of Clairvaux, the two having a similar approach to the spiritual life. Because of this, Aelred was often called ‘the Bernard of the North’.

He died on this day at Rievaulx in 1167.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**13 January**

**Hilary**

**Bishop of Poitiers,**

**Teacher of the Faith 367**

Everlasting God, whose servant Hilary

steadfastly confessed your Son Jesus Christ

to be both human and divine: grant us his

gentle courtesy to bring to all the message of redemption in the incarnate Christ, who is alive

and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy

Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

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**13 January**

**Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the Faith.**

Hilary was born at Poitiers in about the year 315; his family, though pagan, gave him an excellent education and he was proficient in Latin and Greek. After extensive personal study he was baptised, he tells us, at the age of thirty. He was elected Bishop of the city in the year 350 and immediately became caught up in the Arian controversy, himself asserting that mortals of this world were created to practise moral virtues thus reflecting the one in whose image they are made, the eternal and creative first cause, God, and that Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, is of one substance with the Father. His learning and oratory led to his title of ‘Athanasius of the West’. He was known as a gentle, kind friend to all, even though his writings seemed severe at times. He died in the year 367.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*