



## *The Baptism of the Lord*

*12th / 13th January 2019*

### **Parish Clergy**

Fr Martin Cruickshank

### **Parish Office**

Gemma Whitehead—Monday

Fran Kernaghan - Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Phone: 6025 1516

Email: [sacredheartna@gmail.com](mailto:sacredheartna@gmail.com)

Web: <http://sacredheartnorthalbury.com/>

### **Mass Times**

**SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm**

**SUNDAY: 9.30 am**

**WEEKDAY MASSES: This Week:**

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9.30am**

**NO Mass Thursday**

**First Tuesday of the month: 11.00 am Mass  
at Mercy Place.**

### **RECONCILIATION**

**SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM**

**BAPTISMS—By appointment.**

**Preparation Course: 0411 883 661**

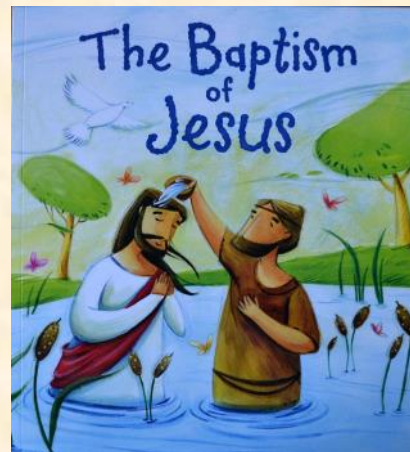
### **CHURCH STORES.**

**Religious gifts and supplies shipped  
overnight. Phone (02) 9233 2268.**

**[churchsupplies@ozmail.com.au](mailto:churchsupplies@ozmail.com.au)**

**PAULINE BOOKS AND MEDIA**

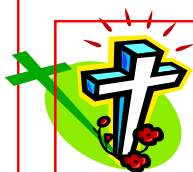
**Phone (03) 9882 3424**



The optional readings for this feast recapitulate the themes of the entire Advent-Christmas season. Within the Christian tradition the voice that announces the future events is associated with John the Baptist. However, the reading itself proclaims the coming and manifestation of the LORD, clearly an Advent theme. The gospel reading from Luke moves us from anticipation of the coming of the messiah to fulfilment of God's promise. This theme of fulfilment is at the heart of the Christmas message. In the baptism narrative we see that Jesus has come into our midst, not only as a helpless infant, but as our anointed messiah. There is a dimension to this same gospel reading that opens us to a future yet to be fully realised in our lives. The one upon whom the Spirit descends has come to baptise us in that same Spirit.

The reading from Titus is similar to the gospel. Both herald the appearance of Jesus and promise a future fulfilment for us. Renewed by the Spirit, we will be justified and become heirs in hope of eternal life. The readings clearly announce that: the LORD is coming; the LORD has come; the LORD will continue to come to and through us into the whole world. Under all of this rings the melody of God's creative power as seen in the Psalm response. In view of the Isaian passage, God promises to create something new in the wilderness of chaos. There the glory of the LORD will be revealed. (Dianne Bergant CSS)

# Parish Community



*We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith especially:*

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Sr Therma (MACE), Patricia Watters, Mary West, Fr Jim Victory, Margaret Power, Sr Mary Duffy.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Kathleen Lester, Sr Christopher Ryan, Robert Watson, Albert Williams, Ann Bellett, Bill Cromarty, Gregory Sutherland, Nola Toner, Geraldine Krautz, Marianna Kalenikovs, Geoffrey Kimball, John Whyte, Gertrude Heppner, John Packer, Michael Mullavey, Daren Fisher, Frank Esler, Leslie Maloy, Tom Drum.  
*Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.*

## Prayer for the Sick

*We pray for all those who are sick. May they draw strength and healing from God's presence with them and from our prayers and thoughts for them.*

*May they have peace in their hearts and know they are greatly loved by all.*

*We offer our prayers believing that God's presence and power can do more than we can ever know. Amen*

## ROSTERS

Sat / Sun: 12th / 13th January		
Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
<b>Commentator</b>	Brian Waters	Richard Parkinson
<b>Lector 1</b>	Paula Waters	Leanne Michael
<b>Lector 2</b>	Pat Hickman	Bede Hart
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Jeneice Harding Michael Regan	Carmel Butts Frank Glennon Pamela McIntosh
<b>Cantor Musicians</b>	Margaret & Ed Brown Judy Foley	Ann McIntyre Val Hayes
<b>Counters: Michael Byrnes</b>		

Sat /Sun: 19th / 20th January		
Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
<b>Commentator</b>	Anthony Foley	Rosalie Martin
<b>Lector 1</b>	Michael Byrnes	Michael Stephenson
<b>Lector 2</b>	Karen Purtle	Terry Hillman
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Jim & Kaye Deanshaw	MACE Sisters Cathy Nyhan Fran Kernaghan
<b>Cantor Musicians</b>	Brian Waters Judy Foley	Simon Goss
<b>Counters: Nardia Scarvell &amp; Liz Simon</b>		

## Prayer of Renewal

Jesus,  
I am seeking more meaning in my life.  
I seek happiness and peace for myself and my loved ones.  
Little by little as I look back over my life,  
I can see you have been calling me to yourself.  
Sometimes in the special moments which I have experienced I have sensed your presence and your guiding hand through it all.  
Help me not to be afraid as I resolve now to learn more about you and your Church and make you a larger part of my life.  
Amen.

## A Thought for the Week ( Pope Francis):

"Baptism permits Christ to live in us, and to live united with him, in order to collaborate in the Church, each according to his or her own condition, to the transformation of the world."

