



The Baptism of the Lord

9 January 2022

readings

Next Week

Is 62: 1-5

Ps 95: 1-3, 7-10

1 Cor 12: 4-11

Jn 2: 1-11

in a nutshell

The Cleansing Waters of Re-Birth. In Luke's Gospel, the baptism of Jesus marks the end of the ministry of John the Baptist and the beginning of a new era, that of the saving ministry of Jesus. This feast, which occurs early in the new year, is a good time for us to resolve to begin a new era in our own lives. Putting the past behind us, let us commit ourselves to make a fresh start in our service and love of our brothers and sisters.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend, especially, Maureen O'Kane, Kaye Law, Fay Grant, Bernie Reed.

For those who have died recently, and those whose anniversary occur at this time.

of special note

We are looking for volunteers to help start a Godstart Program in the parish

More information inside

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Psalm Response

(R.) Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. (R.)

Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servants. (R.)

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great and small. (R.)

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill. (R.)

You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I;
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with
fire. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Behold the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

The Parish of St Mary's

Parish Priest
REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary
Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours
Thursday
9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass
Saturday—5:00pm
Sunday—10:30am & 5:00pm

Weekday Mass & Rosary
Tuesday—9:00am
Thursday—9:00am
Friday—9:00am
Rosary prayed before morning Mass

Reconciliation
Saturday—11:30am-12:30pm
Friday—8:10am-8:40am

Exposition
Friday at 8:00am

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

Principal: Angela Glennie

Website:
smmountevelyn.catholic.edu.au

Parish Notices

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.

Do you need a Helping Hand?

Ring the St Vinnies Call Centre 1800 305 330
Monday - Friday 10am to 3pm, St Mary's Conference 0427 874 374 or John Bird 0407 848 192

Bulletin notices: by 12:00 noon Thursday please

mountevelyn@cam.org.au

For positions vacant within the Diocese visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Godstart Volunteers Wanted

Many parents bring their children to St. Mary's for Baptism but lose ongoing connection with the Church. Godstart is a program which seeks to bridge that gap by sending birthday cards every year (up to 5yrs) to those baptised at our Parish. We are putting together a team of volunteers who will meet once a month to write and post these birthday cards. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Rachael O'Shea on 0437122802.

Adoration of the Eucharist

In beholding the Word made flesh, now sacramentally present in the Eucharist, the eyes of our bodies are united with the eyes of faith in gazing upon the presence "par excellence" of Emmanuel until that day when the sacramental veil will be lifted in the Kingdom of heaven. (Pope St. John Paul II)

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Friday mornings 8:00am. Yarra Junction, Thursday nights at 6:00pm except first Thursday (Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration.

Stewardship Corner

"John answered them all, 'I baptise you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit...'" (LUKE 3:16)

The Catholic Catechism states that "Jesus' immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God's will." In other words, as baptised Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

Stewardship - Support for your Parish.

As you would understand income from both the stewardship and presbytery donations suffered during the last two years causing a significant decrease in income for both the church and the presbytery. The Parish appreciates the ongoing support by those parishioners who are formally engaged in the Stewardship Program either using the envelopes or via direct debit. It's not too late to decide to become a regular contributor to the finances of the Parish. Please notify the office if you would like to be part of the Stewardship.

A reminder that the Thanksgiving Offering side of the envelope contributes to the running of the parish: paying utilities, purchasing mass requisites, the secretarial wages etc. The Presbytery Envelope plus any loose cash goes towards the support of the Parish Priest with a percentage going to the Archdiocese and Priest's Remuneration Fund.

Vinnies News

Saint Vincent de Paul Piety Stall is now selling the 2022 Columban Art Calendar which includes beautiful artwork, liturgical information and feast days at \$10.00 each.

Aid to the Church in Need Australia

This month can you provide Transport for Pastoral Care in Malawi? Your support will help priests and religious to visit their people and aid their ministry to administer the sacraments and to keep the Faith alive. Visit www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject.

Covid Safe Environment

It is expected that Covid regulations are followed by each person therefore make sure you are signed in (preferably using QR code), sanitize, maintain socially distancing, and follow Covid guidelines as directed by the CHO.

New Website Address

In the coming weeks we will have a new website address. <http://pol.org.au/mountevelyn/Home.aspx>

Something to make you Smile!

A couple had two little boys, ages 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. The two were always getting into trouble and their parents could be assured that if any mischief occurred in their town their two young sons were in some way involved.

