



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school and a Happy New Year to all.

In Church this Sunday we celebrate a special feast – the Baptism of the Lord. The new year presents an opportunity to remember, or to discover, the blessings received at Baptism.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus begins his mission to the world when the Holy Spirit comes down upon him – the same Spirit we receive through Baptism and Confirmation.

Wednesday 8th January 2025

Pope Francis reminds us that, "Faith is a gift which we receive in Baptism and which allows us to encounter God." Jesus came for everyone: to draw us all into his family so that we can become more like him and joyfully share in God's own life.

Enjoy your week and help spread God's love. Blessings and best wishes for 2025.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from Pope Francis

"Baptism gives strength and it gives light."

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 12th January 2025



A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John the Baptist 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 as Jesus was being baptised, 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."

*Adapted from Luke 3:15-16.21-22
The Baptism of the Lord, Year C*

Getting to know Jesus makes life joyful.
Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

2025: The Jubilee Year of Hope!

Having Hope
in our Families

Baptism is one of the seven sacraments which bring us closer to God. When we are baptised we become a new creation; we receive new life and a Christian identity. We become members of Jesus' family where everyone is a brother or sister to each other and where God is our loving Father.



Good News for Families

10 MINUTE TOGETHER TIME

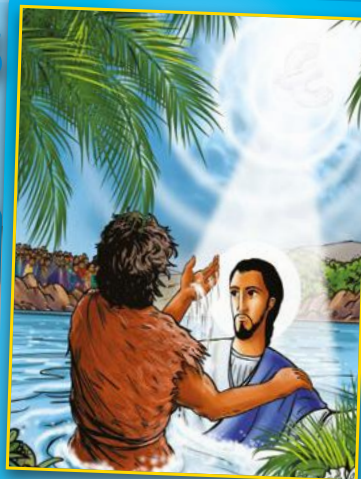


1

READ & REFLECT! Listen & Learn with Jesus, the Word!

Filled with excitement, the people were wondering if John the Baptist might be the Christ, so John said to them, "I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am and he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." Then, after the people had been baptised by John, Jesus himself was baptised. While Jesus was praying the sky opened and the Holy Spirit came down on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my beloved Son, and with you I am very pleased." **What was John the Baptist doing?**

Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? Spend a few relaxing moments pondering the picture together. Share any thoughts before moving on.



Sunday Gospel Gallery

Look at this Sunday's Gospel picture. What can you see? How do you feel? What does it make you think about?

2

SHARE & CARE! Growing in Goodness & Love: This Wednesday's Word...

"Baptism is God's most beautiful and magnificent gift." *St Gregory of Nazianzus*

BAPTISM



Ask your child what they know about baptism. Ask them if they know what any of the symbols of baptism represent (e.g. candle, water, oil, white garment, the sign of the cross). If your child has been baptised, ask them if they know who chose their name, and why that name was chosen for them. You might also like to share with your child any memories you have of their baptism and how you chose their name. Perhaps you have photographs to show them.



Baptism is the start of a life-long call to reveal God's Spirit to our family and community. When we are baptised, we receive the very same Holy Spirit, to help us to live like Jesus. How can we live more like Jesus as we begin this new year? Perhaps we can: always try to be fair, honest, generous and ready to go out of our way to help others; as a family, choose to support a charity in 2019; regularly make an effort to let other family members know how much we love them.

3

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for the gift of **Baptism**. Please help us to live like you and to spread God's love throughout this new year. Amen.

FINDING THREE

S R E V I R T O J E J N
J S S O N A H E A V E N
B O B V V N N S B V S A
J V D E S I T P A B U N
O J N R L D B E M A S Z
H S J I H O H V H P I H
N H E V N D V I O T D Y
N L B E L O V E D I S N
V O D R N V O S D S C J
B N J H H Z S U S E J E
E N O S E S N E N D D J
S J S N S V O I C E L E

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**



JOHN RIVER



BAPTISED JESUS



VOICE HEAVEN



BELOVED SON



SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

Cross out the letters **u k m** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

Bamputistk Churmkiat womnuderking pumeoplek

The _____ were _____ if John
the _____ might be the _____.

At Jesus' baptism, God the Father called Jesus his Son.

Through Baptism, we too become children of God. After Baptism, as part of God's family (the Church), we are called to live the life of a Christian by loving God and our neighbours, just as Jesus did.



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

This week I will try my best to...

Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley

