

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Baptism of the Lord B First Reading

Is 42:1-4. 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11

(R.) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

1. O give the Lord you sons of God, give the Lord glory and power; give the Lord the glory of his name. Adore the Lord in his holy court.

2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of waters; the voice of the Lord, full of power, the voice of the Lord, full of splendour.

3. The God of glory thunders. In his temple they all cry: 'Glory! The Lord sat enthroned over the flood: the Lord sits as king for ever.

(R.) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Second Reading

Acts 10:34-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that

God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

See Mk 9:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 1:7-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

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

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate A Whisper echoing Heaven

Jesus was immersed in the Waters of the River Jordan as though he were a repentant sinner. Why? Jesus wanted to be identified with the mass of sinful humanity. During this great act of solidarity, Jesus clearly had a mystical experience as He emerged from the waters: the Heavens opening, the Spirit descending *like* a dove, and hearing a *bat qol*, a whisper echoing Heaven.

Each of us has been incorporated into Our Lord's Baptism. At whatever age we received Baptism, the Heavens were opened and Divine love and power streamed from Heaven to earth. The Holy Spirit, Divine Lover of humanity, hovered gently. Deep down, at the intimate wellspring of life, the Divine Voice was heard: 'You are my beloved daughter' or 'You are my beloved son, my favour rests on you.' We could pause for a moment to pray that we might wake up each morning with that Divine Voice ringing in our ears, and then re-echoing it in our lives.

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“BAPTISM IS
THE INITIAL
STEP OF A
FAITHFUL
HEART.”



ST BERNARD'S PARISH
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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YEAR B

In the Western rite, we celebrate this weekend the Baptism of Jesus, ending the Christmastide, while ushering the short ordinary time before the season of Lent. At Christmas, we celebrate the Self-revelation of God through the birth of Jesus. During Epiphany we celebrate His Self-revelation to the Gentiles. At his Baptism in the Jordan, he was revealed as the beloved Son.

Baptism was practiced in Judaism for centuries as a ritual of cleansing. Until the fall of the Temple in 70 A.D., it was common for Jewish people to use a special pool called a Mikveh-literally a "collection of water", as a means of spiritual cleansing, to remove spiritual impurity and sin. Men took this bath weekly on the eve of the Sabbath, women, monthly. Converts were also expected to take this bath before entering Judaism. The Orthodox Jews still retain the rite. John preached that such a bath was a necessary preparation for the cataclysm that would be wrought by the coming Messiah.

This practice founds its way into the Christian Tradition following John's Baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan, an act which confirms the rite of baptism and the purification of all waters. By his baptism, Jesus transformed this continuing ritual into the one single, definitive act by which we begin our life of faith. In effect, He fused His Divine Essence with the water and commissioned his disciples to '*baptize in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit*', (Mathew 28.29).

Interestingly, Jesus though sinless, experienced the rite of baptism. This brings us to the important question: What is the significance of Jesus' Baptism?

Jesus' Baptism remains incredibly significant in his life. Firstly, it was a moment of identification with sinners. Sinless, Jesus received the baptism of repentance to identify himself with the people he came to save. Secondly, it was a moment of conviction about his identity and mission: that He is the Son of God and His mission was to preach the Good News of God's love and salvation to Israel, and eventually to us, and to atone for sins by becoming the "suffering servant." God the Father's words, "This is my beloved Son," taken from Psalm 2:17, revealed Jesus' identity as God's Son, and the words "with whom I am well pleased," from Isaiah 42:1 (referring to the "suffering servant"), pointed to Jesus' mission of atoning for the sins of the world by His suffering and death on the cross. Thirdly, it was a moment of equipment. The Holy Spirit equipped Jesus by descending on him in the form of a dove, giving him the power of preaching and healing. Fourthly, it was a moment of decision to begin his public ministry at the most opportune time after receiving the approval of his Heavenly Father as His beloved Son.

Additionally, it is the occasion of the first public revelation of all the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity (reflected in the voice of the Father and the descent of the Spirit in the form of a dove).

By implication, the baptism of Jesus reminds us of our identity. It reminds us of who we are and whose we are. By Baptism we become beloved daughters and sons of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, members of his Church, heirs of Heaven and temples of the Holy Spirit. In the words of St. Hippolytus, "*he who descends with faith into the laver of regeneration, renounces the devil and commits the self to Christ, laying aside slavery to sin and puts on adoption, returning from the font gleaming like the sun, radiating righteousness as a child of God and coheir with Christ*".

Jesus' baptism also reminds us of our mission: called to discipleship, to experience the presence of God within us, to acknowledge our own dignity as God's children, and to appreciate the Divine Presence in others by honoring them, loving them and serving them in all humility; to live as beloved children of God in thought, words and actions.

Fr Martins

**Pope Francis
Monthly Prayer
Intentions**

January 2021

Human Fraternity

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Tues 05: 5.30 Mass
Wed 06: 9am Mass
Thurs 07: 9am Mass
Fri 08: 9.15am Mass
Sat 09: 9am Rosary/Mass
9.30am Recon 6pm Mass
Sun 10: 9am Mass 5pm Mass

9/10 January 2021
Church Cleaning
M deSmet/J Maher (11-15)
Welcomers
6pm B Wilson
9am J McClelland
5pm M deSmet
Commentator
6pm M Bridges
9am A Brown
5pm M O'Neill
Readers:
6pm P O'Kelly
9am N Beatty
5pm K O'Sullivan
Eucharistic Ministers
6pm A Rogers
9am L Stevens
5pm Y Oerder.
Computer Screen
6pm K Conway
9am T Priest
5pm J O'Sullivan.

