



SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA

The Baptism of the Lord

11-12th January, 2020.

Moruya Sacred Heart Parish.

36 Queen Street.

(P.O. Box 23)

Moruya. NSW. 2537.

Fr. George Azhakath.

Parish Office: 44742024.

Email: Moruya@cg.org.au.

Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>

REGULAR MASS TIMES:

Sat: Vigil 6pm. Moruya.

Sun: 8am 'The Pines' Tuross Head.

10am. Sacred Heart Moruya.

Mon: 9.15am Communion Service

Tues: 5.30pm Mass

Wed: 9.15am Mass

2.00 pm Mass Banksia Village

Thurs: 9.15am Mass

First Thursday of the month

10.30am. Visit IRT. Moruya

Fri: 9.15am Mass followed by 1 hr. Adoration and Benediction.

Rosary: After mass.

Reconciliation: 10—10.30 am Sat.

Baptisms, Anointings, Weddings and Funerals by appointment.

CARING GROUPS:

Tuross Head 0497 315 534.

Moruya: 0431 354 993.

SCHOOLS:

St Mary's: 4474 2817

Carroll College: 44715600



The Baptism of Our Lord

When Jesus was Baptised, the heaven opened and the Spirit of God came upon him.

The Baptism of the Lord is the great event celebrated by the Eastern churches on the feast of Epiphany because it is the occasion of the first public revelation of all the Three Persons in the Holy Trinity, and the official revelation of Jesus as the Son of God to the world by God the Father. Hence, it is described by all the four gospels. It marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

Jesus' baptism: Many Fathers of the Church explain that, though sinless, Jesus received the baptism of repentance to identify himself with his people. Jesus might have been waiting for this most opportune moment to begin his public ministry. The Fathers point out that the voice from the heavenly Father speaks words which are similar to

Psalm 2:17, "*This is my beloved Son,*" and of Isaiah 42:1 referring to the "*suffering servant*": "*with whom I am well pleased.*" The words meant that Jesus' baptism by John was the acceptance and the beginning of his mission as God's Suffering Servant to atone for the sins of mankind.

The turning point: The baptism from John was a very important event in the life of Jesus. First, it was a moment of decision to begin public ministry. Second, it was a moment of identification with us sinners. Third, it was a moment of approval when his heavenly Father approved Jesus as His 'beloved Son'. Fourth, it was a moment of conviction that his mission was to preach the good news of God's love and salvation and to atone for our sins by becoming the '*suffering servant*.' Fifth, it was a moment of equipment. The Holy Spirit equipped Jesus by descending on him in the form of a dove, giving him the power of preaching and healing.

Fr. George Azhakath.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK.

Please contact the office if you would like to be included in our prayers. We would like to confirm those on the past list still wish to be included.

Please remember Fr. Tim Cahill who is in need of our prayers.

Please also let the Office know if you are:

**Sick,
going to hospital,
needing a home visit or communion,
need the Sacrament of the sick,
so that we can organise a minister of the
Eucharist or priest to visit.**

St Vincent de Paul.

Christmas Appeal.

The St Vincent de Paul Conference wants to thank all those who contributed to their Christmas appeal.

A staggering \$5,880.00 was raised.

Our Vinnies Conference, the arm of the Centre who help people in need, has been given extra funding to assist anyone in the community who has been affected by the bushfires.

Please call in and see one of the Conference members on Monday, Wednesday or Friday to see what they might be able to do to help.

Of course assistance is not only for those affected by the bushfires.

ADORATION AND BENEDICTION...

Will be held on First Fridays and every Friday after the 9.15am Mass for 1 hour. ALL WELCOME!

BOAT TRIP. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE BOAT TRIP TO NELLIGEN ON THE 16TH HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO THE FIRES.

Prayers:

While we pray for our parishioners who are sick and remember those who have died, we also think of those affected by the bushfires. Loss of life, loss of home and health issues.

