



**THE BAPTISM OF THE
LORD YEAR C**

9 January 2022

LITURGY AND BULLETIN

OPENING PRAYER

Father,

*Your only Son revealed himself to us by becoming human.
May we who share his humanity come to share his divinity.
Amen.*

FIRST READING: 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 all 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: 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: A reading from 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.

Gospel Acclamation

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: 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.'

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.'

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus' Baptism is Ours

What did it mean for Jesus to come up out of the waters of the Jordan to experience the special presence of the Holy Spirit as though it were a dove, gently hovering over him? As a Jew, he would have been reminded both of the Divine Wind hovering over the void-become-creation, and of the dove bearing an olive twig as God restored humanity's life on earth after the Flood. The Holy Spirit was empowering Him for a re-creative role on behalf of humanity.

His second experience was to sense God's delight and joy sounding, reverberating through every fibre of his body, every reach of his soul: 'You are my beloved Son, my favour rests on you.' Any baby, any adolescent, any adult who is baptised shares in these wonderful experiences. The dynamic power of the Holy Spirit hovers over the person as a gentle presence, preparing the one baptised for a mission on behalf of humanity. And every baptised person senses, below the range of hearing, the echo of the same marvellous words: "You are my beloved son or daughter, my favour rests on you."

Is it any wonder that Our Lord adopted this water rite to incorporate his followers into such wonderful experiences as a power-full impetus to fulfil their mission to cooperate in God's saving plan for humanity?

We could take a moment to pray in gratitude for the parent/s or other person/s who brought us into this tradition stretching over almost two millennia. May they be filled with all that flows from their being beloved sons and daughters of God.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for all peoples in need of consolation, that they will be blessed with bold prophets who give them hope and courage. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for displaced people subject to closed borders and the rigours of the European winter, that humanitarian aid will bring them relief. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the people of God, that all who have been baptised in water and the Holy Spirit, including Thomas Stephenson baptised this afternoon, will fully realise their dignity as the children of God. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for those overseeing the preparation of the second session of the Plenary Council: that they will consult widely with the whole Australian church. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the indigenous peoples of Australia, that the wisdom of their traditions will be respected and welcomed by the whole nation. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for children spending holiday time in hospital, that they will be well cared for in every way. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

For all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: especially Bob Fletcher, Paul Bishop, Richie Simpson, Paul Fa'Oa, Rongo Tee Peeti, Duncan McDiarmid, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Karen Suitor, Bob Haigh, Teonie McMahon, Helen Campbell-Davys, Ian Vardanega, John Shiels, Tony Riley, Rupert Ermet, Val Biggers and Celia Roach. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for the recently deceased, including Warren Barr... and for Mark Sissian whose anniversary of death occurs at this time: that they will enjoy the eternal favour of our loving God. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord, send your light upon your family.

May we continue to enjoy your favour and devote ourselves to doing good.

Amen.

From Father Mick:

On the 23rd January I have asked Steve Scroope and Frank Stanford to speak at **Bungendore** and **Gundaroo** about a MenAlive weekend to be held in April. They will be in **Braidwood** the following weekend, 29 January 2022

A women's retreat weekend will be held in April and I'm organizing an international speaker to run the retreat. There will be more about this soon.

The third Sunday in February (20th), will be Mass at **Nerriga** at 11AM. Everyone from our region is invited to attend this Mass followed by lunch at the pub. As a courtesy to the staff at the pub, those attending should inform Helen (Braidwood) or Julie-Ann (Bungendore).

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Father Mick Burke

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SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Marylou Gorham Ph. 4842 2413

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays: 9am – 3pm; Fridays: 9am – 12pm

Next weekend Mass time: Baptism of the Lord 8 January 6pm in the church.

Weekday Mass: in recess until further notice

Social Justice Group: Tuesday 8 February 2022 at 10.30am, at the Presbytery

Dear Parishioners,

The church is closed to the public for the duration of the roof repairs. Mass will return to the school hall after this weekend. Masks are now mandatory, as is signing in with the QR code. Currently there aren't any density limits for churches.

Brother Brian's holidays in January (9 Jan – 4 Feb) afford us the opportunity to give the Presbytery a long overdue spring clean. If you are able to help, please let me know what days might be suitable for you and we will pick the one that suits most people. Helen 0430 169 849

Readings for next week: 9 January: 2nd Sunday Ordinary Time Year C

1st: Is 62:1-5. 2nd: I Cor. 12:4-11.. Gospel: John 2:1-11.

Ministry Rosters for our Masses

Date	Acolyte	Welcomer	Readers	Music/PP
8 Jan	Geoff	Cathy F	Wendy H/	Helen H
15 Jan Felix		Geraldine	Wendy M-B/Germaine	Helen H
22 Jan James		Helen P	Michael/Cathy F	Helen H
29 Jan Geoff		Cathy F	Rod/Bobbie	Helen H

Take care,
Helen Hart