

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.**

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

Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible

Prayer in Honour of the Holy Name of Jesus

May the most holy, most sacred, most adorable, most mysterious and ineffable Name of Jesus be always praised, blessed, loved, and glorified, in heaven, on earth and under the earth, by all creatures visible and invisible, now and for all eternity. Amen.



Prayer for the Baptism of the Lord

Eternal Father, Who at the baptism of Jesus revealed Him to be Your Son, anointing Him with the Holy Spirit: grant that we may be faithful to our call as Children of God, listening to You, guided by Your Spirit, to fulfil our unique and definite purpose. Bestow upon us all the graces we need to attain that level of perfection which will make us pleasing in Your sight. Grant us the strength to be faithful followers of Christ Jesus Your beloved Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. Amen.



Prayer to the Infant Jesus of Prague - 14 January

O Miraculous Infant Jesus, prostrate before Thy sacred image, we beseech Thee to cast a merciful look on our troubled hearts. Let Thy tender heart, so inclined to pity; be softened by our prayers, and grant us that grace for which we ardently implore Thee. Take from us all affliction and despair, all trials and misfortunes with which we are laden. For Thy sacred infancy's sake hear our prayers and send us consolation and aid, that we may praise Thee, with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

A reflection by the Venerable Servant of God, Archbishop Fulton J Sheen

Under the Old Law people believed in, or yearned for, a Messiah who was to come. Abraham believed and his faith was accounted to him as justice, and he received circumcision as a sign of faith.

What was the faith, therefore that justified Abraham, who was the father of the Jews? It was the faith in the Messiah, or the Christ Who was to come. There is no salutary faith except in Christ. The Jews believed in the Christ Who was to come; we believe in Christ Who has come. The times have changed, but the reality of faith has not changed. There is only one faith. The faith that saves all men, making them pass from carnal generation to spiritual birth.

The reason Our Lord was baptised was because it was part of the whole process of emptying, of humiliation, of the Incarnation. How could He be poor with us, if He did not in some way conform to our poverty? How could He come among sinful men to redeem them, if He did not also reveal the necessity of being purged from sin? There was no need of Our Blessed Mother to submit to the rite of purification, as there was no need of Our Lord to submit to the rite of Baptism by John. He had no need personally of having sins remitted, but He assumed a nature which was related to sinful humanity. Though He was without sin, He appeared to all men as a sinner, as He did on the cross. That was why He walked into the Jordan with all the rest of the sinners to demand the baptism of penance 'in remission of sins.'

In a very special way, Baptism is related to the Death and Resurrection of Christ. In order to be saved, we have to recapitulate in our own lives the Death and the Resurrection of Christ. What He went through, we have to go through. He is the pattern, and we have to be modelled after Him. He is the die, we are the coins that have to be stamped with His image. In all of the sacraments, the virtue of the Passion and Resurrection of Christ is in some way applied to us. In Baptism, there is a very close relationship between the burial and the resurrection. The catechumen is plunged into the water as Christ was plunged into death. We say plunged into death because of the words of Our Lord: 'There is a baptism I must needs be baptised with, and how impatient am I for its accomplishment' (Luke 12:50). Baptism not only incorporates us to the death of that which is evil in us, but also to the Resurrection of Christ, and therefore, to a new life.

There was recently found an inscription on a baptistry erected in the time of Constantine in the beginning of the fourth century, and it reads: 'The waters received an old man, but brought forth a new man.' St Paul speaks of this: 'It follows, in fact, that when a man becomes a new creature in Christ, his old life has disappeared, everything has become new about him' (2 Corinthians 5:17).

(These are the Sacraments)



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YEAR C

12 JANUARY 2025

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 - "PILGRIMS OF HOPE"



"The Lord was Baptised, not to be cleansed Himself, but to cleanse the waters, so that those waters, cleansed by the flesh of Christ which knew no sin, might have the power of Baptism."
- St Ambrose of Milan

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.

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'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.**

Responsorial Psalm Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30

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

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.

◆ **The word of the Lord.**

Gospel Acclamation cf. Luke 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 Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

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.'



Sacred Heart Parish

(Canonically Erected 1868)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

The Baptism of the Lord - Year C
January 12, 2025

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Facebook: Sacred Heart Catholic Church Inverell
Holy Trinity School Ph: 02 6722 4066
Parish Office Hours:
Monday 13 Jan & Friday 17 Jan - 8am to 1pm
Tuesday 14 Jan - 8am to 12pm
Administrator: Fr Paul Chandler
PPC Chair: Mr David McMahon
Holy Trinity Principal: Mrs Jillian Rainger
Parish Secretary: Peter Turner



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

We pray for: Repose of all those whose death anniversary occurs at this time; Repose of all souls in Purgatory.

the Recently Deceased:

Jim Hanlon, Shirley Thom, Danny Dickins, John Pianko.

the sick:

Tony King, Maureen Rolfe, Sue O'Brien, Julie Daley, Pat Gurr, Peter Moroney, Christopher Pay, Neville Barwick, Fr Barry Leech, Lara Bentley, Elizabeth Albany, Fr David Crabb, Rebecca Lane, Brian Barker, and all the sick members of our parish.

Please contact the priest on 67221103 for home visits to the homebound and the sick.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY AND THE PARISH

1st Collection: Presbytery (for support of priest)
BSB 082105 Account No. 001023550
Account Name: Sacred Heart Presbytery Inverell Savings Ac.
2nd Collection: Church upkeep, maintenance, expenses
BSB 082105 Account No. 001013072
Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Inverell

For those on the Planned Giving Program could you please quote your surname and envelope number for the reference.

