

FAITH @ Home

12 JANUARY 2025 | YEAR C: FEAST OF BAPTISM OF JESUS

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

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

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Responsorial Psalm:

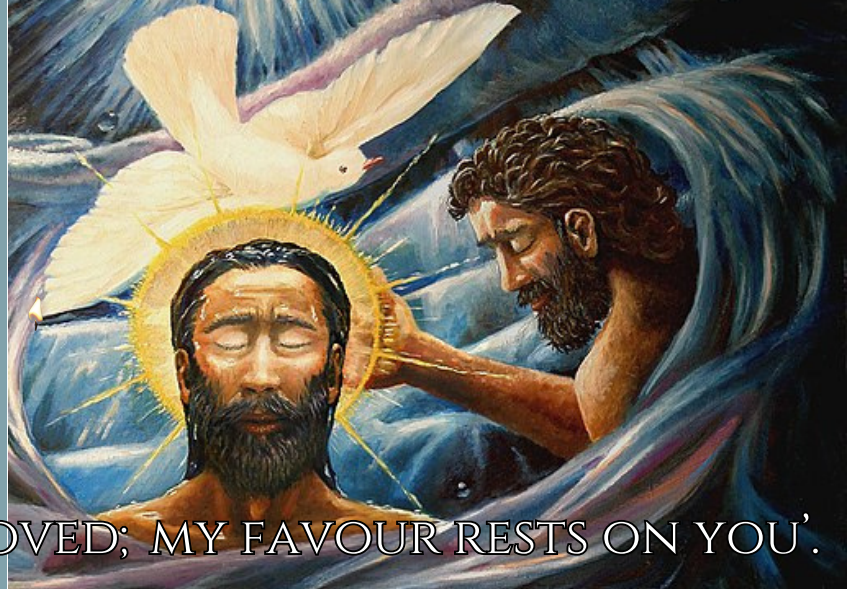
Psalm 103

Second Reading:

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

Gospel:

Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22



'YOU ARE MY SON, THE BELOVED; MY FAVOUR RESTS ON YOU.'

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Hear



Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one?

No worries, you can find this week's readings online [HERE](#).

Pray



In the Gospel today we hear the familiar story of Jesus being baptised in the River Jordan by his cousin, John the Baptist.

Take some time to reflect on the key message of this week's Gospel. Think about the following:

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Imagine yourself there at the scene at the River Jordan, seeing Jesus receiving baptism from John, and hearing the voice of the Father saying, "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you." How does it concretely impact your life to believe in the divinity of Jesus?
- As a child of God through baptism, do you believe that the Father also looks at you as His beloved son or daughter? Rest with that idea in prayer, allowing God to show you His fatherly heart.

Family Prayer



O God our Father, in Jesus you call all Christian families and homes to be signs of living faith. By the light of the Holy Spirit, lead us to be thankful for the gift of faith, and by that gift may we grow in our relationship with Jesus, your Son, and be confident witnesses to Christian hope and joy to all we meet. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
www.usccb.org

Talk



On 6th January we celebrated the feast of the Epiphany and already today we are celebrating the feast of the baptism of Jesus as a fully grown adult! This is another "epiphany", another moment where God manifests Himself to us. Discuss the following as a family:

- What makes our family special? What are some of the things we do that are important to our family? Customs, traditions, habits? What days do we celebrate? How do we celebrate? How do we show our love and appreciation?
- At our Baptism we become a member of God's family: we become sons and daughters of God the Father! How would people know from observing our family that we belong to God's family too?
- What are some of the challenges we face in being faithful Catholics? Each person might face individual difficulties. Pray together as a family to always remain faithful to Christ!

Family Challenge!



Find out the baptism dates of each member of your family, mark them on your calendar and celebrate them throughout the year!

ANOTHER "EPIPHANY"

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In today's Gospel, as in the other Gospel accounts of Jesus' baptism, we hear John the Baptist address the confusion of the people who thought that John might be the Messiah. In response, John contrasts the baptism that he performs with the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that someone will come and baptize with the Holy Spirit. The type of baptism that John performed was not yet a Christian Baptism; it was a preparation for Christian Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received. The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, it was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. The Evangelists Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. Compare this to Matthew's Gospel in which the voice from heaven speaks to everyone. In Luke, however, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus during his time of prayer after his baptism. Through his Gospel, Luke will show Jesus to be a person of prayer who withdraws regularly from the crowds and his disciples to pray to his Father. The baptism of Jesus is considered a manifestation of God in Jesus, another "epiphany." On this, the last day of the Christmas season, our Gospel reveals to us Jesus' relation to God: the son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. In Luke's Gospel, all three members of the Trinity are manifested here: God the Father in the voice, the Holy Spirit descending, and Jesus the Son. At the beginning of his Gospel, Luke is communicating to us important information about the identity of Jesus. In the verses that follow, Luke lists the genealogy of Jesus, tracing Jesus' ancestry back to the first person, Adam, who is also identified as the son of God. We, the children of Adam and Eve, are again made children of God through Baptism.

Loyola Press - Sunday Connection



CARLO'S CORNER

1% Change Every Day

The story of the Baptism of Jesus might seem simple enough until we start probing a little deeper. Why was John baptising people in the River Jordan? So they could repent of their sins and prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Did Jesus need to repent of any sins? Of course not, He is God, and He was the coming Messiah. So why did he get baptised? Jesus' baptism was symbolic. Jesus, as God, actually sanctified the waters by His descent into them, rather than needing to be cleansed of any sin. His baptism was for our sake, not for His. He chose to embrace and represent the human condition which is broken and in need of forgiveness and healing, and this was symbolised at his baptism. His public ministry is about to begin, and at that moment, the Father says, "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you." The will of Jesus was completely united with the Will of the Father. If we want to become the person God is calling us to be, we also need to unite our will to His, and follow His guidance for each day and each action of our lives! Spend time this week praying, journaling and committing to the kind of person God wants you to be at the end of this year: what virtues, decisions, growth, pruning, change will that require? when you're ready, commit to your first 1%, and then repeat daily till the end of the year! keeping a journal, a written record, will help you.



The Secret to Sticking to a New Year's Resolution (Fr Mike)



TUNE: Your Plans For Us - Eleventh Hour Worship

To the Heights Youth Resource also available

Check
this
out

THE ROSARY IN A YEAR

If you've ever struggled to build a habit of prayer, this podcast is for you. In Ascension's Rosary in a Year podcast, Fr. Mark-Mary Ames, CFR, guides listeners in a step-by-step journey that will change the way you pray – no matter where you are in your spiritual life. By starting small and adding on over time, listeners will find themselves falling more in love with this powerful Marian devotion, becoming a source of grace for the whole world. Listen to discover.... How to build a daily habit of prayer; how to form a relationship with Jesus and Mary; the Biblical foundations of the Rosary; How to meditate with sacred art (visio divina), saint writings, and scripture (lectio divina); The power of Mary's influence in your life...and more.



BIBLE PROJECT SERIES:

A Short video on the Baptism of Jesus. We watch Jesus launch his ministry of good news for the poor and how he brought together people from very diverse backgrounds to live together in peace.

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