

# The Baptism of the Lord



Lord

12th January 2025

TAKE ME HOME !

## Priest's Tidings

The Baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of His public ministry. John, the forerunner, was preparing the way for Jesus by preaching repentance and baptising people in the Jordan as they acknowledged their sins. John also proclaimed that one greater than he would come and “baptise you with the Holy Spirit” (Mark 1:8). With these things in mind, it is not surprising that John resisted when Jesus asked to be baptised by him. Why did Jesus need to be baptised? Why would he submit to John in this way? There are a number of reasons worthy of exploration. First, Jesus certainly was not baptized for forgiveness of sins, since He was sinless. There was no need for Him to repent. Still, in this act, He showed His solidarity with sinful humanity and gave indication of His role as Saviour. Second, as indicated in the second reading, this event expresses Christ’s anointing as the Messiah. It also reveals His identity as the Son of God through the voice coming from Heaven and brings to light the Trinity through the action of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit seen at the baptism. Finally, Jesus’ baptism prefigures the Sacrament of Baptism that He would institute, in which we receive the Holy Spirit and are adopted as children of God, while also being cleansed of our sins.



*Fr. Hugo*

**Entrance Hymn:**

94 – As with gladness men of old,.

## Collect:

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## First Reading:

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

ere is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

**R./The Lord will bless his people with peace!.**

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendour. **R./**

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. **R./**

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever. May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!..**R/**

## Second Reading:

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him...

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Gradual Hymn:

669 – I heard the voice of Jesus say,

## Gospel Reading

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke .

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.' Now when all the people were baptised, and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Chris**



## Prayers of Intercession

We give thanks for all your baptised and faithful people. May we all rejoice in your presence and in your power. We ask your blessing on all who are being prepared for baptism, confirmation or ordination. We pray for Church schools and Sunday schools, for Bible classes and study groups. We remember all who are seekers and long to know you.

Hear us and help us,  
**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

We pray for all who are beginning new work or new ventures. We remember especially any who are leaving home for the first time. We ask your blessing upon those forming new relationships and all who are newly married. We pray for those who have the care of young families and we remember any who are struggling at this time.

Hear us and help us,  
**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

We give thanks for our own homes and loved ones. We ask your blessing upon our parents and godparents, upon our children and godchildren. We pray for all who influence our lives by their teaching or by their example.

Hear us and help us,  
**Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

We pray for all who are struggling with life, those who are burdened with guilt or anger, all who have memories that disturb them. We remember all who are ill at home or in hospital, especially any who feel lonely or unwanted. We pray for all who have been taken into care this week.

Hear us and help us,  
**Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

We give thanks for all who have enriched our lives by their goodness and care. We pray for friends and loved ones who are departed from us. May they know your love in the fullness of life eternal.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Offertory Hymn:**

291 – Part two – Christ is made the sure foundation,

**Communion Hymn:**

104 – Songs of thankfulness and praise,

## Post Communion Prayer:

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord...**Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn:

Give thanks with a grateful heart,

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy one,  
Give thanks because He's given,  
Jesus Christ His Son.X2

And now,  
Let the weak say I am strong.  
Let the poor say I am rich.  
Because of what,  
The Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy one,  
Give thanks because He's given,  
Jesus Christ His Son.

And now,  
Let the weak say I am strong.  
Let the poor say I am rich.  
Because of what,  
The Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks

## Prayer and Meditation

Luke is our guide through this event which launches Jesus into his salvation ministry. Luke reminds us of the Jewish nation's huge anticipation of a Messiah, or Saviour. The Messiah was well known to them in some respects, all the great prophets spoke of his coming. And yet the people were still waiting. Over the years, especially in unsettled times, people must have looked carefully at many notable people. Now they wondered, even hoped, that John might be the promised Messiah. John swiftly dashed those hopes and proclaimed

the imminent arrival of the real Saviour, who 'will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire'.

John revealed the Saviour was to be a spiritual not political leader. He would baptise people with the Holy Spirit. It was a rather obscure promise to make - how would John's followers respond? Would they understand?

Here beside the river Jordan Jesus is baptised along with everyone else. Although he had not sinned he is nonetheless willing to identify with ordinary sinful people in a public act of repentance and conversion.

Matthew records John's shocked reaction when Jesus steps up for baptism (Matthew 3:13-15). But Luke focuses on Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Jesus remains in prayer and contemplation after his baptism. Then the miracle occurs, Jesus sees the Holy Spirit descend on him in the form of a dove. And Jesus' prayer becomes a communion, as the Father speaks to him and affirms him.

One thing we can note is that as soon as Jesus has identified with humankind, in the baptism of repentance, his Father speaks out loud and clear, "You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you."

### **Meditatio:**

- What made John appear to be the promised Messiah? And why was John's baptism necessary? How could it help the people prepare for Jesus and his message?
- The baptism of Jesus became an 'epiphany', a revelation of God – in the form of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (the dove). What might this experience and manifestation have meant for Jesus himself?
- Imagine you were there and saw the dove and heard God's voice. How would this influence your opinion of Jesus?

### **Oratio:**

Psalm 104 is a vibrant song of praise. The opening verse declares: 'Praise the Lord, my soul! O Lord, my God, how great you are!' In the following thirty-four verses the psalmist looks at the everyday world around him and sees God's hand in it all. Praise just bubbles up and pours out to God. Read through the verses slowly. Then write your own list of reasons to praise God and offer this to him as a prayer of worship. You may want to make this into your very own psalm to God.

ho have been treated unfairly.

### **Contemplatio:**

Consider today's verses from Isaiah and what they reveal about both Jesus and John the Baptist. Let the promises contained in these few verses sink deep into your heart.

Think about the great words of St Paul in his letter to Titus. Our salvation is based upon God's mercy and he gives us the grace to live our lives in a way that pleases him.

God wants us to have eternal life with him and has done everything to make it possible. Another wonderful promise full of hope that we should allow to settle in our hearts.

## What's happening in our Parish!

**Sunday — Mass at 9:30 am**

**Upcoming Celebration: SAVE THE DATES!**

Sunday 9th February: Cultural Celebration Sunday 30th March:

Mothering Sunday

## TTC

Our Youth Club, Teen Thursday Club (TTC), runs every week from 5-7pm at Christ Church, 90 Brixton Road. Please spread the word!

### Daily Bible Verses

**Mon** 13th Jan Hebrews 1:3 **Tues** 14th Jan Hebrews 2:11 **Weds** 15th Jan Hebrews 2:18 **Thurs** 16th Jan Hebrews 3:14 **Friday** 17th Jan Hebrews 4:1

**COFFEE**  
and  
**BIBLE STUDY**

**EVERY**  
**SUNDAY**  
AFTER THE 9.30AM SERVICE

ST MATTHEW'S  
CHURCH  
PARROQUIA  
SAN MATEO

## Contact us

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