

# Catholic Parish of Blackfriars

Issue 8  
13th January 2019  
Year C

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



## VERITAS



HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

**Parish Priest**  
Fr Kieran Adams OP

**Assistant Priests**  
Fr Rafael Cabezon OP  
Fr Bernie Maxwell OP

**Holy Rosary Church**  
Cnr Phillip Avenue &  
Antill Street, Watson ACT

Postal Address  
PO Box 900, Dickson  
Ph. 6248 5925

Email: [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au)  
[www.cg.org.au/watson](http://www.cg.org.au/watson)

**Office Staff**  
Jacquie Cortese  
Jim Smith

**Office Hours**  
Monday, Tuesday,  
Thursday, Friday  
9.00am—12.30pm

**Parish Council**  
Andrew Blakey

**Mass times**  
Wed 5.30pm  
Tues & Thurs 6.45am  
Fri 5.30pm

**Saturday 5pm (Vigil)**  
**Sunday 8am, 10am & 5pm**

9am Mass Saturday & Public  
Holidays  
excluding Mondays

**Pray the Rosary**  
Wed & Fri before 5.30pm Mass  
Saturday after 9am Mass  
and First Saturday each month  
3.30pm

**Reconciliation**  
Saturday 12pm—12.30pm  
and 4pm—4.30pm

**ACU Chapel Signadou**

## Baptism of the Lord



If you are in Urgent need of  
a Priest Call - 6248 8253

A warm welcome is extended to guests & parishioners celebrating our Eucharist today.

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| ENTRANCE              | After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened,<br>and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,<br>and the voice of the Father thundered:<br>This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. |
| GOSPEL<br>ACCLAMATION | Alleluia, alleluia!<br>John said: He who is to come is mightier than I;<br>he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.<br>Alleluia  |
| COMMUNION             | Behold the One of whom John said:<br>I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.   |
| READINGS              | Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11      Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7<br>Gospel: Luke 3:15-16. 21-22  |

## PSALM: 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are,  
clothed in majesty and glory,  
wrapped in light as in a robe!  
You stretch our the heavens like a tent.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

## IMPORTANT PARISH INFORMATION

It is important that you contact the office by email or in writing (even a note on the collection plate) if you require a booking - for a Mass Intention, Booking of the Church or Parish Centre, Weddings (6mths) and Baptisms.

**It is difficult to keep track of Parishioners requests if they do not come through the Office.**

If you would like to add a name to the prayers for the sick, anniversary or death list in the *Bulletin*, details must be with the Parish Office **NO** later than **Tuesday** of that week. For all other bookings, Mass for an Anniversary or to use the Parish Centre etc. a minimum two weeks notice is required.

**Life is not about being rich, being popular, being highly educated or being perfect.**  
**Life is about being real, being humble and being kind.**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY ~ FR BERNIE



May your birthday  
be full of blessings  
and God's graces.  
May you find  
happiness in  
everything you do.  
Wishing you a  
Happy Birthday.



## WHY DID JESUS ASK TO BE BAPTISED?

Neither John nor Jesus invented baptism. It had been practiced for centuries among the Jews as a ritual equivalent of Confession. Until the fall of the Temple in 72 A.D. it was common for Jewish people to make a spiritual cleansing in a special pool called a MIKVEH—literally a "collection of water". This was said to remove spiritual impurity and sin. Men did this weekly on the eve of the Sabbath. Women did it monthly. Converts were also expected to do it before entering Judaism. 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 continual ritual into the one single, definitive act by which we begin our faith. In effect he fused his divine essence with the water and the ceremony.

## HERE AND NOW

When the Lord was baptized, a voice came from heaven saying "This is my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." There could hardly be a more important message than this identification of Jesus, could there?

But why did this important message come through a voice from heaven? A voice from heaven can be heard only by those who are *there then*. What about everybody else? Surely it is important for all human beings to know that Jesus is God's beloved Son.

Where the Lord is concerned, you stand out as the particular person you are.

And the same sort of puzzle arises from the First Reading. It says that the Messiah will open the eyes of the blind, and the Gospels testify that Christ really did so. But he opened the eyes of only a few blind people, those blind people who were *there then*. What about all the other blind people, in other places, in other times? Why didn't Jesus just heal all blindness everywhere with one impersonal command: let all the blind people of the world be healed?