# Parish News

*Thank You!*

Many thanks to all for so generously supporting the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. Both St Anne's and Xavier School communities collected Christmas gifts for children and families. In addition to our own donation of gifts \$1,130.00 was raised through the Christmas Day leaving collection and the envelope appeal.

## 50th Anniversary

On the 2nd January 1969 Anne Hagan, Colleen Livermore and Patricia Johnson were professed as Sisters of Mercy in Sacred Heart Church, North Albury. We congratulate each of these women for their service to the church and their example of faith. May the Lord's many blessings continue to enrich their lives.

### Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors

The next roster for the months of February, March, April and May is being drawn up. Could you please phone Fran or Gemma at the office your unavailability for these months.

**Thanks** to all of you for continuing to live and share your faith within our Sacred Heart Parish community. A special mention needs to be made for those who walk that extra mile so that we might continue to proclaim Christ's presence in our midst with sure and certain hope. Your efforts are much appreciated and valued.

### *Blessing upon the New Year*

Lord,

At the beginning of this new year, I offer you my life.

Come take my voice, may the words I speak be filled with encouragement and goodness.

Come take my hands, may the work they create be generous and giving.

Come take my feet, may the journeys I walk be led by your Spirit within.

Come take my life Lord, for I love your goodness, your kindness and your leading. Shine your light in us, through us, over us.

May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed so that we may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing.

Amen.

### Outreach Visitation

It is planned to begin visitation of Parishioners who are ill, unable to come to Mass, bereaved, live by themselves etc in mid February 2019.

If you would appreciate seeing a friendly face or two, we would love to call on you in your home or nursing home.

So that plans can be made can you please contact the Parish Office on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday 9am to 2pm on 6025 1516. Please leave your name and phone number and preferred day for visitation.

### Water Blessing

This water that comes to us from the Rivers which flow through the heart of the Wiradjuri country, may this water continue to give life and refreshment to all of us.

The waters remind us of our Baptism and our belonging to this community. May the blessing of this water deepen our Life in the Spirit and give us the courage to walk in the way of our culture and in the way of Jesus.

Let us now bless this water:

*'Blessed are you all powerful God, who in Jesus, the living water of salvation, blesses and transforms us. Grant that when we use this water we will be refreshed inwardly by the power of the Holy Spirit to give us the strength and courage to walk in the new life of following Jesus, our Light'.*

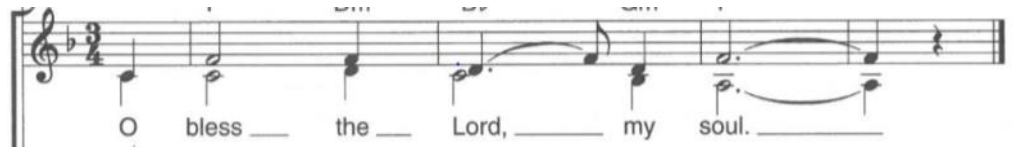
**ALL:** We embrace and accept our belovedness. We are ready to go forth into the New Year following in the footsteps of Jesus to love and serve others.

# Liturgy of the Word

*The Baptism of the Lord—Year C*

*Readings: Is 40: 1-5, 9-11; Titus 2: 11-14, 3: 4-7 ; Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22*

*Responsorial Psalm:*



***O bless the Lord, my soul!***

**Alleluia Verse:**

**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!**

## Reflection on the Readings

Today's gospel begins with a level of expectancy among the people that John the Baptist may be the Christ; the Messiah. This seemingly throw away introductory comment confirms the fact that the Jewish expectation of the Messiah was particularly heightened at the time of John and Jesus. At the time of the ministries of John and Jesus, the Romans had been the occupying force in Judaea for about 80 or 90 years. Throughout most of their lives the infamous Galilee area had been relatively peaceful and free of revolutionary activity but that changed from about 26 CE. With the anti-Roman sentiment on the rise, the ancient yearning for a Messiah resurfaced.

This Messianic expectation stretched back hundreds of years and was richly associated with the sovereign line of King David. The Davidic line ruled for more than 400 years until it was ended in the early 6th Century BCE by the Jewish people being exiled in Babylon for about 50 years.

The term, Messiah, literally means anointed one. In ancient Israel, the king was designated by being anointed with oil on his head. Following the exile in Babylon, the people longed for another great king, in the style and from the line of David. Over time, this expectation grew into an ideal that one day a perfect king would rise up again and be the anointed one; the Messiah. As the years grew into decades and centuries, this expectation took on more and more significance. When the Messiah came, the whole world would be put to right; a period of justice and peace would prevail; the oppressed would be liberated.

Whilst the people longed for the Messiah to appear, the gospels reveal that they had difficulty believing Jesus was the one for whom they hoped.

John makes clear to the people that the baptism he performs is with water but the baptism by Jesus is with the Holy Spirit. John preached a baptism of repentance. In keeping with his Jewish tradition, John called upon the people to make a public declaration of their wrong-doing and commitment to be washed clean of this sinfulness and desire to live in right relationship with God and others. The baptism to which he refers is the complete change of heart and mind that comes through the Holy Spirit and results from a person accepting the message of Jesus.

'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' This declaration by the voice from Heaven – the voice of God – is an amalgamation of two earlier pieces of scripture: 'You are my son; today I have begotten you' (Ps 2:7) and 'Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights' (Is 42:1). The fact that it is uttered before Jesus has begun his ministry is a sign to all of us that God delights in us for who we are, not for what we have achieved in our lives. (Greg Sunter)

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