

FAITH @Home

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Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love
in the heart of the family!



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FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Year B

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Isaiah 55:1-11

Responsorial Psalm:

Isaiah 12:2-6

Second Reading:

1 John 5:1-9

Gospel:

Mark 1:7-11

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



Hear

Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find the text [here](#).

Talk

Locate Baptism pictures, certificates and candles for each member of the family and bring them to this family time.

Parents should share with their children what they remember about each child's baptism and their favourite memory of it.

Locate the date from each person's Baptism certificate. Mark the date(s) in your calendar and celebrate them throughout the year.

Share your favourite memory and why, as a parent, you felt it was important that they be baptised.

Pray

Renewal of Baptismal promises

Each person should light their Baptismal candle and hold it as they pray. Pour some Holy Water into a small bowl and ask each person to dip their fingers into the bowl and make the sign of the Cross to begin.

Click [this link](#) to access the words and responses for the renewal of the Baptismal promises and to also access a video version. It should be lead by one of the parents (V) and everyone else should respond (R) together.

Once you have renewed your Baptismal promises, sprinkle each other with Holy Water!

Family Challenge!

Say a special prayer for your godparents, and for the priest who baptised you!

LEARN A NEW SONG:

"I AM A CHILD OF GOD!"



Kids' Corner

Check out our all-new page 3 for a full page to print and colour!

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WE ARE BELOVED CHILDREN OF GOD

Hot. Humid. July in Pennsylvania isn't for the faint of heart. Without air conditioning in the Church, we were quickly beginning to wilt. *(I wonder what the weather was like at the Jordan River the day John baptised Jesus. Of course, John wasn't busy making sure the baby didn't cry or throw up on the three-generation old christening gown!)*

Baptism is simple. Water and a short prayer; if I had blinked I would have missed it. *(Kind of like Mark's account of Jesus' baptism... just three short verses.)* As I held my nephew, the priest pouring the water over his forehead, I tried to savour the sanctity and solemnity of this event. *(Did John the Baptist have a similar experience of trying to make time stand still as he baptised Jesus?)*

We were a small group. Someone passing through the back of church wouldn't even have noticed us. *(Who else was in the Judean countryside that day, curious about this crowd on the banks of the river?)* It was the same chapel where my sister and her husband got married and where I go to for daily Mass when I visit. It has a history in our family. *(Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River with the Ark of the Covenant. It's where the Lord cured Naaman of his leprosy when he bathed in its waters)*

Then there were the words: "Theodore, the Christian community welcomes you with great joy. In its name I claim you for Christ our Saviour by the sign of his cross." *(How must Jesus have felt upon hearing his Father call him 'Beloved?')* And indeed we rejoiced to call Theo, our Beloved, a new member of the Church. Perhaps today you can offer that prayer as a blessing. Call someone by name and bless them. Remind them of their true identity: Beloved Child of God. Then, remind yourself that God loves *you* and rest in his favour.

By Sr Kathryn Press ASHJ, Waterford city

EVENTS



Alpha

The Diocese of Waterford & Lismore invites parish groups to participate in an online Alpha series beginning on February 10th 2021 for 11 weeks. Email events@waterfordlismore.ie or call 085 8623705 for more information.

Family Prayer

Let's reflect on the love of the Father for Jesus, and the work of the Holy Spirit in today's Gospel as we pray together: "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen."

Carlo's Corner

Blessed Carlo Acutis - Pray for us!



IDENTITY AND MISSION

"All people are born as originals but many die as photocopies."

Do you ever wonder what your purpose in life is? Or whether you have the ability to really make a difference in the world? Do you ever struggle to be yourself, and prefer to just blend in instead? Blessed Carlo knew he was created as a unique individual, and called through his baptism to be a **beloved Child of God**. That was his deepest identity - and yours too. Watch Fr Mike's video explaining how Jesus' mission and identity were revealed to Him at His baptism, and reflect on your own great mission and identity too!

Watch Fr Mike Schmitz: [The Baptism of Jesus \(#ShareJesus\)](#)
(It's part of a Lenten series, but good at any time of year!)



CHECK IT OUT: YOUCAT



YOUCAT is the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for young people - and many adults find it really helpful too. The most important elements of the faith are summarised in a Q&A format. There is also Children's YOUCAT available too to help families explore the Catholic faith together, and you can download the 'YOUCAT Daily' app for daily Catholic inspiration.



