



Readings for
this week:

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 or 42:1-4,6-7
Titus 2:11-14,3:4-7 or Acts 10:34-38
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



Readings for
next Sunday

Isaiah 62:1-5
1 Corinthians 12:4-11
John 2:1-11



Liturgical Jottings

Readings for the Feast

The English Lectionary of 1970 has one set of readings preceding the Gospel that now forms the set for Cycle A. The current Lectionary (1981) includes alternate readings for cycles B & C. Gospels have always been Matthew (A) with the emphasis on the fulfilment of Scriptures, Mark (B) the first scene in his Gospel with the appearance and affirmation of Jesus as the Son of God and Luke (C).

Each account is short with an introduction about John the Baptist added. The fourth Gospel, does not give an account of the Baptism event but the Baptist's testimony of it's meaning (Jn 1:33). Jesus will baptism not with water but with the Holy Spirit.

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Looking at the Readings

Of the three accounts of Jesus' Baptism in the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) Luke provides the least details about the actual event. No dialogue between John and Jesus as in Matthew; no mention of the waters of the Jordan and the heavens torn apart as in Mark; Luke's version contains the point that Jesus was surrounded by people. Each account records the descent of the Holy and the affirmation of the Father: "You are my Son, the beloved, my favour rests upon you."

From the three varying accounts we may look upon the Baptism of Jesus from different angles and gain a mosaic of events and meanings. Also we see the differences and similarities between John's baptism for repentance and Christian Baptism: By baptism we are called children of God, the Holy Spirit descends upon us and we become ready for the mission of Christ as witnesses to the Good News.

The accompanying readings from Isaiah and St Paul add other angles to the mystery of Baptism. Consolation, forgiveness of sins and new life in the coming of the Lord from the first section of the Book of Consolation in Isaiah 40. The two extracts from Paul's letter to Titus emphasise the splendour of salvation which sets us free and the grace of God that makes us inheritors to eternal life. Baptism, or the grace of Baptism, is a gift from God through his kindness and compassion.

Baptism of the Lord

This is the first mystery in the five Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary or Mysteries of Light that covers the years from Jesus' childhood to his passion. Proposed in 1957 by St George Preca, Pope St John Paul II promulgated the Mysteries of Light for the whole Church in 2002 so that the ministry of Christ may be a source of further meditation. The fruit of the mystery is openness to the Holy Spirit.

Prayer from the Saints

You are to be radiant lights as you stand beside Christ, the great light, bathed in the glory of him who is the light of heaven. You are to enjoy more and more the pure and dazzling light of the Trinity, as now you have received – though not in its fullness – a ray of its splendour, proceeding from the one God, in Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen. *From a Homily of St Gregory Nazianzen.*

On the Lighter Side

This segment of the Sunday bulletin uses "Comic Sans"

A reader suggests we should use Baptismal font for today.



	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	Fr. Ted Harte
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	
	Our sick and their carers	Paul Kirby (Shelia Gregg's Brother) Vito John Prinzi, Phyllis Newman

Two Week Mass Timetable Week commencing 3 January

Weekday Mass

Mon 10th Jan No Mass
 Tue 11th Jan No Mass
 Wed 12th Jan 9:15 am Mass
 Thur 13th Jan No Mass
 Fri 14th Jan 9:15 am Mass

Weekend Mass

Sat 15th Jan 6:00 pm Mass
 Sun 16th Jan 10:00 am Mass

Weekday Mass

Mon 17th Jan No Mass
 Tue 18th Jan No Mass
 Wed 19th Jan 9:15 am Mass
 Thur 20th Jan No Mass
 Fri 21st Jan 9:15 am Mass

Weekend Mass

Sat 22nd Jan No Mass
 Sun 23rd Jan 10:00 am Mass

Reconciliation (1st Saturday of the Month)
 Saturday 5th February 2022

Thankyou.

Thank you to Bishop Shane, Father John Paul, Trish & Mason for being a part of my Enrolment into the Guild of St Stephen for Altar Servers.

Heartfelt thanks also to Mary for organising St Marys Hall, the power point and the Hymns which I had chosen.

Thank you Trish for your guidance.

Special thanks to Mary, Debbie & Lou for helping in the kitchen.

Most importantly thank you to my family, friends and parishioners of Sacred Heart. For your prayers and support and for making last Sunday the Feast of the Epiphany a special Day.