And so here is one thing we can learn from these Readings. In the voice from heaven, in the miracles of Christ, *God shows that he is committed to the good of particularity*. God does not send the news about the Messiah as an impersonal message directed impartially to all humankind. He identifies Jesus as his Son by a voice from heaven heard by particular people at a particular time. Similarly, Christ does not issue an impersonal decree about nameless blind people taken as a group. Christ heals some particular blind people who happened to be at a particular place at the particular time when Christ was also there.

So you might feel that you are just an unnoticed member of your company or an invisible one of the many ordinary people in your town. But where the Lord is concerned, you stand out as the particular person you are. God does not deal with people as faceless members of a collective. He calls, and he heals one particular person at a time, as each individual comes to him.

But then you yourself—not your Church or your group, but *you*—need to come to the Lord, to face him, to know him, to love him, and to let him heal you. Come as yourself, as you are, *here and now*.

Eleonore Stump <http://liturgy.slu.edu/>

|   |   |
|---|---|
| In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill: | Elizabeth Cronin, Mary Bui, Greg O'Neill<br>Fr Ellis Clifford, Dion Convine, Mary Martin<br>Edith Jensen, Philip Bailey, Patricia Zorzi,<br>Maureen Blood, Ken Rolls, Anne Corver,<br>Barbara Wilson, Awny El-Ghitany,<br>Joebert Tabiola, Elsie Laughton, Alexia Harris,<br>Sharon O'Rourke, Beth Delos Santos,<br>Rosa Maria Santos, Paul Neddrie, Helen Miller,<br>Maria Martiniello, Elizabeth Webster,<br>Mimma Giampietro, Joe Schimizzi,<br>Zelma McManus, Catherine Feehan,<br>Heather Pook |
| Our deceased  | Fredrick Schwinghamer, Dr James McCarthy,<br>Terry Manual   |
| In Memory   | Paul Butz, John Collette, Clarence Wiley,   |

PREACHING PEACE

‘You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

‘The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan is, then, not only an epiphany or revelation of Jesus himself as he is affirmed by his Heavenly Father and by the Holy Spirit. It inaugurates a prolonged season of epiphany – those years of the public ministry when every word and every gesture of Jesus was a revelation of God. The way Jesus handled each and every situation in which he found himself was an epiphany of what it meant for God to live out his life in our world as one of us.’

Excerpt from a homily by Fr Peter Clarke OP

MAKING TIME AND SPACE

The Spirit descends on Jesus after he was baptized. It is the Spirit that anoints Jesus to “open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness, and to bring to the poor the good news of salvation.” This news is also “the good news of peace”: The Spirit comes in the form of a dove.

There is a gentleness about the dove that has earned for this bird a universal association with peace. But the dove also has a wail that reminds one of the wail of someone suffering, as in poverty or childbirth. The dove, therefore, joins together the themes of justice and peace, of compassion for the poor as well as harmony among people.

Luke makes clear that the descent of the Spirit in the form of a dove takes place as Jesus was at prayer. In other words, Jesus was open to the action of the Spirit. There is certainly a message in that for us.

Peace and justice will enter our lives only if we are open to the action of the Spirit, if we make time and space for the voice from heaven to be heard within our hearts. If we make that time and space, then “the Lord will bless his people with peace.”

In order that the demands of justice may be met and attempts to achieve this goal may succeed, what is needed is the gift of grace, a gift which comes from God. Grace, in cooperation with human freedom, constitutes that mysterious presence of God in history which is providence.

Gerald Darring <http://liturgy.slu.edu/>

A STRANGE FEAST

*Baptism of the Lord.*  
*fr Dominic Ryan OP helps us to see*  
*the significance of Jesus' baptism by John.*

The feast of the baptism of the Lord marks the end of the liturgical season of Christmas. In many ways, though, it's a rather strange way to end the Christmas season; indeed, it's a rather strange feast full stop! And I say this because if we identify the key things which occur when one of us is baptised and ask whether they also occurred in Jesus's baptism then we discover that they didn't and that they couldn't have.

