

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

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.

**GREETING**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
You bring pardon and peace to the sinner: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**  
You bring light to those in darkness: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
May almighty God have mercy on us... **Amen.**

**THE GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand  
of the Father,  
have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty ever-living God,  
who, when Christ had been baptised in  
the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit  
descended upon him, solemnly declared  
him your beloved Son,  
grant that your children by adoption,  
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,  
may always be well pleasing to you.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

**LITURGY OF THE WORD****FIRST READING** *Isaiah 55:1-11*

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah.**  
Thus says the Lord:  
Oh! come to the water all you who are  
thirsty: though you have no money, come!  
Buy corn without money, and eat,  
and, at no cost, wine and milk.  
Why spend money on what is not bread,  
your wages on what fails to satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and you will have  
good things to eat and rich food to enjoy.  
Pay attention, come to me: listen, and  
your soul will live.  
With you I will make an everlasting  
covenant

out of the favours promised to David.  
See, I have made of you a witness  
to the peoples,  
a leader and a master of the nations.  
See, you will summon a nation  
you never knew, those unknown  
will come hurrying to you,  
for the sake of the Lord your God,  
of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.  
Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,  
call to him while he is still near.  
Let the wicked man abandon his way,  
the evil man his thoughts.  
Let him turn back to the Lord who  
will take pity on him,  
to our God who is rich in forgiving;  
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
my ways not your ways -  
it is the Lord who speaks.  
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth  
as my ways are above your ways,  
my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come  
down from the heavens and do not return  
without watering the earth, making it  
yield and giving growth to provide seed  
for the sower and bread for the eating, so  
the word that goes from my mouth does  
not return to me empty, without carrying  
out my will and succeeding in what it was  
sent to do.

**The word of the Lord.**  
**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** *Is.12:2-6*

**R. With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.**

1. Truly God is my salvation,  
I trust, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord is my strength, my song,  
he became my saviour.  
With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation. **[R]**
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to  
his name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the  
peoples!  
Declare the greatness of his name. **[R]**

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord  
for he has done glorious deeds,  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy  
for great in your midst is the Holy One  
of Israel. **[R]**

**SECOND READING** *1 John 5:1-9*

**A reading from the first letter of John.**  
Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ  
has been begotten by God;  
and whoever loves the Father that begot  
him loves the child whom he begets.  
We can be sure that we love God's  
children if we love God himself and do  
what he has commanded us;  
this is what loving God is -  
keeping his commandments;  
and his commandments are not difficult,  
because anyone who has been begotten  
by God has already overcome the world;  
this is the victory over the world - our  
faith.

Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus  
is the Son of God:  
Jesus Christ who came by  
water and blood,  
not with water only,  
but with water and blood;  
with the Spirit as another witness -  
since the Spirit is the truth -  
so that there are three witnesses,  
the Spirit, the water and the blood,  
and all three of them agree.  
We accept the testimony of  
human witnesses  
but God's testimony is much greater,  
and this is God's testimony,  
given as evidence for his Son.

**The word of the Lord.**  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia! John saw Jesus  
coming towards him and said:  
This is the Lamb of God who takes  
away the sin of the world.  
Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** *Mark 1:7-11*

**A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Mark.**

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.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**NICENE CREED**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father; through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*All bow for following three lines:*

and by the Holy Spirit  
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and  
was buried, and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the  
right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver



## focus on sunday

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 7th January 2024

Wherever there is water, there is life. Jesus' baptism in the Jordan marked the beginning of his life's work, his taking on the fullness of humanity. Our baptism is the source of our Christian vocation.

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

Pray brothers and sisters, .....  
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your  
hands for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good and the good of all his holy  
Church.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Accept, O Lord, the offerings  
we have brought to honour the revealing of  
your beloved Son,  
so that the oblation of your faithful  
may be transformed into the sacrifice  
of him who willed in his compassion  
to wash away the sins of the world.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.  
And with your spirit.  
Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them up to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right and just.

**SANCTUS**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.....

**AFTER THE CONSECRATION**

*The mystery of faith.*  
Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.

**INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION**

Behold the Lamb of God, .....  
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter  
under my roof, but only say the word and  
my soul shall be healed.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

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

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourished with these sacred gifts,  
we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord,  
that, faithfully listening to your Only  
Begotten Son,  
we may be your children in name and in  
truth. Through Christ our Lord.



A birth is a joy to parents. The first words of a child or grandchild or nephew or niece make a big difference to our lives. A new estate of houses and the beginning of a parish, a country. We mark beginnings with some sort of ritual or ceremony.

Jesus' baptism begins his mission and joins him into the religious life of his people. Baptism for us is the beginning of faith. It introduces us into the prayer and sacraments for important times of life, joining us to the community within the area and the parish, with people we meet through the Church - friends, husband, or wife. It brings us into a meaning in life in the gospel of Jesus, and the big traditions of the Church, and faith in the afterlife; by baptism we are to care for the poor.

We are part of the church. Baptism not just a prayer but a joining into the church. Part of a community which with all its faults and failings has made a huge difference to the world. How much health care, education and other services in Ireland and abroad can we thank our church and the other churches for?

And knowing Jesus, a friend. The one who forgives. So that we can always move forward to a fuller life, more joy, and peace. As was said to him, is said to us - 'you are my beloved son and daughter.'

For baptism we pray in thanks --- glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always. Amen.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger

**Jesus' Story**

*Fr. Liam Hickey*



Every child baptised with life is God's child. When we celebrate Baptism we give thanks for Three Special Friends ...God The Father who makes the sun shine on everyone, good and bad, God The Son Our Forever Friend, came at Christmas, and God The Holy Spirit who is the breath of our heart and life. 'We thank You God Our Father. You made us to live for you and for each other. We can see and speak to one another, become friends, share our joys and sorrows. We gladly thank You.'