Planned Giving Program: If you wish to join the planned giving program, please contact the parish office.

JANUARY - THE MONTH OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

MONDAY 13th

Feast Day of St Hilary of Poitiers, bishop, doctor
No Mass - Church open from 8am to 1pm

TUESDAY 14th

Feast Day of The Infant Jesus of Prague
Rosary - 8.30am
Holy Mass - 9.00am

Holy Hour - 4.30pm to 5.30pm

WEDNESDAY 15th

Weekday of 1st week of Ordinary Time
Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Home Rosary - 4.30pm, 11 Diamond St, Tingha

THURSDAY 16th

Weekday of 1st week of Ordinary Time
Rosary - 11.30am

Holy Mass - 12 Noon

Adoration - 12.30pm to 1.30pm

FRIDAY 17th

Feast Day of St Anthony of Egypt, abbot
Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Holy Hour - 4.30pm to 5.30pm

SATURDAY 18th

Weekday of 1st week of Ordinary Time
Holy Mass of Sunday - 3.30pm at Ashford

Rosary - 5.30pm

Holy Mass of Sunday - 6.00pm

SUNDAY 19th

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Sacrament of Confession

Sunday: 8.00am to 8.30am

Tuesday: 5.00pm to 5.30pm

Thursday: 1.00pm to 1.30pm

Friday: 5.00pm to 5.30pm (except First Fridays)

Saturday: 5.15pm to 5.45pm

(and at any time upon request)

OTHER MASSES:

McLean Village Each 4th Thursday - 10.00am

2nd Saturday - *Bundarra*, St Mary of the Angels - 3.30pm

3rd Saturday - *Ashford*, St Patrick's Church - 3.30pm

4th Saturday - *Tingha*, St. Francis' Church - 3.30pm

5th Saturday - *Yetman*, St Joseph the Worker - 3.00pm

Baptism - Saturdays & Sundays at 10.30am
Marriages and Funerals by Appointment

ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER FOR JANUARY

Ann Tubb & Rhonda McGregor

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Sunday Morning Tea - Sun 12 Jan 2025, after Mass

Liturgy Committee - Sat 18 Jan 2025, 8.30am

Finance Committee - Wed 5 Feb 2025, 5.00pm

Pastoral Council - Wed 12 Feb 2024, 5.00pm

Morning Tea will be held after the 9am Mass this Sunday. Please bring a plate of delicacies to share.

Poor Boxes: Don't forget you can help our local St Vincent de Paul ministry by making a donation to the Poor Boxes in the Church. All donations will be used to assist the poor in our community.

Divine Mercy 2025 Calendars: A generous parishioner has donated several of these calendars to the parish. These are available for free at the side entrance table near the priest sacristy.

Sick Visit / Last Rites: A reminder that if you have a Catholic relative in hospital or aged care who is in need of a priest, please inform the parish office or Fr Paul so he may visit them.

Fr John McHugh will be visiting the Parish and providing Masses on the **11th and 12th of January**, and **Fr Paul McCabe** on the **18th and 19th of January**.

Prayer for a new Bishop

God our Father in Jesus, your Son, You have given to your Church the perfect model of priest, prophet and king. You have saved us through His sacrifice, taught us through His Word, and govern us through His rule.

Enlighten and guide those who will be tasked with helping to choose the next bishop of our diocese.

May the man they choose be a man of deep and true prayer, a man of compassionate heart and a firm resolve in the faith, and a man of joy and peace, who desires above all to do Your will. We entrust our prayers to our Patroness, Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.



What does the Church teach us about Baptism?

The Church teaches that Baptism is a fundamental sacrament in the Christian faith, serving as the gateway to spiritual life and the initiation into the Church. It is recognised as the sacrament of regeneration, which cleanses individuals from original sin and incorporates them into the body of Christ, making them children of God and heirs of heaven.

Baptism is described as the basis of the whole Christian life and is essential for salvation.

This sacrament is not merely a ritual; it signifies a profound transformation and a new beginning in the life of the believer.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church emphasises that Baptism is the door that gives access to the other sacraments, establishing a vital connection to the life of grace within the Church.

The rite of Baptism involves the use of water, which symbolises cleansing and rebirth. The invocation of the Holy Trinity during the baptismal ceremony signifies the consecration of the baptised to God and their entry into communion with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Church holds that once Baptism is validly celebrated, it cannot be repeated and that it should be conferred as soon after birth as possible, ideally within the first few weeks. This practice is rooted in the understanding of Baptism as a necessary sacrament for salvation, the gateway to heaven, which provides the grace needed to cleanse original sin and initiate the child into the holy Church of God.

If you are using a Sunday Missal:

- * Proper of Mass is on Page 790
- * Preface of the Baptism of the Lord Page 44
- * Eucharistic Prayer No. 1 Page 61

MASS ROSTER	11Jan-Sat 6.00pm	12Jan-Sun 9am	18Jan-Sat 6pm	19Jan-Sun 9am
Projector	S Szumowski	P Girle	N Turner	R McGregor
Reader 1 (1st R. & Ps)	M Gaukroger	G Taveira	M Casey Ransom	B McGrath
Reader 2 (2nd R.)	J Monie	MJ Guest	N McCosker	D McMahon
Reader 3 (Intercessory Prayers)	J Harris	M Robinson	J Monie	M Gaukroger
Offertory	-	Guest Family	-	M Robinson & volunteer
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	J Monie	MJ Guest	P Moroney	B McGrath
Counters		L MacDonald & P Girle		B Baldwin & J Frater