



Parish Priest and Deacon

Fr Jason Antony MCBS

Dcn Des Neagle

Office Staff

Adrian Prendergast

Dot Lomax

Pastoral Coordinators

Rachel Marchesini

Yolanda Apelt

Churches

St Joachim's Church

41 Yuletide Street

Holland Park

St Agnes' Church

1227 Logan Road

Mt Gravatt

Parish Office Hours

Monday – Friday

8:30am – 4:00pm

Parish Details

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st joachim's & st agnes' parish

Parish Schools and College

St Agnes' School

07 3349 5130

St Joachim's School

07 3397 9087

Seton College

07 3291-5333

St Vincent de Paul Welfare

1800 846 643

Safeguarding Officer

Dot Lomax 0474 297 201

(Safeguarding purposes only)

The Baptism of the Lord

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January 8th/9th, 2022

The Baptism of the Lord

Today, we look at an adult Jesus. The child of the manger has grown to manhood and respectability, and reaches that place in life when He must embark on the Divine commission entrusted to Him by the Father. In preparation, He joins the candidates who have responded to John the Baptist in the Jordan River, submitting to baptism at his hands to wash away their sins. It is at that time and place that God reveals Him as His Son: “Then, while He was praying, the heavens opened: The Holy Spirit came down upon Him in the bodily form of a dove and a voice from Heaven was heard, “You are my Son, Beloved; my favour rests on you”. It is just the preparatory stage of the Great Journey. He is prepared to start off all the way to the Cross.

This Sunday's gospel reading also carries an invitation for us to reflect on the meaning and significance of our own baptism. Because it initiates us into the Christian community, it ranks first among the sacraments. It takes precedence over ordination and marriage, and without it one cannot participate in the other sacraments, become a deacon or make profession of religious vows. But like all the other sacraments, it does not work magic.

Everyone who is baptised has to work at living authentically his or her commitment to walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. We can therefore liken baptism to a seed that has to germinate and be nourished by a suitable environment, be cared for and even pruned and be trained to negotiate obstacles. So parents and godparents have great duties towards children to nurture their faith. We have to realise that, in baptism, we have been planted in God's love. As a consequence, we have to reflect that love to everyone we encounter.

We become tightly linked to one another, forming Christian community. With Jesus and all our brothers and sisters, we are individually and collectively identified as God's beloved. Being loved calls for a loving response. That kind of response does not happen automatically. But it develops with practice and commitment. Others will see it only in our actions. It is not always easy to make a decision to reach out in love to those we encounter every day at home, at work, at school at university and on public transport. But they're the kinds of demands to which we commit ourselves when we decide to look baptised.

Again this feast reminds us of our own Baptisms, compelling us to renew the promises our parents and godparents made on our behalf, when they presented us to the Church, to make of us disciples of Jesus. “Baptism has liberated us from all evil, which are the sins, but with God's grace we have to accomplish all good things”. (Saint Cesaire, bishop of Arles).

With God's blessings,
Fr Jason

Readings: 2nd Sunday Ordinary Time

Isaiah 62:1-5

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

READINGS FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

'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 all 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.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: O 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.

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.

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.

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.

Second Reading

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

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.

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.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Luke 2:41-52

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.'

Parish Diary

Monday, January 10th

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, January 12th

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, January 13th

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Friday, January 14th

Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's

Saturday, January 15th

Reconciliation 5:30pm
St Joachim's

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 15th

Mass 6:00pm
St Joachim's

Sunday, January 16th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

We remember Margaret Macdonald, Mary Mui Tai Vu, Thomas Cam Nguyen, George Zangerle and Juanita Borromeo. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

WE REJOICE

With the Frazer and Stafford families as they celebrate the baptism of Harry, Annabel and Joshua in the parish this weekend.

COUNTERS

Alison's team

St Vincent De Paul Society

Tuesday, January 11th at 4:00pm in the Parish Centre

GOD'S WORD 2022

This is the last week that this book will be available. Cost - \$15.