- from Ryerson De Lai.

Parish Pastoral Associate – Wangaratta and King Valley

An exceptional opportunity exists to be an integral member of the parish pastoral team for the parishes of Wangaratta and King Valley. For more information, a copy of the position description and how to apply go to the Employment Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst website or click

<https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/positions-vacant/pastoral-associate-wangaratta-parish>

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 5:00 p.m. 24th January 2022.

Message from Bishop Shane

No Changes to Density Limits for Churches

Since the announcement of density quotients being reintroduced for hospitality settings, I have received a few enquiries about whether churches are affected. The directions published overnight make clear that there is no change to the requirements for churches; the only applicable restrictions are about check-in and masks.

Yours sincerely,

Most Rev Shane Mackinlay
Bishop of Sandhurst

Reflection

Today's Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the first Sunday of Ordinary Time, brings us to a new season. This feast commemorates the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan by John the Baptist. In the Gospels, the baptism of Jesus is an unusual event. Unusual because it is mentioned by all four of the Gospel Writers.

But even though the baptism of Jesus is mentioned in all four of the Gospels, details differ between the accounts. But all four accounts agree that the baptism of Jesus is a theophany. A theophany or manifestation of the glory of God to the world. For when Jesus is baptised, the Spirit descends on him in the form of a dove.

And as it is recorded in Luke's Gospel, a voice is heard from heaven: "You are my Son, the beloved; my favour rests on you." So following the manifestation of God in the new-born Christ in the stable at Bethlehem, following the manifestation of God to the wise men who visited from the East, we conclude our celebration of Christmas with this manifestation of the Lord at Jesus' baptism. We know that, in the early Church, as our Gospels were being formed, the baptism of Jesus caused some embarrassment. For, of course, why did Jesus need to be baptised? John the Baptist, earlier in Luke's Gospel, says that his baptism is "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." If Jesus was without sin, why then should he be baptised? The fact that this supposedly embarrassing baptism is recorded in all four of the Gospels, seems to indicate that it is a real historical event. Jesus was baptised. But why?

Why was Jesus, the manifestation of God-among-us, baptised? And what does it mean for us that he was baptised? Is this something, that like the early Church, we should be embarrassed about, and simply just forget? Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist might seem like a strange thing to celebrate. But celebrate it we do, for it tells us something about our own baptism. We cannot simply separate the baptism of Jesus from the baptism which Jesus instituted for us, for us instituted for us, for those who believe in him. Jesus was without sin, so he did not need to be baptised. Jesus Christ undergoes baptism not that he may be sanctified by the waters, but that he may sanctify the waters of our baptism. So that, when we are baptised, we are made clean, we are sanctified in the waters sanctified by Jesus himself. Just as the baptism of Jesus was a manifestation of God's glory, so too, our own baptism is a manifestation of God's glory. Just as the Father claims Jesus as his son at his baptism, so too, are we claimed as sons and daughters of God when we are baptised. As the Father says to Jesus, so the Father says to us: You are my Son, the

Beloved; my favour rests on you. Just as Jesus begins his public ministry at his baptism, so too, we begin our life as Christians at our baptism.

Like all our celebrations in this season of Christmas, our celebration of the Baptism of Jesus is not an event of long ago which we merely commemorate today. Rather, it is an event of now. The baptism of Jesus did happen once. But, it transcends the time to which it belongs. For it is an event which belongs to all time. The power of this event, the grace it brings, is present to us today, now, as we speak. It makes present for us the saving plan of God. And we are saved by becoming God's sons and daughters through baptism. And God always wants to save us. Not just yesterday, but today, and forever.

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JOURNEY
CATHOLIC RADIO

"live each day with awareness"

SR MONICA BARLOW RSJ

This week on the Journey (Ep 440)

On the Journey this week: Fr Mark De Battista on why Jesus needed to be baptised. Mother Hilda is thankful that God's memory is not like ours. Michelle Vass on the spirituality of humble, precious and pure water. Plus, Sr Monica Barlow RSJ on the lesson of 2021 that carries into 2022, Fr Dave Callaghan, Trish McCarthy, and more great music!

Visit www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

Updated Email Address

Due to some changes that Microsoft has introduced we have to change our email address to be tatura@sandhurst.catholic.org.au. Please update your email address that you have on records for the parish office. If you need help please contact Mary on 0484 332 397