

FAITH @ Home

11TH JANUARY 2026: YEAR A: FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

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"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 28(29): 1-4, 9-10

Second Reading:

Acts 10:34 - 38

Gospel:

Matthew 3:13-17

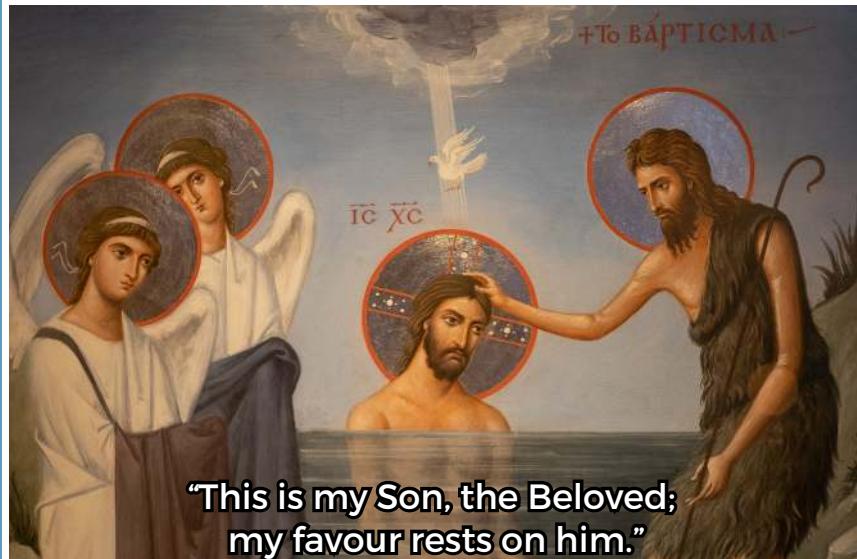


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Hear



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

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



Reflect



- In the Gospel today we find ourselves at the River Jordan witnessing Jesus being baptised by His cousin, John.
- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Have you ever had an experience where you felt truly loved by God? Is there a particular moment where you felt his presence close to you and a real certainty of being His beloved child?
- Spend some time reflecting this week on the fact that at your baptism, you became an adopted child of God - He chose you, He knows you, He loves you. Ask Him to reveal that love for you in a tangible way and to open your eyes, ears and heart to seeing that love!

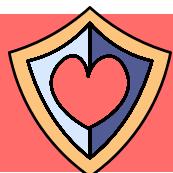
Chat



In today's readings we hear about Jesus being baptised in the River Jordan by John the Baptist, His cousin. Discuss the following as a family:

- What do we know about our own baptism days? Do we have any photos? Who was there? What was the name of the priest who baptised us? What is our full baptismal name? Spend some time chatting about the memories (more than likely you won't remember your own, but you can chat about each others!)
- Jesus was baptised by John before starting his public ministry - what mission do you think God has in mind for you which began at your baptism?

Family Prayer



God our Father, thank you for the gift of my baptism. May I always think, act, speak and serve as a true Child of God. Amen.

Family Challenge!



What date were you baptised? Mark it on your family calendar to remember it and to celebrate it each year as the day you became a Child of God!

Maybe there's a saint who celebrates their feast day on that date too? Pray to that saint in a special way!



THE THIRD MANIFESTATION

Today brings to an end our Christmas celebrations. We see the third and last of the three great manifestations by which were made known to us that our God had come among us in a very special way. The first of these manifestations was through the story of the birth of Jesus in the stable at Bethlehem. The first people privileged to experience this manifestation were the shepherds, representing the poor, the sinful, and the social outcasts on whom Luke's Gospel is especially focused. The second manifestation, the Epiphany, celebrated this past week, reflects Matthew's emphasis that Jesus was born not only for his own people, but for people of every country and every race everywhere. This third manifestation of God's presence among us through Jesus, depicted in today's Gospel, is found in all four Gospels. While the first two manifestations are linked with the birth of Jesus, this one comes at a much later date, at the moment when Jesus is about to begin his public life.

We might very well wonder, like John the Baptist did, why Jesus needed to be baptised. John said to Jesus: *I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?*

All those others being baptised in the Jordan by John were doing so as a sign of repentance for their sins, and as an expression of their desire to turn around their lives. How could Jesus, the Son of God, be part of this?

The first answer to this question is that Jesus, in so doing, was expressing his total solidarity with the human race, of which he was a member. He identified with them, not as a sinner, but as a fellow human being. The expression of that solidarity is a much higher priority for him than any social status he might lose by being seen in the close company of confessed sinners. It was a risk he would constantly take because the needs of the sinner were more important to him than his reputation with the self-righteous. It will have its final dramatic expression as Jesus dies on a cross, executed with, and like, two convicted criminals. For Jesus, there was never such a thing as 'face', i.e. being valued purely on external appearance.

However, in order to understand what is happening at the River Jordan, we have to go far beyond seeing Jesus' baptism as a matter of dealing with sinfulness. What is being really emphasised here is the positive element of Jesus' being totally accepted and confirmed by his Father. Jesus, as he stands there in the River Jordan, is being 'missioned' by his Father for the work he is just about to begin. He is here getting the total endorsement of his Father for that work.

As he steps out of the water, the heavens open and the Spirit of God comes down on Jesus to fill him with all God's fullness.

This is my Son, the Beloved [Greek, agapetos—the object of God's agape, his outpouring love], with whom I am well pleased.

This, we might say, is Jesus' Pentecost experience. It is what the baptism in the Jordan is really about. And it is something that only those with eyes of faith can see. We might also add that this is what our Baptism is really about.

from Living Space (sacredspace.ie)



SARAH KROGER'S BELOVEDNESS AS A CHILD'S LULLABY



CARLO'S CORNER

BECOMING WHO GOD WANTS ME TO BE!

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 Schmitz)



Your Plans for Us Eleventh Hour Worship



To the Heights Youth Resource also available



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