



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

Sunday 12th January 2025

Baptism of Jesus

*Let us sit and watch Songs of Praise
together on the ABC*

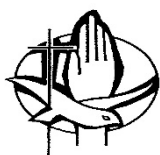


Setting our table for our Sunday lunch service.

Sometimes we eat, in front of the TV either together or alone; we eat on the run; we eat out in restaurants or even in our car; but today we sit at a table that we have set for our Sunday lunch meal. It is our everyday altar of life-giving food. Give some thought to the presentation of our meal as a meditation on the importance of the time we are setting aside for worship, let us define the occasion by adding something special to our table. If you are celebrating this meal alone please be aware that **God Is With You.**



Did you know that the Holy Spirits role in our lives is to be an enabler and an influencer. John the Baptist said that Jesus would come and baptise us in the Holy Spirit and with fire. Now that's baptist talk about allowing the God's Spirit to be downloaded in our hearts and souls. Have you ever had to work on a new website and found navigating it hard. It's only as you persist that you begin to understand it and find the information you need much easier. Then you realise that God's website is the greatest thing since wikipedia.



. opening prayer — consciously drawing together in our mind our Parish community around our table.

Be still and silent.

Visualise in your mind, those whom you invited to share with you.

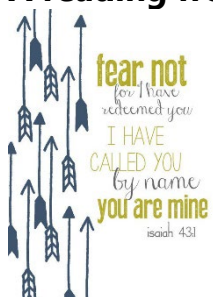
Pray:

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Here, and throughout the world,
We adore you O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy
cross you have redeemed the world. Amen
Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.
Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen,
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**



Let us read and reflect on our cycle of readings.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 43:1-7



Thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I

give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth — everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29 — A.P.B.A. page 248

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven:
ascribe to the Lord glory and might.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name:
O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness.
3. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord upon the great waters.
4. The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation:
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.
5. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar-trees:
the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.
6. He makes them skip like a calf:
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.
7. The voice of the Lord divides the lightning-flash:
the voice of the Lord whirls the sands of the desert
the Lord whirls the desert of Kadesh.
8. The voice of the Lord rends the terebinth trees,
and strips bare the forests:
in his temple all cry 'Glory'.
9. The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood: t
he Lord sits enthroned as a king for ever.
10. The Lord will give strength to his people:
the Lord will give his people the blessing of peace.

THE LORD
GIVES STRENGTH
to His people
THE LORD BLESSES
His people with
PEACE
PSALM 29:11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 8:14-17

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.



Hear the word of the Lord.

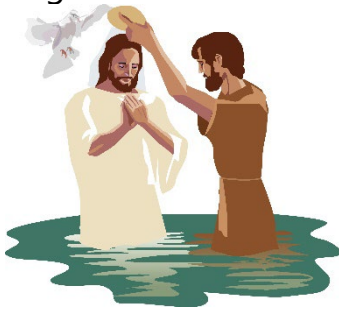
Thanks be to God.

Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 3:15-22

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying,

"I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.



Now when all the people were baptised, and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence

The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, 'You

are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.

Luke 3.22

Let us now engage in some quiet reflection, or conversation and sharing, responding to the Gospel passage. We may like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

Luke 3:16 He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Isaiah 43:1 for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.

Repentance in water isn't just repentance, it only works because we want to obey God. The Holy Spirit is Gods second baptism; meaning that in order to obey Gods will, God gives us an enabler. As we gain the ability to be a follower of Jesus.com the Holy Spirit becomes our influencer. Soon we are liking and sharing the things about God the Holy Spirit posts on our hearts. First comes repentance to love and obey Jesus. Then comes the Holy Spirit to give us the ability to be true followers. And the only way to know this is to enter God's website and try it for real.



prayer-time We pray for family; for members of the parish and wider community, for the life and ministry of the Church, for encouragement in our journey of faith.



Father God, we pray for our world today. For all those recovering from natural disasters, war, famine and loss. We pray for the people in LA as the terrible fires continue to spread. Give strength to those fighting the fires, the emergency workers, and volunteers Give encouragement, strength, fortitude, and patience to those who struggle with their many losses — material, physical, emotional, and personal — and begin to pick up the pieces and create a new future for themselves, their families, and their community.. Surround them with your love and the love and compassion of others that they might be sustained in this time of trouble.



We pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer, Sue Mc, Griselda, Patrusca, Lorraine, Rachel (Bill *& Margarets daughter), Steve (Fr Dennis and Mary son), Ebony (Peter and Heather's daughter in law) Deryn recovering from surgery, Pat, Jean T Nicole, David, Takoohi , Glenda, Margaret, Wendy, Gweneth, Jo and Ginne ,Joyce and Ted, Matthew, Ann , Kathryn and Keiran, Ruth, Jean N, Colin , Georgia (Sunaras Mum). Pat V, Brenda, Joanie, Jo, Jan, Joy I, Jac Bishop; Eileen Cook; Ursula Pridham; Barbara Webber; Tom Arnold; Nicholas & Ben; Sue & Frank Gordon; Emily and her family; Trish Simon; Christina and any others we wish to remember, either silently or aloud.

Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together. Our Father

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Prayer of the Day

Almighty God,
who anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit
and revealed him as your beloved Son:
inspire us, your children,
who are born again of water and the Spirit,
to surrender our lives to your service,
that we may rejoice to be called your children;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Conclude the meal with the following prayer together.



***May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be amongst us and remain with us always.
Amen.***

intentional connection beyond your home

After our Table Service spend some time reaching out to others, a member of your family, or someone who does not have family, or a friend, someone in your community who may be alone and would welcome a call or message from you. Wish them a Happy New Year and let them know of the hope God gives them as they journey through the year: a time of new beginnings with the promise of God's unconditional love and blessing for us all.

Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Contact them. Start a conversation: 'I was thinking of you.....' Or What did you think of.....

