

focus on sunday

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 10th January 2021

Wherever there is water, there is life. Jesus' baptism in the Jordan marked the beginning of his life's work, his taking on the fullness of humanity. Our baptism is the source of our Christian vocation.



Baptisms are generally a very joyful ceremony. We are grateful for the gift of life and of love, of a new baby brother or sister in the family; we pray for the child – we wonder what he or she will be and hope for the best. We gather them into the love of Jesus and the community of the parish and wider church. Adult baptism represents the end of a long search and the peace and joy of taking on the gospel of Jesus. At Jesus' baptism he knew the call into service from his love-relationship with God. That is our baptism too.

Then the meaning of Jesus' life was to do what his Father wanted, and to live his life in love. He would live like that, touching closely the lives of his people, especially the sick. He would touch their hearts, and literally their bodies even when they were 'unclean', like people suffering from leprosy. He would do the same today for the people we marginalise and look down on. Nothing human is foreign to Jesus. He plunged into the waters of baptism and linked with all of us in being fully human - part of the human race, showing a particular care for those in need.

Just like the little baby we baptise we all have a similar call - to serve with love in our lives. This is a big part of our identity. The words, 'You are my beloved son or daughter' are spoken to all of us.

Picture the day of your baptism, pray for those who were there then, and give thanks! and offer what we can to the Lord in the loves of our lives.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger



so that there are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and all three of them agree. We accept the testimony of human witnesses, but God's testimony is much greater, and this is God's testimony, given as evidence for his Son.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
John saw Jesus coming towards him and said: **This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.** Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 1:7-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters.....
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.
Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you. Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Is.12:2-6

R. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

1. Truly God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. [R]

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples, declare the greatness of his name. [R]

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. [R]



SECOND READING 1 John 5:1-9

A reading from the first letter of John.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is - keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world - our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness - since the Spirit is the truth -



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: **This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.**

PENITENTIAL ACT

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You bring pardon and peace to the sinner: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You bring light to those in darkness: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us...Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father have mercy on us;

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen



OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:1-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord: Oh! come to the water all you who are thirsty: though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me: listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you,