

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Sunday 10 January 2021



Readings for this week:

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7 or 55:1-11
Act 10:34-38 or 1 John 5:1-9
Mark 1:7-11



Readings for next week
1 Samuel 3:3-10,19
1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20
John 1:35-42



Liturgical Jottings

Baptismal Water

During the Pandemic and when Church celebrations of Baptisms were allowed, fresh water was required for each Baptism. This demanded the recitation of a very lengthy blessing prayer. The new Order of Baptism of Children 2020, however contains shorter options with responses by the people. The two paragraphs, here, distinguishes Christ's Baptism from the later Christian Baptisms:

*Blessed are you, God the Holy Spirit, for you anointed Christ at his baptism in the waters of the Jordan, that we might all be baptised into you: **Blessed be God.***

*Sanctify this water you created, that those baptised through it into Christ's Death and Resurrection, may be conformed to the image of your Son: **Hear us, O Lord.***

Focus on the Gospel

Water is a rich symbol. Essential for life, it represents fertility and bounteous prosperity. It possesses the mysterious ability to transform the barren desert into a luxurious carpet of blossoms. It refreshes and nourishes; it is the source of life; it is life itself. Water is also a symbol of the spiritual life. It issues from some hidden wellhead in God, and it gushes forth as a fountain of refreshment and regeneration. The messianic age, a time of well-being and complete fulfilment, is envisioned as a time of feasting on the fruits of a fertile and productive land, a land that resembles a well-watered garden. (First Reading)

The baptism of Jesus was an event that marked him as the Son of God. But how could this be confirmed? Who but God could authenticate such a claim? And God did authenticate it! The heavens were torn apart; the Spirit descended upon Jesus; the voice of God acclaimed him 'Son'. A similar testimony confirms Jesus' divine sonship – the Spirit, the water and the blood. These witnesses now testify to his victory over death and the glory of his resurrected life. By faith we too enter his victory; with him we pass through water and blood; and the testimony of God authenticates our own resurrection life. © Dianne Bergant CSA

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is a relatively new feast. The accounts of Christ's baptism, however, were included either on the Feast of the Epiphany or a day in its octave. In 1960 it became a feast in the Roman calendar in its own right, the date was determined in 1969 and the choice of Readings expanded in 1981 to include three cycles, but cycle A may be used in any year.

Prayer for the week

O Lord, in the voice from heaven over the Jordan river you revealed yourself as the Saviour of all ... You rent the heavens, blessed the air and cleansed the springs of water; then by the Holy Spirit in form of a dove descending, you announced the coming of your beloved Son. Today the waters have received your blessing to wash away our ancient curse, to grant believers forgiveness of sins and make them your very own children by a heavenly birth into eternal life. For, though from our coming newborn into the world we were subject to death by reason of the fall, now eternal life receives us and calls us back to the glory of heaven. *Ambrosian Preface of the Baptism of Christ*

On the Lighter Side

After the Baptism of his baby brother, Harry sobbed all the way home. His father asked him what was wrong. Harry replied, "That priest said he wanted us brought up in a good Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys."



	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Charlie Morritt, John Flanagan
	Our sick and their carers	Dorothy Bock, Sue MacDonald, Teresa Muto



Finley Nilbett

We congratulate Finley Nilbett, son of Andrew Nilbett and Alison Fitzsimmons, on his Baptism this weekend and welcome him into our parish community.

Resumption of Reconciliation

Effective from Saturday 16th January 2021, Reconciliation will recommence

11:30 am until 12:00 noon

Reconciliation will be held in the Nuns Chapel for now.

Mass Timetable Week commencing 11th January

Weekday Mass

Monday 11 th January	No Mass
Tuesday 12 th January	No Mass
Wednesday 13 th January	9:15 Mass
Thursday 14 th January	No Mass
Friday 15 th January	9:15 Mass

Weekend Mass

Saturday 16 th January	5:30 pm
Sunday 17 th January	9:30 am

Reconciliation (in the Nuns Chapel)

Saturday 16 th January	11:30 am
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TO KNOW HIM IS TO LOVE HIM

UNPACKING THE TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF
THE CATHOLIC FAITH

WEEKLY THEOLOGY AND CATECHESIS FOR
ALL ADULTS, LED BY A LOCAL THEOLOGY
TEACHER

Tuesday Evenings

Starting February 2, 2021

7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Mons. Peter Jeffrey Centre

St. Brendan's Parish Shepparton

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
HAYDEN - 0438 071 630



CWL Shepparton Branch Celebrating 90 years.

The Catholic Women's League Shepparton Branch invites all CWL members, past and present to their 90th Birthday Mass at St Brendan's Church, 121 Knight Street, Shepparton on Thursday 21st January, 2021 at 9:15 am.

Following Mass morning tea will be served in the Monsignor Peter Jeffrey Centre

RSVP by 14th January, 2021
To Hazel on 0400 214 989 or
Judith on 0409 225 548