

Wherever there is water, there is life. Jesus' baptism in the Jordan marked the beginning of his life's work, his taking on the fullness of humanity. Our baptism is the source of our Christian vocation.



Baptisms are generally a very joyful ceremony. We are grateful for the gift of life and of love, of a new baby brother or sister in the family; we pray for the child – we wonder what he or she will be and hope for the best. We gather them into the love of Jesus and the community of the parish and wider church. Adult baptism represents

the end of a long search and the peace and joy of taking on the gospel of Jesus. At Jesus' baptism he knew the call into service from his love-relationship with God. That is our baptism too.

Then the meaning of Jesus' life was to do what his Father wanted, and to live his life in love. He would live like that, touching closely the lives of his people, especially the sick. He would touch their hearts, and literally their bodies even when they were 'unclean', like people suffering from leprosy. He would do the same today for the people we marginalise and look down on. Nothing human is foreign to Jesus. He plunged into the waters of baptism and linked with all of us in being fully human - part of the human race, showing a particular care for those in need.

Just like the little baby we baptise we all have a similar call - to serve with love in our lives. This is a big part of our identity. The words, 'You are my beloved son or daughter' are spoken to all of us.

*Picture the day of your baptism, pray for those who were there then, and give thanks! and offer what we can to the Lord in the loves of our lives.*

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger

## Jesus' Story Fr. Liam Hickey

Every child baptised with life is God's child. When we celebrate Baptism we give thanks for Three Special Friends ...God The Father who makes the sun shine on everyone, good and bad, God The Son Our Forever Friend, came at Christmas, and God The Holy Spirit who is the breath of our heart and life. 'We thank You God Our Father. You made us to live for you and for each other. We can see and speak to one another, become friends, share our joys and sorrows. We gladly thank You.'



of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters, .....  
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

### EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.  
And with your spirit.  
Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them up to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right and just.

### SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.....

### AFTER THE CONSECRATION

*The mystery of faith.*  
Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

### INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, .....  
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth. Through Christ our Lord.

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

### GREETING

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
The Lord be with you.  
And with your spirit.

### PENITENTIAL ACT

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

You bring pardon and peace to the sinner: Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

You bring light to those in darkness: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us...Amen.

### THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



### OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### FIRST READING *Isaiah 55:1-11*

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah.**  
Thus says the Lord:  
Oh! come to the water all you who are thirsty: though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk.  
Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy.  
Pay attention, come to me: listen, and your soul will live.  
With you I will make an everlasting covenant

out of the favours promised to David. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you. Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts. Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

**The word of the Lord.**  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Is. 12:2-6*

**R. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

1. Truly God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **[R]**

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples, declare the greatness of his name. **[R]**

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **[R]**

#### SECOND READING *1 John 5:1-9*

**A reading from the first letter of John.**  
Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is - keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world - our faith.

Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness - since the Spirit is the truth - so that there are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and all three of them agree. We accept the testimony of human witnesses but God's testimony is much greater, and this is God's testimony, given as evidence for his Son.

**The word of the Lord.**  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! John saw Jesus coming towards him and said: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Alleluia!**

#### GOSPEL *Mark 1:7-11*

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.**

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 Gospel of the Lord.**  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### NICENE CREEED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, All bow for following three lines:

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver