

THE SAVING WORD

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD / C

12 JANUARY 2025

FIRST READING

Isa 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.

‘Console my people, console them’
says your God.

‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her

that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
‘Here is your God.’

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30. R. v. 1

R. Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

1. 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.**



2. 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.**

3. 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.**

4. 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.**

5. 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.**

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus.

*He saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal
in the Holy Spirit.*

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made
salvation possible for the whole human race
and taught us that what we have to do is to
give up everything that does not lead to God,
and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-
restrained and live good and religious lives here
in this present world, while we are waiting in
hope for the blessing which will come with the
Appearing of the glory of our great God and
saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us
in order to set us free from all wickedness and to
purify a people so that it could be his very own
and would have no ambition except to do good.

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK & HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

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ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick, VIC 3185

www.melbcatholic.org/elsternwick

Mass

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 10:30am

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: R Rodrigues

Lector - Sunday: D Joseph

Counters: B Leong, M Beaumont & E Ambrose

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

www.melbcatholic.org/caulfieldsouth

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector: D Sarah

ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY

74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163

In Residence: Fr Pat Jackson SAC, Br Lindsay Rust SAC

Mass

Monday - Saturday 9:15am

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

30-minutes before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

This Week's Liturgical Calendar

Fri 17 Jan: St Anthony

Sun 19 Jan: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thank You

We thank Fr Malcolm Crawford for celebrating Mass with us at St Joseph's, Elsternwick and Holy Cross, Caulfield South this weekend while Fr Pat is on holiday.

Holy Communion to the Sick and Elderly

Please let the Parish Office know if you or anyone you know would like to receive Holy Communion at their homes or aged care facilities.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Mt 3:16-17)

After the Lord was baptised, 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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Jn 1:32, 34)

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Paulette Dobbin, Tony Messina, Steve Genge & family, Jenny

Recently Deceased: Fr Babu (Varghese) Kattikattu

Death Anniversary: Alfred Dowling

With great sadness, we convey the news that
Reverend Babu (Varghese) Kattikattu MC
passed away on Thursday, 9th January 2025, in India.



We mourn the loss of a remarkable priest, a dedicated servant of God, and a loving spiritual father. Let us unite in prayer for the Lord to grant him eternal rest.

A Mass for the repose of his soul will be celebrated by Bishop Tony Ireland on Sunday, 19th January, at 10:30am at St Joseph's Church, Elsternwick.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE

Perpetual Adoration Chapel



Our Perpetual Adoration Chapel was the brainchild of our late Fr Varghese - built in 2018 to commemorate the centenary celebration of St Joseph's Church.

The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 using a security tag. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to apply for a tag.

Children's Liturgy

During 10:30am Sunday Mass at St Joseph's, children are invited to Children's Liturgy, where the Gospel of the day is read and explained at a level that the children can understand.

Please feel free to accompany your child/ren to the session. If you would like to assist in the programme, kindly contact the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA sessions held at St Joseph's Presbytery every Thursday at 6:30pm have resumed. Please share with anyone interested in becoming a Catholic.



Bishops Elect
Fr Thinh Xuan Nguyen
and
Fr Rene Ramirez RCJ



The Episcopal Ordination for the Bishops-elect is to take place in the morning of 1 February 2025 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne.

More information will be shared as planning gets further underway. Please keep the date and meanwhile keep praying for them.

The Jubilee Logo

The logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples.



The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need.

There are the rough waves under the figures, symbolising the fact that life's pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. Often the circumstances of daily life and events in the wider world require a greater call to hope.

That's why we should pay special attention to the lower part of the cross which has been elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves. The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope. In maritime jargon the 'anchor of hope' refers to the reserve anchor used by vessels involved in emergency manoeuvres to stabilise the ship during storms.

It is worth noting that the image illustrates the pilgrim's journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal, marked by an increasing dynamism leading one ever closer to the cross.

The cross in the logo is by no means static, but it is also dynamic. It bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope.

At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year: Pilgrims Of Hope, represented in green letters.

Safeguarding Children and Young People

The welfare of the children and young people in our care will always be our first priority and we have a ZERO tolerance for any form of abuse. For more information on Safeguarding: melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding

Young Adults Hosting Mass

The young people from our 3 parishes are invited to attend the 6:30pm Mass at St Joseph's Church on Saturday, 18 January. This will be followed by fellowship at St Joseph's Presbytery.