Just think about it. When we're baptised we're healed from the guilt of original sin and we're incorporated into the Church. Did any of this happen to Christ? No. Jesus didn't suffer from original sin so he didn't need to be healed from it, and Jesus hadn't yet founded the Church so he couldn't be incorporated into it. And if that's not enough John's baptism- the baptism Jesus received- wasn't able to forgive sin and to incorporate people into the Church anyway. Those things only became possible after Christ's death and resurrection. So not only did Jesus' baptism at the hands of John not have the same effects as our baptism did, but nor could it have had so what's going on in this feast and how does it relate to the end of Christmastide?

Of course, just because Jesus's baptism didn't heal him from the guilt of original sin or incorporate him into the church that's not to say it wasn't connected to those aims. God came into the world in Christ to redeem human beings from sin. And broadly speaking to achieve this aim three conditions had to be met: firstly, the power to redeem humans had to be present, secondly the means to redeem human beings had to be established and thirdly human beings had to be encouraged to avail of those means.

Take the first condition. Jesus was God so there's no question of him lacking the power to redeem human beings. As to the means of redemption, human beings have to share in the salvific death of Christ, which is accomplished most effectively through baptism and incorporation into the Church. That's not to say after baptism we can do as we please; baptism doesn't give us a free pass into heaven regardless of what we do subsequently. Nor is it to say that God can't bring about salvation in any other way if he so chooses. Rather through baptism we get a fresh start and the chance to live in a way which, if we follow it, will lead to heaven.

It's not enough just to make the means of redemption available, though, more needs to be done, and that brings us to the third condition: people have to be encouraged to avail of the means of redemption. And the best way to do that is to give people an example so Christ submitted to John's baptism. In so doing Christ encouraged all of us to be baptised and he identified himself with sinful humanity as the one who will act on our behalf to save us.

So if this feast is about Jesus encouraging us to follow the path to salvation how does it relate to Christmastide? Why put it now at the end of Christmastide? Well during Christmas we celebrate God's coming into the world. But he came into the world for the purpose of our redemption. And the baptism of Jesus is the first public event in Christ's mission. He starts to show us how to live and his authority is acknowledged by the Father. So it brings to an end what we have been celebrating at Christmas- God's coming into the world for our salvation- and it sets us up quite nicely for ordinary time: follow Christ's example, there we find the way to salvation. [fr Dominic Ryan OP http://english.op.org/torch](http://english.op.org/torch)

WHY CAN'T WE SEE GOD?

We can't see God because God is a living Spirit and is not limited by size and shape like physical things. God is everywhere and in everything. We can see God in everything that is around us. He is the splendor in every flower and the strength in every rock. We can see him in everyone we meet because He is the goodness and love we see in them. [From the Catholic Enquiry Centre](#)



## HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION / CATECHISTS** - This year-long faith education program is intended for children who do not attend Catholic schools. Catechists are still needed to help with the classes. Please contact the Parish Office if you'd like more information. Now in recess until February 2019.

**BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP** meets on **Thursday** evenings in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or Michael Flynn 6257 1038 Explore at [www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org)

**CARDS** Play social style 'Cards for fun', **Monday** 10am-1pm in the Parish Centre. All welcome!!!

**COFFEE GROUP** Our monthly coffee group will meet the **third Thursday** of each month Siam Twist Hackett at 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing our usual friends, newcomers most welcome.

**CRAFT GROUP** meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre on the **first, second and fourth Wednesdays** of the month .

**DOMINICAN LIBRARY** will open **Saturday** mornings, 9.30am - 12.00 noon in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

**HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP** meets 2.00pm **Thursdays** in the church. Details Heather 6247 7775.

**WEEKLY READER FORMATION** Reflections on the readings for the following Sunday are held **Wednesday** evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All Parishioners welcome.

**PRAY THE ROSARY** will be held the First Saturday of every month at 3.30pm in the Church. Confessions available afterwards followed by refreshments in the parish centre. Please bring a plate to share. For information - Letty 0418 518 033

**CARE OF THE SICK** If you know of anyone who is unable to get to Mass and who would like the Eucharist brought to them, please let the office know. If someone is in need of prayer or a visit at home, in hospital or by the Parish Priest - please, let us know.

**COELIACS** Parishioners who are coeliac (intolerant to Gluten) If you wish to receive a gluten free host at Mass you should advise the Celebrant or Acolyte prior to Mass.

Holy Rosary Church is fitted with an audio loop. It is accessible in all seats by using T-switch on your hearing aid.

