

Parish of St. Mary's

Mostrim



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The Baptism of the Lord - 9th / 10th Jan 2021

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Eucharistic Adoration is currently taking place from 11.00 to 12.00 on Monday to Friday.

• The Deep End • The Baptism of the Lord •

Come to the water

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, the moment when God reveals who Jesus is. Our readings are rich with water imagery. Water is a powerful symbol throughout the Scriptures, from the story of creation and the crossing of the Red Sea, to the wedding feast at Cana and Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well. It is a symbol of life and newness, an opportunity for God to reach out to us, be present with us and teach us something, as well as an opportunity for cleansing and a fresh start.

Our gospel today tells of Jesus being baptised by John in the river Jordan. This immersion in water marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry. By approaching John for baptism, along with all the others, Jesus is identifying with the people and allowing himself to be counted among sinners. It is a sign that he submitting to God's will. At this crucial moment, as soon as he emerges from the Jordan, Jesus sees the heavens open and the voice of God confirming him as 'Beloved Son'. It is a moment of divine approval, confirming Jesus' identity and launching him on his new mission.

The baptism of Jesus is a reminder of our own identity and mission. We are beloved daughters and sons of God, sisters and brothers of Jesus, members of God's family. In today's first reading we are invited: 'Come to the water all you who are thirsty'. We are called to the water, to that moment when we recognise who Jesus is, who we are, and our mission to live as children of God.

'In order to live a life of holiness, we must first receive new life from God — we must be born from above.'

J. Vernon McGee

- Jane Mellett (INTERCOM)

• Seeing Your life Through The Lens Of The Gospel •

1. John gives an example of humility as a person confident in his own role but not seeking to claim to be more than he is. He acknowledges that Jesus is greater. There is a freedom in being able to acknowledge the gifts of others without losing a sense of one's own giftedness. Recall times when you were able to do this.

2. The baptism of Jesus was an extraordinary religious experience for him. Something happened that was a major step forward for Jesus in coming to know that he was the beloved Son of God. We all have events in our lives that are milestones along the road of discovering who we are. What have been these milestones for you?

3. 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' Bring to mind experiences in which you knew you were the beloved (of God or of another person) and that the one who loved you was well pleased. Remember these experiences with gratitude, knowing that the only proper response to love received is thankfulness. Perhaps you have also given that experience to another.

4. It is easy to lament the growing secularisation in the world today, but the Spirit of God who spoke loudly to the world in the Christ-event is active today. How can we be open to the new things the Spirit is saying to the church today?

- John Byrne OSA (INTERCOM)

Keep Us From Pettiness

Keep us, O God, from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.

Let us be done with faultfinding and leave off self-seeking. May we put away all pretenses and meet each other, face to face, without self-pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous. Let us take time for all things; make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.

Teach us to put in action our better impulses-straightforward and unafraid.

Grant that we may realize it is the little things of life that create difficulties; that in the big things of life we are as one.

Oh, Lord, let us not forget to be kind.

Amen.

Love's Meaning

To love a human being means to accept him, to love him as he is.

Christ's love is like that;

It is entirely disinterested and selfless;

It accepts you as you are,

With all that is displeasing,

Disappointing and even painful for him in you

If you wait to love a human being

Until he has got rid of his faults,

Until he is different,

You are only loving an idea.

- Julian of Norwich 1342 - 1413

PRAYER

Dear God, Be the strength in other's words that they may be kind and honest with no intent to steal the spirit of others. Be the strength in my words that they do not willingly hurt others just as I have wished them not to hurt me. It comforts me to know that You have such farreaching, kind-hearted, Fatherly love for us. Even in this networked world we live in Your love knows no limit. Help me keep logged into Your powerful love and signed out from harshness to others. Amen.

PARENTING

For my daughter

Even though we don't always see things eye to eye,
I hope you always remember how much
I care about you,

As your words and actions have proven
How you care about me too.

And even though it sometimes seemm

As if we're out of touch

And don't always understand each other,

The bond between us runs much deeper –

The love between us finds a way to understand

What the eyes and ears cannot – Anon

"It is in silence that God is known, and through mysteries that He declares Himself" - R. H. Benson

- Fr Tom Healy -