The parents were at their wits end as to what to do about their sons' behaviour. The mother had heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children in the past, so she asked her husband if he thought they should send the boys to speak with the clergyman.

The husband said, 'We might as well. We need to do something before I really lose my temper!' The clergyman agreed to speak with the boys, but asked to see them individually. The 8-year-old went to meet with him first. The clergyman sat the boy down and asked him sternly, 'Where is God?'

The boy made no response, so the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, 'Where is God?' Again the boy made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face, 'WHERE IS GOD?'

At that the boy bolted from the room and ran directly home, slamming himself in the closet. His older brother followed him into the closet and asked what had happened. The younger brother replied, 'We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it.'

Readings Reflection

[The Anointing](#)

The Liturgy last week revealed the mystery of God's plan—that in Jesus all peoples, symbolized by the Magi, have been made "coheirs" to the blessings promised to Israel. This week, we're shown how we claim our inheritance.

Jesus doesn't submit to John's baptism as a sinner in need of purification. He humbles Himself to pass through Jordan's waters in order to lead a new "exodus"—opening up the promised land of heaven so that all peoples can hear the words pronounced over Jesus today, words once reserved only for Israel and its king: that each of us is a beloved son or daughter of God (see Genesis 22:2; Exodus 4:22; Psalm 2:7).

Jesus is the chosen servant Isaiah prophesies in today's First Reading, anointed with the Spirit to make things right and just on earth. God puts His Spirit upon Jesus to make Him "a covenant of the people," the liberator of the captives, the light to the nations. Jesus, today's Second Reading tells us, is the One long expected in Israel, "anointed . . . with the Holy Spirit and power."

The word messiah means "one anointed" with God's Spirit. King David was "the anointed of the God of Jacob" (see 2 Samuel 23:1–17; Psalm 18:51; 132:10, 17). The prophets taught Israel to await a royal offshoot of David, upon whom the Spirit would rest (see Isaiah 11:1–2; Daniel 9:25).

That's why the crowds are so anxious at the start of today's Gospel. But it isn't John they're looking for. God confirms with His own voice what the angel earlier told Mary: Jesus is the Son of the Most High, come to claim the throne of David forever (see Luke 1:32–33).

In the Baptism that He brings, the voice of God will hover over the waters as a fiery flame, as we sing in today's Psalm. He has sanctified the waters, made them a passageway to healing and freedom—a fountain of new birth and everlasting life.

[Dr. Scott Hahn](#)
stpaulcenter.com

The mystery of the Lord's baptism

The Gospel tells us that the Lord went to the Jordan River to be baptized and that he wished to consecrate himself in the river by signs from heaven.

Reason demands that this feast of the Lord's baptism, which I think could be called the feast of his birthday, should follow soon after the Lord's birthday, during the same season, even though many years intervened between the two events.

At Christmas he was born a man; today he is reborn sacramentally. Then he was born from the Virgin; today he is born in mystery. When he was born a man, his mother Mary held him close to her heart; when he is born in mystery, God the Father embraces him with his voice when he says: This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased: listen to him. The mother caresses the tender baby on her lap; the Father serves his Son by his loving testimony. The mother holds the child for the Magi to adore; the Father reveals that his Son is to be worshipped by all the nations.

That is why the Lord Jesus went to the river for baptism; that is why he wanted his holy body to be washed with Jordan's water.

Someone might ask, "Why would a holy man desire baptism?" Listen to the answer: Christ is baptized, not to be made holy by the water, but to make the water holy, and by his cleansing to purify the waters which he touched. For the consecration of Christ involves a more significant consecration of the water.

For when the Saviour is washed, all water for our baptism is made clean, purified at its source for the dispensing of baptismal grace to the people of future ages. Christ is the first to be baptized, then, so that Christians will follow after him with confidence.

I understand the mystery as this. The column of fire went before the sons of Israel through the Red Sea so they could follow on their brave journey; the column went first through the waters to prepare a path for those who followed. As the apostle Paul said, what was accomplished then was the mystery of baptism. Clearly it was baptism in a certain sense when the cloud was covering the people and bringing them through the water.

But Christ the Lord does all these things: in the column of fire he went through the sea before the sons of Israel; so now, in the column of his body, he goes through baptism before the Christian people. At the time of the Exodus the column provided light for the people who followed; now it gives light to the hearts of believers. Then it made a firm pathway through the waters; now it strengthens the footsteps of faith in the bath of baptism.

A sermon by St Maximus of Turin