

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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THE DIVINE COMMUNION OF LOVE

The feasts of Christmastide celebrate some aspect of the revelation of God in the person of Jesus Christ. Christmas celebrates Christ's revelation to Israel. Epiphany celebrates his revelation to the nations. Today's feast of the Baptism celebrates the revelation of God as Holy Trinity.

It is important then to bring out this Trinitarian aspect of Christ's baptism. What occurs after Jesus has emerged from the water is more significant than the actual baptism itself.

In St Luke's account Jesus is at prayer following his baptism. Prayer for Luke pierces the barrier between heaven and earth, accessing the realm of God. The heavens open and the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus in bodily (that is, visible) shape like a dove. The voice that then comes from heaven is that of the Father, assuring Jesus that he is the Beloved Son, on whom the Father's favour rests.

So what we should find in this scene is a revelation, not in inaccessible heavenly remoteness but here on earth, of the Holy Trinity—Father ('Voice'), Son, and Spirit—as a divine communion of love.

This sense of being love and favoured by the Father will be the 'engine' empowering the ministry of Jesus now about to begin. His role will be to draw human beings under that divine declaration of love, making all the baptised beloved sons and daughters of God. In this sense, as John points out, he will 'baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire'—the 'fire' of divine love that is the Holy Spirit.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

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.

St Clement of Rome Church

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Parish Priest : Monsignor Franco Cavarra (Parish Office 9850 3262) or (Presbytery 9850 6073)
 Italian Chaplain: Fr Vito Pegolo (0419 736 890), School Principal: Mr Michael Heenan (9850 1216)
 Pastoral Associate: Cecilia Tan (9850 3262), Assistant Pastoral Associate : Franka Waters
 Parish Secretary: Bernadine De Silva (9850 3262)
 Clifton Centre: Mary Hansen (9850 1860) St Vincent de Paul Helpline (1800 305 330)



Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

Plenary 2020/ Plenaria 2020

A whole Parish dialogue on the questions of the Plenary is scheduled for Wednesday 27 February at 7.30 pm in the Clifton Centre. All Parishioners are invited to come for this important session so together as an Australian Church we can be more fully God's people engaged in understanding God's desire for us. Please pick up an article by Fr. Noel Connolly ssc, entitled "The Kingdom Within."

È previsto un intero dialogo parrocchiale sulle domande della Plenaria

Tutti i parrocchiani sono invitati a venire per questa importante sessione così insieme come una Chiesa australiana possiamo essere più pienamente le persone di Dio impegnate a comprendere il desiderio di Dio per noi.

Per favore, prendi un articolo di p. Noel Connolly ssc, dal titolo "The Kingdom Within".

Please look at some of the responses we have had so far and add your thoughts in the book in the foyer.

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS

Mass Times: Sat 5:30pm (Vigil), Sun - 9am, 11am (Italian) & 6pm (Maronite Community Mass)

Tues 9:15am (Italian), Wed-Sat 9:15am. Eucharistic Adoration: Tues-Fri 8-9am (in the Chapel)

Reconciliation: Sat 10am (and on request). Marian Devotions: Sat 8.40am.

Baptisms: Welcoming (3rd weekend) & Baptism (4th weekend) every month. Weddings: By Appointment.

Recently Deceased : *Michelina Sirianni, Grazia Della Rocca*

Death Anniversaries : *Benedetto De Bortoli, Joan Gregory, Marlene Legrand, Sydney Dorson, Maria Soccio, Michele Soccio, Angelo Soccio, James Caton, Anna Gagliardi, Michele Castriotta, Salvatore Natoli,*

Domenico Ferraro, Giovina Falasca

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen

PARISH DIARY

Tue 15th Jan @ 9.15am—Mass
 Wed 16th Jan @ 9.15am—Mass
 Thur 17th Jan @ 9.15am—Mass
 Fri 18th Jan @ 9.15am—Mass
 Sat 19th Jan @ 9.15am—Mass & Confession

RCIA:

Have you ever wondered why we do what we do as Catholics? Or What it means to be Catholic? Have you questions about the sacraments, faith or prayer? Have you wondered about the place of suffering, conscience and the practice of faith? If you have these or other questions, then do come along to The Parish RCIA Evenings. Contact: Martin Teh (5.30pm Mass) or Gabriella Grande (9.00am Mass). Look out for the 2019 program.

