



Welcome to

St Joan of Arc Parish Haberfield

Parish Priest: Fr Phillip Zadro

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Parish Secretary: Tuesday – Wednesday 9.30am—2.30pm

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

13th January, 2019

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

'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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30

R. 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. **R.**

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.**

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.**

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.**

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.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 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!



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

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.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**ROSTER for
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Scripture Readings for next week:

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
Gospel: John 2:1-11

Scripture Readers for next week:

Saturday Vigil: Enrica Bova, Steve Roll
Sunday 9.00am: Rhonda Albani, Carmel McKeough
Sunday 6.00pm: Vicki Smith, Sue Smith

Ministers of Communion for next week:

Saturday Vigil: Rita Raco, Cathy Carozza
Anna Attard, Majella Hill
Sunday 9.00am: Peter Doyle, Yvonne Molloy
Maria Calabrese, Pina Furlan
Sunday 6.00pm: Josie Banno, Carmelina De Francesco

Children's Liturgy for next week:

Sunday 9.00am No Children's Liturgy during school holidays

Reflection

"You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

New birth can be both agony and ecstasy. St Paul remarks that mothers are prepared to go through the pangs of childbirth because of their delight in bringing new life into the world. They forget the pain in their excitement at their newborn child. We have to remember that St Paul was a man, and his view may have been rather idealistic. But where all goes well, and a child is safely delivered, there is a sense for both parents of having partaken in an event that verges on cosmic significance, not just for their personal lives but for the world at large.

The Russian tradition is to place the newborn child on the earth in recognition that this is mother earth, the womb from which we all emerge and to which we all in some profound way always belong. Other cultures, too, celebrate birth with a deep awareness of how in that moment we share in the great gift of creation. All of which makes our modern Western approach more contradictory. On the one hand we retain the desire to have the children we want and whom we will love. On the other, our society often cannot deal with children who arrive unexpectedly or who do not conform to the pattern of hearth and intelligence we had hoped for. We would prefer to forge a world solely in our own image and likeness rather than accepting the mysterious world that has been given us in the image and likeness of its creator. We have too narrow a framework for those whom we will call "beloved".

There had been so many prophecies and predictions of the one who was expected, the one who was to come in the Jewish tradition. What remained uncertain was what the one to come would be. There is a sense that God will come with power, as our first reading from Isaiah indicates, yet the Lord will also be like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms and holding them against his breast. The image of military might is counterbalanced by a pastoral image of tenderness and care. Again, in our psalm we are asked to reflect on the might of God, who stretches out the heavens like a tent and provides the earth and the sea with all their riches. This wealth of creation is then linked into God's intimate solicitude for us, providing us with the food we need in due season so that we may always have our fill.

All these contrary and yet complementary expectations reach their fulfilment in the person of Jesus. His public life will be the expression of how he fulfils the hopes and promises the people have listened to all their lives. In Luke's Gospel, which we are reading this year, it is when Jesus is at prayer after his baptism that the Holy Spirit comes down upon him, sealing the calling he has received from his Father, who in turn declares the closeness of their relationship, which has three aspects: Jesus is God's own Son, and so he is the Father's beloved, and God's favour rests on him.

These same three aspects lie at the heart of what happens to us at our baptism. perhaps it was only natural that after a time the Church would begin the practice of baptising infants. This is the moment when we are aware of the God-given sharing in creation that has just taken place in the birth of each child. As we thank God for the gift of children it makes sense to link that thanksgiving with the words spoken by God the Father at the start of his Son's public life. We are all God's children, and that means first of all that we too are beloved by God.

Parents can aim to emulate that divine love in all that they strive to do in bringing up their children. It does not mean mollycoddling or spoiling them. It does mean both challenging them to fulfil their potential while caring for their nurture and growth like the shepherd with his lambs. Finally God's favour rests on both us and all our children, for we are God's children too. We sometimes lose track of this strong affirmation of God for each one of us. Just as the archangel Gabriel greeted Mary as "full of grace", so we begin and continue our lives under the support and favour of our God.

The Living Word

LORD, WE PRAY WELCOME HOME THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Recently Deceased: Cathy Musumeci, Maria Fresta, Mark Dolahenty, Bruna Alibrandi, Dominic Banno, Giuseppe Cozzubbo, Caterina Ciancio, Joseph Ventura, Maria-Gaetanna Giorgio, Dr John Robilliard, Joyce Tolhurst, Gaetano Defina, Victor Kasalo, Maria Catania, Anna Di Maio, Luigi Vella

Rest in Peace: Giuseppe Iorfino, Ted & Val Constant, Ornella Deluchi, Gildo D'Amici, Mario Scardilli, Sarina Tringali, Giovanni Tama, Lucia & Erminio Coruzzi, Carmen Muscat, Carmela Cini, Sabatina Giunta, Ingazio Pendino, Carmela Ruberto, Angelo Ruberto, Franco La Manna, Immacolata Angilletta, Francesco Angilletta, Cosmo Angilletta, Rocco Calautti, Lucrezia Calautti, Saveria De Grazia, Wanda Angelucci, Rachel Swanson, Guiseppina Magani, Pina Zaia, The Conte Family, John & Kathleen Huie, Lucy The, Jim Tuite, Sarina Torrisi, Lattari & Aversa families, John & Moya Phillips, Mons Dino Fragiacomio, Fr Frank Furfaro & All Souls in Purgatory.

In your love and concern please pray for the following ill members of our community: Nicholas Hanania, Anna Attard, Rosa Santos, Elisha Lau, Aitken Family, Liz Smith, Pat Rankine, Jerry Andre, Donna Neeley, Adeline Ashing, Annelise Buda, Giovanni Luci, Stephan Ferenc, Giancarlo Budda, Mario Bianco, Tony Sulfaro

In keeping with the Privacy Act names cannot be published in our Parish Bulletin without the permission of the persons themselves or their next of kin. Please specify on your Mass Envelope your intention to include the person's name in this Bulletin or contact the Parish Office on 9798 6657

BAPTISMS - January, 2019

*We welcome these children into God's family
and our parish community*

Zane Patchett, Zoe Patchett, Ryu Takada

PARISH PRIEST ON LEAVE

Fr Phil will be away on leave next week.

Please welcome:

Fr John Sullivan who will celebrate 6pm Mass Sunday 13 January.

Mons Vince Redden who will celebrate the weekday masses on Wednesday 16, Thursday 17 and Friday 18 January.