



MOYNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St Patrick's Parish, Port Fairy

Infant Jesus Parish, Koroit

www.moyneatholic.org.au



The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th January, 2021

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7

*Here is my servant,
in whom my soul delights*

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

RESPONSORIAL

Ps 71(72):1-2,7-8,10-13

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

O give the Lord, you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court.

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

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour.

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

The God of glory thunders.

In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'

The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever.

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

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-38

*God had anointed Jesus
with the Holy Spirit*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 2:2

V/. Alleluia!

R/. Alleluia!

*V/. We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.*

R/. Alleluia

*'You are my Son, the Beloved;
my favour rests on you'*

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said:

'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

We pray for >i Xmi6ck a Ub, Hi XXmi6ck a Ub, and 7`UfY` F mUb who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they, and all the faithful departed, rest in peace.



CDF PAY

As long as COVID restrictions remain in place, we cannot "pass the plate." In fact, those

days may be gone forever. So in addition to the "leaving collection" arrangement, parishioners are now able to securely give online — on a regular schedule, or as a one off. Just type in the following links:

[V\]h"m#78: dUmDcfh U\]fm](#)

[V\]h"m#78: dUm? cfc\]hDUf\]g\](#)

(Note there's no *www.* prefix)

LOUISE ON HOLIDAYS

Louise Dryburgh is presently enjoying a well-earned break. While she is away, kindly direct all enquiries to Leanne McElgunn. Leanne is in the office at St Joseph's from 9am to 1pm; and 1:30pm to 4pm, Monday to Friday. Phone 5562 2231.

To prepare for all situations there will be two workshops in February/March to form lay leaders of worship. It is hoped 2-4 parishioners from each of the new Ministry District's four parishes could be in attendance at these workshops. Further information contact Parish Office.

2021

Fr Michael Linehan's retirement will necessitate some change in the Ministry District. To give us time and space to make the required changes, Fr Bill van de Camp will preside at the 6.30pm Koroit Vigil Mass for the next couple of weeks enabling Fr John Corrigan and Fr John Fitzgerald to celebrate the other six Masses in the four parishes of the Ministry District. This weekend Fr John C will be at St Joseph's and Fr John F will preside at St Patrick's (Port Fairy) and St Pius X.

The two retired priests (Fr Bill and Fr Michael) will not be scheduled on the weekend Mass roster but they have expressed their willingness to assist when needed. It's important we respect their retirement.

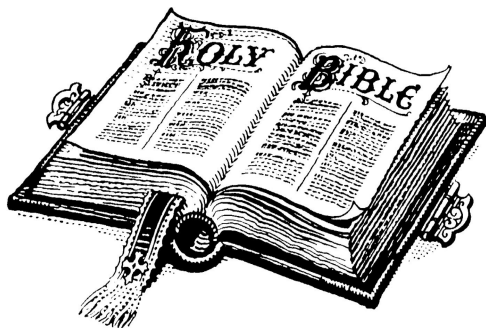
A challenge this year is the 'catching up' on the celebration of the children's sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist. It wasn't possible to celebrate these sacraments in 2020 due to the coronavirus. It will be important for the 5 Catholic primary schools to work together in a creative way to achieve this outcome.

We have new principals appointed for St Patrick's, Port Fairy (Olga Lyons) and St John's, Dennington (Ben van de Camp) commencing late January, 2021. We wish them well in their new appointments.

Parishes would now be familiar with the fact that if there is a funeral to be celebrated in a particular parish it replaces the weekday Mass (if one is scheduled).

May God's blessing be upon us in our pastoral endeavours in this new year.

Fr John Fitzgerald
& Fr John Corrigan



Scripture Reflection

Whî; gî; gVcXhî; ZgçVcYZo

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Baptism initiates us into the Christian life. It is a true birth into supernatural life, preached by Jesus (Jn 3:3-6):

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, unless a man is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'

Nicodemus answered, 'How can a grown man be born? Can he go back into his mother's womb and be born again?'

Jesus replied: 'I tell you most solemnly, unless a man is born through water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God: what is born of the flesh is flesh; what is born of the Spirit is spirit.'

Often the dignity of the baptised person is veiled, unfortunately, by the ordinary circumstances of his life so, like the saints, we must strive hard to live in accordance with that dignity at all costs.

Our highest dignity, that of being children of God, is a consequence of our re-birth. If human birth results in parenthood, in a similar way those engendered by God are really His children. "Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed. (1 Jn 3:1-2)

The miracle of a new birth is achieved at the moment of Baptism by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The baptismal water is blessed on Easter night and in the prayers we ask: "*Just as the Spirit came upon Mary and produced in her the birth of Christ, so may it descend on the Church and produce in her maternal womb the rebirth of the children of God.*"

The profound reality corresponding to this graphic expression is that the newly baptised person is born again to a new life: "*We are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ.*" (Rom 8:16,17)

Let us give thanks to our Father God for bestowing such gifts, gifts beyond all measure, upon each one of us. What great joy it is to think often about those realities!

'Father', said that big fellow, a good student at the university, 'I was thinking of what you said to me – that I am a son of God! – and I found myself walking along the street, head up, chin out, and a proud feeling inside ... a son of God!' With sure conscience I advised him to encourage that 'pride.' (St J. Escrivá, *The Way*, 274.)

Another truth intimately connected to the condition of being a member of the Church is the sacramental character: a sure and indelible spiritual sign imprinted on the soul. It is like Christ's seal of possession on the soul of the baptised. Christ took possession of our souls at the moment we were baptised. He rescued us from sin by His Passion and Death.

With these thoughts in mind we appreciate the Church's desire that children should receive early these gifts of God. It has always urged parents to have their children baptised as soon as possible. It is a practical demonstration of faith. Delaying baptism is not caring for their freedom, but like neglecting to feed, clothe, clean or care for them when they were unable to ask for those things for themselves. Children have a right to receive this grace. What a wonderful apostolate there is for us to exercise in many cases – among friends, companions, acquaintances!

Baptism brings into action something greater than any other good: grace and faith; and perhaps, eternal salvation. It can only be ignorance by which many children are deprived, even by their own Christian parents, of the greatest gift of their lives. Our prayer goes up to God this day asking that He may never allow this to happen.

We have to thank our parents who brought us, perhaps just a few days after we were born, to receive this holy sacrament.