Scripture Studies :

The 2019 schedule of meetings will be out soon. We will be studying St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Paul by the time of his visit to Corinth was aware of the great disunity among Christians. This study is timely given the challenging times we live. Come, reflect and pray with St. Paul for our Church, for Christian unity and for our world as we explore his writings together. May Christian unity begin with us first in our family at St. Clement of Rome.

Contact: Mark Gregor, Sue de Bortoli (9.00am Mass)
 Martin The (5.00pm Mass)

After School Sacramental Program 2019

Please register your interest for 2019. The fee to cover all administrative and resource cost is \$200 per sacrament per child. Fees payable on enrolment through the Parish Office. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the website or collected from the Parish Office.

Confirmation classes commence on Tue 12th Feb 2019 @ 4.30-5.30pm.

Last enrolment date : 5th Feb 2019

Family faith night on Tue 5th Mar at 7.30pm

Commissioning Mass on Sat 9th Mar at 5.30pm

Sacrament of Confirmation on Fri 3rd May 2019 at 7pm

Reconciliation classes commence on Tue 21st May 2019 @ 4.30-5.30pm.

Last enrolment date : 14th May 2019

Commissioning Mass on Sat 1st June at 5.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation on Sat 27th July at 10.30am

Eucharist classes commence on Tue 6th Aug 2019 @ 4.30-5.30pm.

Last enrolment date : 30th July 2019

Commissioning Mass on Sat 10th Aug at 5.30pm

Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Sat 26th Oct at 5.30pm

All classes : 4.30pm—5.30pm in the Parish Office.

Liturgy Roster

	Sat 5.30pm	Sun 9am
12/13 January	Sacristan <i>Elroy</i>	Francis & Gloria Ng
Baptism of the Lord	COMMENTATOR <i>John Bruce</i>	Grace Canatelli
	Reader <i>Linda Cultrera</i>	Sylvie Duff
	Special Ministers <i>Jaqueline Kha</i>	Gabriella Grande
	<i>Cecilia Lam</i>	Eleanora Mascitti
	<i>Reg Lecordier</i>	Pam Mitchell
		David Mitchell
		Gloria Ng
		Maria Papalia
		Elsa Waters

19/20 January	Sacristan <i>John Bruce</i>	Francis & Gloria Ng
	COMMENTATOR <i>Paul Sammut</i>	Tim Landsberg
	Reader <i>Jacinta De La Cruz</i>	Rocco Gagliardi
	Special Ministers <i>Maree Marsi</i>	Chris Zordan
	<i>May Teh</i>	Trish Atherton
	<i>Martin Teh</i>	Grace Canatelli
		Anne Fusca
		Rita Gagliardi
		Fulvia Gerasolimo
		Gabriella Grande

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL'EUCHARISTA
20/01	T. CARAFA S B. PUCCI	FAM. A BROGNO	G. BAGLIERI J. FAGGION T. RECINELLA

Harvest Journeys

Pilgrimage Opportunity

Imagine travelling in the footsteps of Jesus from Bethlehem to Jerusalem or celebrating Mass in the centre of Lake Galilee! Harvest Journeys are offering an opportunity for parishioners to travel as pilgrims on a journey of faith in 2019, allowing the Holy Spirit to renew us in 'words that cannot be easily explained'. Harvest Journeys offers a range of pre-arranged pilgrimages such as :

- *Footsteps of Jesus—The Holy Land
- *Visitations of Mary—from Fatima to Lourdes
- *Treasures of Italy
- * St Francis & Rome
- * St Paul & the early Church

If a pilgrimage to the Holy Places is your dream, contact Donrita Reefman on 0411 702 068 or donrita@harvestjourneys.com for more information.