**PARISH BULLETIN** - DEADLINE for notices is **NOON TUESDAY** Please contact Jacque in the office Ph. 6248 5925 or Email: [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au)

**CATHOLIC VOICE WEBISTE** - The Archdiocese has launched a brand new **CATHOLIC VOICE WEBSITE** for current news in the archdiocese this link is <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/>

**WANTED** - Weekly Board - country female Nursing student to attend CSU Watson. Mon- Friday, well mannered and responsible. Please phone Sharon at St Patrick's Cooma - 02 6452 6169

**If you want 2019 to be your year;**  
**Don't sit on the couch and wait for it. Go out. Make a change.**  
**Smile more. Be excited. Do new things. Throw away what**  
**you've been cluttering. Unfollow negative people on social**  
**media. Go to bed early. Wake up early. Be fierce.**  
**Don't gossip. Show more gratitude.**  
**Do things that challenge you. Be brave**

The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problems.

# EVENTS

## 7-18 June - TEN DAY RENEWAL IN THE YEAR OF LUKE

Join Dr Elizabeth Dowling RSM, an Australian biblical scholar, as she leads participants in an exploration of mercy, compassion and release in the Gospel of Luke at St Clements Retreat Centre, Galong. Bookings: 02 6380 5222 or [info@stclement.com.au](mailto:info@stclement.com.au)

## SIMPLE FORMULA FOR LIVING

Live beneath your means. Return everything you borrow. Listen more; talk less. Stop blaming other people. Admit it when you make a mistake. Don't argue. Get organised. Give clothes not worn to charity. Be humble. Do something nice and try not to get caught. Every day take a 30 minute walk. Take time to be alone. Strive for excellence, not perfection. Don't make excuses. Be kind to unkind people. Let someone cut ahead of you in line. Be on time. Cultivate good manners. Realise and accept that life isn't fair. Know when to keep your mouth shut. Go an entire day without criticising anyone. Learn from the past. Plan for the future. Live in the present. Don't sweat the small stuff.  
 It's all small stuff.

## LIVING SIMPLY

Living the virtue of simplicity will require me to allow my ego to dissolve. The more my ego dissolves, the less disturbed I will be by what another thinks of me. I won't struggle to be "first." I won't "play" conversations in my head with someone whom I think has hurt me.

As my ego dissolves and my inner self—the part of me where God dwells—becomes stronger, I will begin to find this gospel passage liberating. The vice-like grip of the "Big Ten" on my life will lessen and the words of St. Irenaeus (c. 202) will become my only commandment: "Love God and do as you wish." [Sr. Diane Langford, CDP](#)

## WHITE GARMENT AT BAPTISM

During the Sacrament of Baptism, the newly baptised is clothed in a white garment. The white garment symbolizes their new life in Christ and is "the outward sign of Christian dignity". The Newly baptised now presents to the world the face of Christ a face which speaks of love and compassion, peace and grace.'

[From the Catholic Enquiry Centre](#)



**You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.**

## ROSTERS 19 / 20 January 2019

### Saturday 5.00 pm Holy Rosary

|                       |             |           |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Acolyte / Server      | R. Paul     |           |
| Readers               | P. English  | T. Dennis |
| Presentation of Gifts | J. Anderson |           |
| EMOE                  | C. Lewis    |           |

### Sunday 8.00am Holy Rosary

|                       |              |             |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Acolyte / Server      | N. McGahey   |             |
| Readers               | N. Clarke    | G. Thompson |
| Presentation of Gifts | Flynn Family |             |
| EMOE                  | J. Smith     |             |

### Sunday 10.00am Holy Rosary

|                       |                |             |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Acolyte / Server      | H. Beasley     |             |
| Readers               | C. Barbaro     | P. McDonald |
| Presentation of Gifts | Ciaccia Family |             |
| EMOE                  | H. Zobec       | R. Marson   |

### Sunday 5.00pm Day Holy Rosary

|                       |               |            |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------|
| Acolyte / Server      | Volunteer     |            |
| Readers               | M. Brothosodo | T. Malone  |
| Presentation of Gifts | K. Turrisse   |            |
| EMOE                  | K. Sneddon    | C. Mackay  |
| Counters              | G. Gleeson    | I. Buckley |