



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH

52 Yarra Street

HEIDELBERG

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which our parish stands, the Wurundjeri-Balluk clan of the Woi wurrung people in the Kulin Nation.

Central to the mission of St John's Parish is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity and integrity of children and young people and providing them with a safe and supportive environment in which to flourish.

PARISH PRIEST Fr Joel Peart
PARISH SECRETARY: Mary Peeris
PASTORAL PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR: Michelle Robertson
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OFFICE HOURS:
 Tues—Fri 9:30am to 2:30pm
MASS TIMES: Tues to Sat: 9am &
 Sat Vigil 6pm, Sun: 8:30am &
 10:30am.
RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):
 by appointment, Sat 9:30-
 10am
WEDDINGS: By appointment
**FIRST RECONCILIATION,
 FIRST COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION:**
 Parish Secretary (9457 1066)
**LEGION OF MARY, PARISH PILGRIM
 STATUE OF MARY:** Statue not in
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 Contact parish office during
 hours.

9TH/10TH JANUARY 2021, *THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD*

PARISH PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we the parishioners of St John's are grateful for all we have received from the men, women and children of our past. Help us to cherish and maintain our parish heritage. Most of all, enable us to be people who welcome the stranger, the needy, the sick and the lonely. Like St John, our patron saint, may we be people who love others, as your Son Jesus, asked us to do. We make this prayer, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

With the feast of the Baptism today we make a swift transition from Jesus' infancy and childhood to the event which, in all four gospels, inaugurates his adult public ministry.

The heart of John's preaching is to point to Jesus as the coming One who is 'more powerful' than he is. Mark's introduction of Jesus is in its own way very striking. Jesus does not drop down out of heaven like a god but simply emerges out of the common mass of repentant Israelites approaching John for baptism.

It is only what happens afterwards that sets him apart. Mark's description is powerful. The 'tearing apart' of the heavens responds to a cry for rescue. The same expression will recur in the tearing of the curtain of the Temple immediately following Jesus' death upon the cross. In both cases there is the sense of the barrier between the divine and human world being ripped away.

The descent of the Spirit 'like a dove' has been variously explained. Jesus' experience of the Spirit is essentially an experience and assurance of the Father's love. His Spirit-empowered mission will be to rebuild a People of God upon that same assurance. United with Jesus, every baptised person can hear the 'Father's voice' from heaven: *'You are my beloved son, my beloved daughter; in you I am well pleased'*.

In this way, today's feast, while primarily about the baptism of Jesus, is also about our baptism as well. That sacrament brings human beings into the divine community of love that is the Trinity. It empowers us, as it empowered him, to reflect that love to the world.

Scripture Commentary by Brendan Byrne SJ

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PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Abigail Greig, Nikiforos Filippousis.
ANNIVERSARY: Frank Piermarini, Maria Magdalena Hoang, Wal and Pat Kennedy, Maureen O'Brien, Faye Kennedy, Michael Lucy.
PRAYER FOR THE SICK: Mary Teresa Wright, James Artinopoulos, Philomena Misale and Brett Ralph, Elizabeth Finn, Pauline Hewatt, Giovanni Mirabella.

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.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations,

to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 28:1-4.9-10

RESPONSE: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court.

R./

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour.

R./

The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever.

R./

SECOND READING

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ

is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 1:7-11

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'



COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

HAVE YOU THOUGHT? – BAPTISM

Whilst today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, it is also a reminder and celebration of our own Baptism. Today's gospel is a reminder that we are baptised with the Holy Spirit, not merely with water. To be baptised with the Holy Spirit means that we are drawn into communion with God and we are also empowered by that communion to make a difference in the world – to reach out a helping hand to those in need and to proclaim the good news of Jesus through our actions and our words.