Please encourage the young adults of all our parishes to participate in this initiative. It is an opportunity for them to meet and socialise among their peers in the safe space of our parish.

For more information, email elsternwick@cam.org.au

The Baptism of the Lord, Year C

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

A common question on Baptism is 'why do we get baptised?' We know of more than one reason to get baptised. One of the reasons is that in Baptism sins are washed away; our personal sins as well as our original sin.



Immediately then another question follows, 'if so, why did Jesus get baptised, for he had neither original sin nor personal sins'. In fact, many similar questions could be asked with regard to Jesus; e.g. about his incarnation; Why did he become a human person? Why at all did he live in poverty? Why at all did he face the temptations? Why at all did he have to suffer? And why at all did he die a terrible death?

John the Baptist too had similar questions on Jesus. At first John refused to baptise him, for he understood that Jesus did not have to have the "Baptism of repentance." Baptism of repentance which John was conferring was meant for the sinners. He was/is sinless. Yet Jesus voluntarily underwent Baptism, for he had already taken upon himself the burden of our sinfulness.

We know that in everything Jesus identified himself with humanity except in sin. It was not necessary for God to become a man, yet he chose to. It was not necessary for him to face temptations, yet he chose to. It was not necessary for Jesus to live in poverty, suffer humiliations, even undergo death, yet he chose to. In the same way, even though Baptism was not necessary for him, yet he chose to be baptised. It was a voluntary act, whereby he was counted as one of us, except in sin.

The Baptism of Jesus marks his solidarity with his people. Incarnation is not only coming to earth but also assuming the burdens of life in the flesh. He is truly the "God with us".

Fr Leenus.

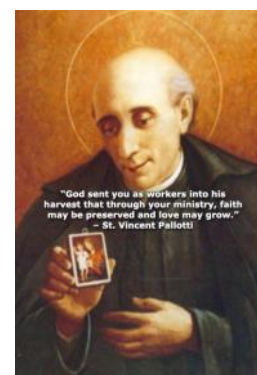


*Did you hear about the guy who invented the knock-knock joke?
He won the 'no-bell' prize.*

Feast of St Vincent Pallotti

Pallottine Family Celebration Day!

Wednesday 22 January at Holy Cross Church, Caulfield South. Mass at 11:30am, followed by lunch at the Parish Hall.



There will be an update on The Flame of Love Orphanage at Keshero in the Democratic Republic of the Congo along with an opportunity to donate to it.

We want this to be an enjoyable day of celebration so bring along friends, neighbours and family members.

A Sausage Sizzle lunch will be provided. Let us know if you can bring an electric frying pan/grill, sliced onions, shish kebabs, salad, fruit platter, dessert, or help in any way.

Kindly RSVP by email to our Parish Office, leave a voice mail message for Anne Dowling on 0429-869457, or let Fr Leenus know.

Your presence will help make it a delightful celebration!

Breaking Open the Word

BELOVED OF GOD

Luke remembers the story of Jesus' baptism and shapes its theological power to speak to the Gospel's late first century Greco-Roman audience. They have been baptised in their induction into the life of their discipleship household. This story is a reminder that through their baptism they are intimately bonded to Jesus and, through him, to God.

There are three important features which Luke highlights. The first is about John the Baptist whose focus is on Jesus. He witnesses to the future coming of one "more powerful" than he. A second feature is the moment of Jesus' baptism. This occurs, unlike in the other Gospels, without the presence of John. (He is already in prison—a part of the story omitted from today's reading). In other words, Jesus' baptism is God's act. It occurs while Jesus prays. His prayer opens the sacred realm of God's abode, the heavens. The Spirit of God descends on him. Jesus continues throughout the rest of the Gospel to be God's Spirit-filled agent.

Third, as Jesus is anointed with the Spirit, we hear God's voice and declaration of Jesus: "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you". Jesus is declared beloved of God, the one in whom God delights. Luke's theology of baptism is for the Gospel's audience, for us: We are baptised, God's Spirit acts within us, our prayer opens the Heavens for us; we are God's beloved daughters and sons in whom God eternally delights. This Sunday becomes a moment to celebrate the gift of our baptism and God's high estimation of us.

Fr Michael Trainor

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Lk 3:16

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

GOSPEL

Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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