



Infant Jesus Parish

Under the care of the Discalced Carmelite Friars

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The Baptism of the Lord, Year C

10 January 2016

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.

Responsorial Psalm

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

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

- 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. (R.)
- 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. (R.)
- 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.)

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.

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 Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

*A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Luke*

When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Reflection

by Dianne Bergant

This Christological feast brings to a close the Christmas season that reveals who God is for us and who we are to be for others in Christ. The baptism of Jesus inaugurates his ministry as the messiah of God. The passage from Isaiah indicates the kind of messiah that God intends Jesus to be. He will be a servant, one who, though mighty, is gentle, one who is chosen by the high God yet committed to the needy and the marginal, one who is the proclaimed Son of God and who still attends to the least within the human community. He may have come from an insignificant village like Nazareth, but he was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power.

For whom did the messiah of God come? He came for people who were broken and suffering, blind or imprisoned. He came for people who are so easily pushed to the margins, beyond our view, where the circumstances of their lives will not trouble us - the homeless, the unemployed, the abandoned children, the helpless elderly, the mentally and chronically ill. He also came to people who, like Cornelius, do not belong to our inner circles, people who for any number of reasons threaten us, people we might actually despise. He came for the strangers among us, those who have different cultural customs, those who worship in different ways. He came for people we have pushed out as well as for those we have refused to let in. The messiah of God came for all people without distinction.

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Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Mt 3:16-17

After the Lord was baptized, 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.

Communion Antiphon

Jn 1:32,34

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

The Response to the Prayers to the Faithful: "Lord in Your Mercy, Hear Our Prayer"

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves," He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world."

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at **our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.**



PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM 2016 (PREP)

These classes are for the children attending non-catholic schools whose family wish them to receive religious instruction and prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation. Please note that it is a requirement of the Dioceses' that all children receive at least 2 years religious instruction prior to receiving their first Sacrament. Therefore, if you desire your child/ren to receive one or all of these Sacraments please start them in classes as early as year 1 level. 2016 classes start on **Wednesday 10 February at 4:15pm in the parish hall.**

PREP ENROLMENT DAY 2016: Families who wish to enrol their children for the Parish Religious Education Programme classes for 2016 are required to please attend the enrolment day at ONE of the times below. You will be required to complete an enrolment form for each child and pay the annual fee of \$45 for one child and \$50 per family. New families are always welcome but please bring a copy of your child's Baptism and any other Sacraments certificates when you come to enrolment day:

WEDNESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2016
2:30pm - 3.30pm OR 6.00pm - 7.00pm



Christmas Closure for Parish Office and Parish Centre

The Parish Centre will be closed to all groups from Friday, 25 December 2016 until Monday, 18 January 2016. The parish office will close over the same period.

GIANT GARAGE SALE

If you are doing any cleaning out of your cupboards or shed during the Christmas holidays, please remember us!

The parish is raising much needed funds by holding a giant garage sale next April, but we are ready to receive your unwanted treasures now. Please drop off any items you no longer need into the large carton marked "Garage Sale" in the foyer of the church. If the church is closed, you can leave them outside the parish office door.

We need more hands to sort out the donation goods, if you are able to help, please come to the Parish Centre on Mondays from 9am to 11am. Thank you!



STAMPS FOR CATHOLIC MISSIONS

Please save your stamp and envelopes. The Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart are collecting stamps to help the missionaries in Timor Leste and Peru. The entire stamped envelope is required, not the individual stamp. The collection box for the stamped envelopes is available in the Church foyer. Thank you.

Parish Prayer Concerns

Recently Deceased: Giovanni Prospero and Brian Adams;

Deceased: Pina Palermo;

Anniversaries: Caterina Manno, Fred Ienco, Charles Richards, Donald McPherson, Santo Martelli and Philomina Mary Taylor;

The Sick of the Parish: Gert Harding and all the sick who are in need of our prayers.

"Bless the Lord my soul! O Lord my God, You are very great"



PILGRIM STATUE: This week is in the home of Mrs Jackie Sbrocco
 51 Fitzgerald Road, Morley
 Ph: 9276 4085

Calendar of Saints

13 Jan: St Hilary, Bishop (368 AD)

17 Jan: St Anthony, Founder (356 AD)



Gospel Reflections for Married Couples in the Jubilee of Mercy—The Baptism of the Lord

In this week's Gospel reading, some people are beginning to think that St John the Baptist might be Christ. Instead of taking the glory for himself he humbly points them in the direction of Jesus. Sometimes, in marriage we can steal the limelight from our spouse. This week, think about how you could humble yourself for your spouses sake. How might you invite others to appreciate the qualities that you admire and value in them? **—Catholic**



Flame Ministries International 26th Annual Flame Congress: 'Way, Truth, Life'

At John XXIII College, Mt Claremont, Fri-Sun 22-24 Jan. With Guest Speaker His Grace Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, Emeritus Archbishop Barry J. Hickey and more. For info see the brochure in the foyer, or contact Kaye Rollings on 0421 605 502 or at kdr@aapt.net.au

