

# OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508  
St Columbas Ballarat North: 5331 1012

Fr Marcello Colasante: 0416 194 825 Contact:  
Email: [ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Anne Beer 0417 369 322 / 5349 2168

Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*  
Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830 Anne Beer: 0417 369 322

## SUNDAY – 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 The Baptism of the Lord– Year C

### **Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Keep up-to-date with the latest COVID-19 restrictions on the government website.  
Updates are also available from the diocesan website. See details of this week's changes below. **QR check-in still required.**

Today we celebrate the baptism of Christ in the Jordan. This is the second epiphany, or manifestation, of the Lord. The past, the present, and the future are made manifest in this epiphany.

The most holy one placed Himself among us, the unclean and sinners. The Son of God freely humbled Himself at the hand of the Baptist. By His baptism in the Jordan, Christ manifests His humility and dedicates Himself to the redemption of man. He takes upon Himself the sins of the whole world and buries them in the waters of the Jordan.



**RECENT DEATHS:** Chris Jenkins, Edna Cleary, Margaret Pitcher, Tony Cowden & Wilf Steel.

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Frank O'Brien, Mary Kirkpatrick, Pat Young, Alice Hucker, Sandy Troup & Alan Thompson

### **PRAY FOR THE SICK:**

Pat Byrne, Margaret MacDonald, Roger Molomby, Graeme Dawson, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan and all those in need of prayer.

### **ROSTER:**

#### **Introduction & Reading**

Today: Sue Mahony

Jan 16<sup>th</sup>: John Jess

#### **Prayers of the Faithful**

Today: Bernadette Franc

Jan 16<sup>th</sup>: Sue Mahony

#### **Assembly Leader**

Jan 16<sup>th</sup>: Angela Gerrard & Anne Beer

#### **Special Minister**

Jan 16<sup>th</sup>: Therese Jess

#### **Music**

Today: Sue Mahony

Jan 16<sup>th</sup>: Sue Mahony

#### **Church Cleaning, Linen & Flowers**

Jan 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>: Chandler Family

#### **Church Grounds**

Jan 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>: Chandler Family

#### **Newsletter**

January – Carmel Milenkovic 0407320759

#### **MASS TIMES** – for next week

**January 16<sup>th</sup>: LLA 10.00 AM**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time.**

**Parish Council wishes everyone a very safe and happy 2022.**

#### **Did you know?**

Points of interest and Catholic lore

This feast and the wedding at Cana miracle (next week's gospel) were originally celebrated on the same day as the feast of the Epiphany because they are also considered to be manifestations of the Christ.

- The word *baptism* comes from a Greek word meaning 'to plunge'.
- The first Christians were baptised by being plunged into running streams or rivers, following the practice of John. Later, large fonts were built in churches, and baptism of the faithful, usually adults, was by full immersion.
- The mainstream Christian churches—Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant and Anglican—recognise the same baptism. If a person is baptised into one of these churches, it is not repeated, even if they move to worshiping in another church.
- Jesus is clearly attracted by the preaching of the Baptist and submits to his baptism of repentance. Scholars believe that Jesus may have spent some time as a disciple of John the Baptist before embarking on his own public ministry.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Lk 3:16

**Alleluia, alleluia! John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 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.

# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD / C

9 JANUARY 2022

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD

In the midst of the terror, loss, and grief of the exile, Isaiah spoke words of hope, consolation, and healing. The inhabitants of Jerusalem wondered whether God had abandoned them. Would their suffering extend into a dark and hopeless future? When all seemed lost a word of hope was proclaimed – a word that went to the heart of Jerusalem. They could now look forward to the return of the exiles, the rebuilding of the city, and a future in which they could rest assured that God was among them.

Late in the first century, the letter to Titus reflected on the ways that God had been true to that promise of presence and gentle care through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Cleansed by baptism, and renewed by the gift of the Holy Spirit Christians were now called to respond appropriately by the manner of their own lives. God had been gracious to them and now they were called to respond by living good and religious lives as they waited for his return.

The Gospel passage today informs us that the people looked at John the Baptist with the eyes of hope, filled with longing for religious reform and liberation from the power of Rome. Isaiah proclaimed to the people of Jerusalem: 'Here is your God.' When Jesus comes for baptism this word is now radically enfleshed in the person of Jesus himself. He will gather the weak and the wounded, the blind and the lame revealing God's compassionate and gracious love.

## FIRST READING

Isa 40:1-5, 9-11

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah.**

*The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.*

'Console my people, console them'  
says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem  
and call to her  
that her time of service is ended,  
that her sin is atoned for,  
that she has received from the hand of the Lord  
double punishment for her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness  
a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God  
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low,  
let every cliff become a plain,  
and the ridges a valley;  
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
and all mankind shall see it;  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,  
joyful messenger to Zion.  
Shout with a loud voice,  
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.  
Shout without fear,  
say to the towns of Judah,  
'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,  
his arm subduing all things to him.  
The prize of his victory is with him,  
his trophies all go before him.  
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,  
gathering lambs in his arms,  
holding them against his breast  
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

#### RESP PSALM

Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30. R. v. 1

**R. Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

1. Lord God, how great you are, / clothed in  
majesty and glory, / wrapped in light as in  
a robe! / You stretch out the heavens like a  
tent. **R.**



2. Above the rains you build your dwelling. /  
You make the clouds your chariot, / you walk on  
the wings of the wind, / you make the winds your  
messengers / and flashing fire your servants. **R.**
3. How many are your works, O Lord! / In  
wisdom you have made them all. / The earth  
is full of your riches. / There is the sea, vast  
and wide, / with its moving swarms past  
counting, / living things great and small. **R.**
4. All of these look to you / to give them their food  
in due season. / You give it, they gather it up: /  
you open your hand, they have their fill. **R.**
5. You take back your spirit, they die, /  
returning to the dust from which they came. /  
You send forth your spirit, they are created; /  
and you renew the face of the earth. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus.**

*He saved us through the water of rebirth and  
renewal in the Holy Spirit.*

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made  
salvation possible for the whole human race  
and taught us that what we have to do is to  
give up everything that does not lead to God,  
and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-  
restrained and live good and religious lives here  
in this present world, while we are waiting in  
hope for the blessing which will come with the  
Appearing of the glory of our great God and  
saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for  
us in order to set us free from all wickedness  
and to purify a people so that it could be his  
very own and would have no ambition except  
to do good.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394  
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Christopher Monaghan CP