

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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Breaking Open the Word

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

In the midst of the terror, loss, and grief of the exile, Isaiah spoke words of hope, consolation, and healing. The inhabitants of Jerusalem wondered whether God had abandoned them. Would their suffering extend into a dark and hopeless future? When all seemed lost a word of hope was proclaimed – a word that went to the heart of Jerusalem. They could now look forward to the return of the exiles, the rebuilding of the city, and a future in which they could rest assured that God was among them.

Late in the first century, the letter to Titus reflected on the ways that God had been true to that promise of presence and gentle care through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Cleansed by baptism, and renewed by the gift of the Holy Spirit Christians were now called to respond appropriately by the manner of their own lives. God had been gracious to them and now they were called to respond by living good and religious lives as they waited for his return.

The Gospel passage today informs us that the people looked at John the Baptist with the eyes of hope, filled with longing for religious reform and liberation from the power of Rome. Isaiah proclaimed to the people of Jerusalem: 'Here is your God.' When Jesus comes for baptism this word is now radically enfleshed in the person of Jesus himself. He will gather the weak and the wounded, the blind and the lame revealing God's compassionate and gracious love.

Christopher Monaghan CP

THE SAVING WORD

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD / C

9 JANUARY 2022

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.

9 Jan 2022
Wk 2 Yr C
Baptism of the Lord

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org>



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Pastoral Associate: Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.
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WEEKEND MASSES Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am and 5.30pm

WEEKDAY MASSES Mon: No Mass Tues: No Mass
Wed: 12 noon Thur: 9am
Fri: 9am Sat: 9am
CONFESSIONS
Sat: 4.30-5.15pm
*Or by appointment



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.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

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

May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:

Recently Deceased: Joe Chetcuti (Malta), Kevin Hamilton, Sr Geraldine Maher OP.

Anniversaries: Perce McInnes (2/12), John Paul Vella (4/12), Gloria Lillcrap (20/12), William Coulston (22/12), Mary Sampson (2/1), John O'Brien (3/1), Pam Davy (nee Barry) (6/1), Terry Sweeney (7/1), Ivan Lillcrap (18/1), Rod Kelly (20/1), Lawrence Vella (23/1).

Deceased: Gwen Tufrey, Richard Bowler, Bernard Blanch, Irwin Brady, Shirley Burke, Aileen McDonnell, Jack Sampson, Pat Smyth, Hugh O'Brien, Dalis O'Brien, Andrew Tickner.

Sick: Shirley Hobbs, Barbara Brennan, Peter Richards, Colin MacPherson, Kevin Bonner, Maria Mood, Sophie Littlejohn, Lisa Foster, Kate Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Margaret Marshall, Graeme Bussell, Fr Bernie Flood.

PADDY'S CORNER:

While the Pope was visiting the USA, he told the driver of his limo that he has the sudden urge to drive. The driver was a good Catholic man, and would not ever dream of questioning the pope's authority. So the Pope sat at the wheel, while his driver got in the back. They were traveling down the road doing between 70 and 80 mph, when a policeman happened to see them. As he pulled them over, he called in to headquarters reporting a speeding limo, with a VIP inside it. The chief asked: "Who is in the limo, the mayor?" The policeman told him: "No, someone more important than the mayor." Then the chief asked "Is it the governor?" The policeman answered: "No, someone more important than the governor." The chief finally asked: "Is it the President?" The policeman answered: "No, someone even more important than the President." This made the chief very angry and he bellowed: "Now who is more important than the President?!" The policeman calmly whispered: "I'll put it to you this way chief. I don't know who is this guy, but he has the Pope as his chauffeur."



Be eager in your desires but humbly patient in their accomplishment.



NSW STATE COVID RULES: **PLEASE NOTE**

- ** YOU MUST REGISTER TO ENTER USING EITHER QR CODE AT ENTRANCE OR PAPER REGISTER ON ENTRY TO CHURCH.
- ** FACE MASKS ARE MANDATORY WHILST INSIDE.
- ** ONE PERSON PER TWO SQUARE METRES ALLOWED AT EACH MASS.
- ** SANITISE HANDS ENTERING AND LEAVING.



WELCOME: We welcome all visitors who arrive in our city this week for the Country Music Festival. We pray you have a safe, healthy and enjoyable week of festivities.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: We welcome into our catholic community Harrison John Gasson, Elizabeth Anne Murray and McKenna Lily Attenborough who were baptised during the month of December. We pray for them, their parents and godparents.

THANK YOU To Fr Maunsell for his care for us during the last week. We trust you enjoyed your stay and always feel welcome to the parish of West Tamworth.

USED STAMPS: Thank you to all who have saved used stamps in 2021. Approximately \$34,600 was raised for the missions in Peru. Since 2001 till now the total is \$443,500. It is through your efforts that the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop continues in Peru today. Used stamps with good margin around them can be left in the box provided at the back of the church.

CHRISTMAS DUES: Your generosity in this challenging time is greatly appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE: Sr Kathryn has asked that we all save the date Saturday 5 March 2022. Something special is coming ... watch this space for details.

NEW YEAR ROSTERS: As we begin 2022 we would love to see more volunteers assist with what can be done during Masses, particularly readers, cleaners after Mass and counters. If you can assist please call the office or let Father know.

COMING EVENTS: 14 -23 January. Tamworth Country Music Festival

5 Mar 22 Save the Date Special Event TBA 19 Mar 22 Diocesan Men's Gathering

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: BSB 082105 1st Coll: Presbytery Acc 001023642
(contactless option) 2nd Coll: St Patricks Church Acc 001041198



WEEK 1 ROSTER: 9/1/22

Vigil: R D Gowing G Styman
9am Sun: R S Nichols G Clout
5.30pm Sun: R M and J Murray
Counting Team 10/1 R Paull; A Bowden
Sat Cleaning 15/1 J Hutt and J Moran
Altar Linen: J Hutt

WEEK 2 ROSTER: 16/1/22

Vigil: R P Bamford D Bolitho
9am Sun: R S Brown O Monet
5.30pm Sun: R M and J Murray
Counting Team 17/1 G&M Thrift; A Bowden
Sat Cleaning 22/1 B & B Lane
Altar Linen E Jackson

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and care for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