REGISTRARS
6pm P Billington
9am G Norris
5pm D & N Gorzalka

16/17 January 2021
Church Cleaning
B Coffey/M Paine(18-22)
Welcomers
6pm Sr Marie
9am L Page
5pm D Ebejer
Commentator
6pm M Weatherall
9am A Horsfall
5pm J O'Sullivan
Readers:
6pm P Billington
9am A Skinner
5pm S Ebejer
Eucharistic Ministers
6pm J Wain
9am Tara Cashman
5pm M Devine.
Computer Screen
6pm K Conway
9am T Jackson
5pm M O'Neill.

REGISTRARS
6pm M & S Beashel
9am G Norris

REFLECTIONS TO PONDER AS WE START ANEW...

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among all,
To make music in the heart.

—Howard Thurman

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS TESTIFY TO FAITH

— FR RON ROLHEISER OMI

It is a sign of health that we keep making new resolutions, despite a history of failure. In striving to renew ourselves in the face of our own falling we are making an important act of faith.

In making new resolutions we are saying: "I believe in a God who continues to love me, even when I can't live up to it." Every time I pick myself off the floor after a fall and begin again with some hope in my heart looking for a new start, I am saying the creed in a way that is considerably more radical, in terms of expressing actual belief in God, than is my too-easy Sunday recital of it. To make a new resolution is to believe in God.

But to make new resolutions is to express faith in the God of the resurrection. To try for new life, for a fresh start, precisely when bad habit has kept me so long in a certain helplessness, is to say: "I believe in the resurrection and the life!"

Martin Luther once put it this way: "Just as God in the beginning of creation made the world out of nothing, so his manner of working continues unchanged." For anything to really change, including our capacity to live beyond our own wounds and selfishness, God still had to defy the impossible.

That is where faith and the resurrection enter in. As the angel Gabriel tells Mary: "For with God nothing is impossible." Somewhere, deep inside of us, in that place where we want to make New Year's resolutions, we still carry that faith. In that place we still say the creed and still believe in the resurrection.

Because of that belief, because of new year's resolutions, God can still make something out of nothing!



Cenacle Prayer: Tues at 4.45pm in Church
Bible Study/Faith Formation: Resumes Jan 27th
Craft Group—Resumes 2021
Men Alive—Resumes 2021
Singalong—Resumes 2021
Exposition/Adoration—Every Friday at 5.30pm
Reconciliation—Saturday 9.30am
Wrap With Love—Feb. 9th, March 9th

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country. We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly. We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious. We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time. We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis. Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!



FEAST DAYS OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY 10th - Baptism of the Lord
TUESDAY 12th - St Marguerite Bourgeoys
WEDNESDAY 13th —St Hilary of Poitiers, bishop and doctor

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

From 1st October 2020 there will only be one collection which will be deposited in the Parish Operating Account this will include existing Credit Card transactions, Direct Debits, collection box and Tap machine. The collection will then be apportioned with a percentage forwarded to the Archdiocese for the Central Presbytery Fund each month.

If you would like to join the Parish e-platform giving, the details are as follows:

Acc. Name: St Bernard's Operating Account BSB: 062-786
Bank Acc:000012939 Ref: Family Name

Please note: For banking at any bank but not the Commonwealth Bank

If you currently have a direct debit to the Central Presbytery Fund a suggestion is that it be cancelled and combined into the St Bernard's Operating Account in order to facilitate the continuity of funds. Please contact Anne Jackson in the Parish Office on a Friday from 10am-2pm if you need any further information.

Remembering the Sick:

Femia and Mark, Roberto Alivio, Vince Burns, John Dillon, Trish Hamilton, Daniel Coffey, Jim Banks, Dennis Sheather, James Lee, Mary Henderson, George Fitzgerald, Diane Lanzon, Marion O'Grady, Victor Edith, Jan Simpson, Dawn Robinson, Margaret Harris, Bill Giust, Allan Odium, Luke Ward, Rosemary Cooley, Andrew Morton, Ken Evendon, Judy Betts, Janet Thornberry, Anica Bautovic, Angela Mylott, Jeanette Clarke, and those in our local Nursing Homes and Hospital

Death Anniversaries: Dorothy O'Hara, Sylvia Penberthy, Robert Burtenshaw, Brian Fitzroy, Irene Post, Patricia McLennan, Thomas Nagle

We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish

Community: Malgorzata Colebrook, Te Otinga Te Kowhai Brennan, Maurice Sullivan, Susan McNamara, Dario Panes Elizabeth Gallagher, Kenneth Torkington, Shirley Keir, Ken Bow, Steven Thomas, Maureen Kinross, Ian McAdam, Jan Schor, Pio Liberale, Glenda Gallagher, Ivy Rootsey, Evert Ordelman Anacorita Villanueva Senci,



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Funeral Director
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