We are not alone in prayer:

The parish office has received calls from Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Fr Tony Percy, Fr John Armstrong, Fr John Woods on behalf of his parishioners, Fr Emil and Fr Dominic all assuring us of their prayers and thoughts as we struggle through this serious time.

We are extremely sorry to report to the parish that two of our parishioners Helen and Ian Browne and Jenny and Hans Brosch of Bodalla have lost their homes due to the fires. We hold them in our hearts.

The Archdiocese of Wagga and Canberra Goulburn have offered assistance to these two families as have numerous other individuals.

All Agencies, including St Vincent de Paul are advising those wishing to help fire victims to donate money. Vinnies have been inundated with generous donations of clothing and food. All agencies are very grateful and uplifted by the response but it is causing extra problems for them.

To donate to St Vincent de Paul:

- Drop your donation into the Centre.
- Go online to
"bushfireappeal.com.au"
- Or call 131 812

Vinnies are in partnership with Channel 9.



EXEGESIS: Origin of baptism:

Neither John nor Jesus invented baptism.

It had been practiced for centuries among the Jews as a ritual equivalent to our Confession. Until the fall of the Temple in 72 A.D., it was common for Jewish people to use a special pool called a MIKVEH—literally a “collection of water” - as a means of spiritual cleansing, to remove spiritual impurity and sin. Men took a bath weekly on the eve of the Sabbath; women, monthly. Converts were also expected to take this bath before entering Judaism. The Orthodox Jews still retain the rite. John preached that such a bath was a necessary preparation for the cataclysm that would be wrought by the coming Messiah. Jesus transformed this continuing ritual into the one single, definitive act by which we begin our life of faith. In effect he fused his divine essence with the water and the ceremony.

A couple of questions:

- 1) Why did Jesus, the sinless Son of God, receive the ‘baptism of repentance’ meant for sinners?
- 2) Why did Jesus wait for thirty years to begin his public ministry?



The strange answer for the first question given by the apocryphal book, “The Gospel According to the Hebrews,” is that Jesus received the baptism of John to please his mother and relative. In this humble submission we see a foreshadowing of the “baptism” of his bloody death upon the cross.

POST BUSHFIRE STRESS.

The majority of us have been scared by the bushfires. Those who have had their homes burnt will be offered professional counselling. For the rest of us we may not even realise that we are stressed.

The following symptoms of stress is from Healthline.com:

1. Acne. (From touching your face too much)
2. Headaches.
3. Chronic pain. (Stress goes to the weak point in your body)
4. Frequent sickness.
5. Decreased energy and insomnia.
6. Changes in Libido.
7. Digestive issues.
8. Appetite changes.
9. Depression.
10. Rapid heartbeat.
11. Sweating.

There are many ways to help relieve stress, relaxation techniques, exercise and talking with others.



MORUYA PARISH IN ACTION:

1. You are invited to stay behind after the 5.30pm Mass on Tuesday 14/1/20 for a cuppa and a chat down in the Kennedy Room.

OR

2. Stay for a cuppa and a chat after the 9.15am Mass on Wednesday 15/1/20 down in the Kennedy Room.

Even if you are not attending Mass you are welcome to pop in.

OR

3. For Tuross Head and Bodalla residents you might like to join Deacon Paul and Josephine Rummery in their home on Friday 17th January, 2010 at 2pm for a cuppa and a chat. 29 Beach Street, Tuross Head.

Contact Jo: 0419 238 099.

*I would be good if we could get together next weekend.
Does anyone have a suggestion for an event e.g. BBQ?
Please let Fr George know.*

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD.

11-12th January, 2020.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets, he does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM. Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. **.11.**

Response:

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

O give the Lord you sons of God, give the Lord glory and power; give the Lord the glory of his name. Adore the Lord in his holy court. **R.**

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of waters; the voice of the Lord, full of power, the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **R.**

The God of glory thunders. In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!' The Lord sat enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits as king for ever. **R.**

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-38

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The

truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ—but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION; Mark 9:8.

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

A reading of the Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

