The Feast of The Baptism of the Lord Year B

You are my beloved… My favour rests on you

First Reading:  Isaiah 55:1-11 Come to the water; listen to my words and you shall have life.

Isaiah 12:2-6  You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Second Reading:  1 John 5:1-9. The Spirit, the water and the blood give witness

Alleluia Verse:  Alleluia, alleluia. John saw Jesus approaching him, and said: this is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world’.  Alleluia!

Gospel:  Mark 1:7-11 “He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit”.

Com. Verse:  Behold the one of whom John said: I have seen and testify that this is the son of God .


Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: Jesus was baptised in the Jordan River by John. Let those gathered here who share that same baptism bring our prayers before the Lord.

Leader: We pray for Pope Francis and all who lead within the Church. (pause)

All: That they remember their baptismal priesthood and the responsibility to share the gospel that comes with it

Celebrant: We pray to the Lord

All: Lord hear our prayer

Leader: We pray for all who hold elected office  (pause)

All: That they follow John the Baptist humble example of service, and remember that Gods plan is greater than self interest

Celebrant: We pray to the Lord

All: Lord hear our prayer

Leader: We pray for survivors of abuse who struggle to find wholeness. (pause)

All: That they may take heart from the words from the gospel that “You are my beloved; my favour rests on you.”

Celebrant: We pray to the Lord

All: Lord hear our prayer

Leader: We pray for families and communities  (pause)

All: That they daily strive to be living examples of God’s love and mercy to all those they meet.

Celebrant: We pray to the Lord

All: Lord hear our prayer

Leader: We pray for those who have died  (pause)

All: That the waters of baptism lead them to a fullness of life in you

Celebrant: We pray to the Lord

All: Lord hear our prayer

Celebrant: Holy Father you sent your spirit down upon your son, hear the prayers of your faithful gathered here and send the same spirit amongst us that we be receptive to the lives to which you are calling us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord

All: Amen

OUR POPE SAYS:  Pope Francis

“Every child who is born is a gift of joy and of hope, and every child who is baptized is a miracle of the faith and a feast for the family of God.”

And speaking of Baptism, the first of the Church’s seven Sacraments, Pope Francis said “it gives us new birth in Christ, makes us sharers in the mystery of his death and resurrection, grants the forgiveness of sin and brings us new freedom as God’s children and members of his Church”.

He urged us not to forget the great gift we have received.  “Our baptism has changed us, given us a new and glorious hope, and empowered us to bring God’s redeeming love to all, particularly the poor, in whom we see the face of Christ. Our baptism has also given us a share in the Church’s mission of evangelization; as disciples, we are also missionaries”

Please Pray For the sick: Les and Clare Fern,   Margaret Schubert , Joe & Rosemary Valle, Ardea Tramontin, Br James Maher MSC; Josephine Di Lembo; Margaret Morrissey, Margaret McDonald, Margaret Heagney (Catherine Phillip’s mother) Loretta Grimster, Nancy Supple (Anne Davey’s mother)
MASS TIMES:

SATURDAY VIGIL.  6.00 pm  
SUNDAY  8.30 am AND  6.00 pm.

Syro-Malabar Mass on First Sunday of the month 10.00 am  
Children’s Mass  8.30 am last Sunday of month.

Monday  5.30 pm.  (8.00 am Public Holidays)  
Tuesday –Friday.  6. 45am

Saturday:  8.00 am.

SACRAMENTS:

Reconciliation: Ask at least 15 minutes before any Mass 
and immediately after Saturday Mass.  
Baptisms/ Marriage  By appointment. Book well ahead

Living the Gospel:

He will baptize you with Spirit...

Jesus did not baptize with water, neither did Paul nor did many of the saints. The Good thief entered paradise without baptism. We have to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and fire. We have to realize, accept and celebrate the Good news of Jesus, namely, that God loves us totally and unconditionally just as we are. To be baptized means to be immersed, soaked or dead drunk in this Good news; to proclaim with Jesus that social and religious outcasts belong to the kingdom of God and like Jesus we too will be persecuted not by our enemies but by those we love and care about most. We will thus experience the baptism of fire.

The baptism of Jesus naturally makes us think of our own baptism. Christ’s baptism was not just an isolated event in his life, it was the beginning of a new era in God’s relationship with mankind, and has implications for is all, as it affects each of us at the deepest and most personal level. At baptism the spirit of God takes possession of us in a very special way, to direct and guide us in the footsteps of Christ. Baptism unites us with Jesus in the most intimate manner, bringing us into the family of God with the right to call God Abba, Father.

Though we were baptized when we were a few days old, our baptism is not merely an event of the past, it is an ever present reality, a constant sharing in the divine life of the Risen Christ. It is a daily invitation to come closer to God and to be helpers in his work of saving the world. We are called to be partners of Christ's mission in our own sphere of living, and to make the world a better place to live in. in our everyday lives we may not have ability to do great things but we have the power to do good things. Through good works each of us, in our own way, completes the mission which Christ began after his baptism. Let us ask ourselves: are we true to the direction in which our lives were pointed at our baptism? As Gregory of Nazianzus, a seventh century Church father says "Let us be buried with Christ by Baptism to rise with him; let us go down with him to be raised with him; and let us rise with him to be glorified with him."

PARISH NOTICES AND COMING EVENTS

Collections:  1st Collection:  $ 784.90  

St Vincent de Paul:  If you would like to volunteer with, or join, the St Vincent de Paul Society or need the Society's help please call the Society on 8948 8100.

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday 11th:  Feast of The Baptism of the Lord  
Sunday 18th:  Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Sunday 25th:  Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dates for the Sacramental program 2015:

Reconciliation:  Thursday 26th March at 6pm
First Communion:  Saturday 13th June at 6pm
Confirmation:  Saturday 19th September

Minister's Roster

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<th>DATE:</th>
<th>MASS TIME</th>
<th>WELCOMER</th>
<th>COMMENTATOR</th>
<th>READER 1</th>
<th>READER 2</th>
<th>Childrens Lit Word</th>
<th>SPECIAL MINISTERS</th>
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<tr>
<td>11th January</td>
<td>SAT 6pm</td>
<td>Kathy Hilder</td>
<td>Helen Smith</td>
<td>Ross O'Campo</td>
<td>Peter Harrison</td>
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<td>SUN 8:30am</td>
<td>Rhonda Blaser</td>
<td>Sr Lucy Kert</td>
<td>Garry Blackett</td>
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<td>18th January</td>
<td>SAT 6pm</td>
<td>Kathy Hilder</td>
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