



# St Joan of Arc Parish Haberfield

**Parish Priest:** Fr Phillip Zadro

**Presbytery Office:** 97 Dalhousie St Haberfield NSW 2045  
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**Parish Secretary:** Tuesday – Wednesday 9.30am—2.30pm

**YEAR A**

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

*12th January, 2020*

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7**

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.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 28:1-4, 9-10**

**R. 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.**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38**

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.'

The word of the Lord.  
**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!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:13-17**

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.'



The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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What are we doing in meditation? We are doing something very simple, very profound, and very transformative: we are paying attention. When I say that we are letting go of our images and our desires as they arise in the form of distractions, we're not fighting them. We're not saying, 'That's bad, I shouldn't be feeling that, I shouldn't be wanting that, I shouldn't be having that.' We are not judging them as they arise. We know they're there, we accept them. We're not trying to suppress them, because if you try to suppress them you'll lose. What we do is we take our attention off them. And so, with infinite patience, you are simply letting go. It's like a ship going through the water. You steer your way through the waves of the mind – the desires, the images, the fantasies, the memories, the plans. Gently, one by one, you let them go by taking your attention off them. And we do that by giving our attention to the mantra. That's how it works.

*(Grace at Work - The Healing Power of Meditation,  
Laurence Freeman OSB)*

**BAPTISMS - January 2020**

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

Natalia Volpe, Raffaele Lowe

**FEAST DAYS**

Friday 17th January

**St Anthony**

"This is the meaning of true love, to give until it hurts."

*Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

**Next week: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time****Scripture Readings:**

First Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6  
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3  
Gospel: John 1:29-34

**ROSTERS****Scripture Readers:**

Saturday Vigil: Maria Del Vecchio, Greg Hill  
Sunday 9.00am: Lyn Regan, Carmel McKeough  
Sunday 6.00pm: Vicki Smith, Sue Smith

**Ministers of Communion:**

Saturday Vigil: Rita Raco, Cathy Carrozza  
Alex Mediati, Majella Hill  
Sunday 9.00am: Yvonne Molloy, Chris Molloy  
Maria Calabrese, Grace Mediati  
Sunday 6.00pm: Josie Banno, Carmelina De Francesco

**Children's Liturgy:**

Sunday 9.00am No Children's Liturgy during school holidays

**LORD, WE PRAY WELCOME HOME THOSE WHO HAVE DIED**

**Recently Deceased:** Laurence Wong, Milagro Gonzalez, Vincenzo La Ianca, Vincenzo Di Maio, Angelo Ingegneri, Sabina Bacchetto, Tina Torrisi, Santa Pulciani, Connie Maling, Amalia De Rose, Carmelo Di Bartolo, Nunziata La Greca, Carmela Cutrufello, Colleen Shearer, Giuseppe Angilletta, Giuseppe Calautti, Concettina Di Bello, Doreen Lucantonio, Rosina Russo, Carmela Coluccio, Giovanni Parisi

**Rest in Peace:** Vince Franze, Val Constant, Ornella Deluchi, John Carey, Vincenzo Giannini, Marie Moir, Mario Scardilli, Vince Franze, Angelo Giannetto, Victor Vyekoslav Kasal, Pedro Mantilla, Blanca Mantilla, Marco Antonio Handabak, Wanda Angelucci, Valentina Mannino, Maria Fresta, Carmelo Coluccio, Joe Mostyn, Provvidenza Spataro, Silvana Manfre', Maria Albore i Nigro, Giovanni Carrolo, Tindiglia & Brancatisano families, Gaspere D'onofrio, Tonino Di Giantomaso, Rosaria Di Bella, Giuseppina Macagni, Pietro Banno, Jack McEnally, Dominic Banno, 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:** Vittoria Lavechia, Peter Cuddy, Carmel McNally, Neville Hill, 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 Buda, 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

**Reflection**

*"Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil."*

The Catholic church and most other Christian traditions recognise the authenticity of the location at the River Jordan where Jesus was baptised. Pope Francis has been there, and it was a pilgrimage centre from the days of John the Baptist. After John died, many of his followers stayed in the area. Later, churches were built near the site and monks lived in caves. At this holy site you see people being baptised today, immersed in the river like Jesus. In some Catholic churches around the world there are large fonts where new Christians are fully immersed in the water of the sacrament, cleansing their bodies and washing away all the sins of their past lives.

Jesus, who had no sins to be forgiven, was baptised for our sake and as an example to us. His baptism also marked the moment when he burst onto the world's stage: leapt into history. From a quiet life in Nazareth Jesus was catapulted into public life and his ministry began. The demands on his love and his time became huge.

St Peter wrote that, after being anointed by the Spirit, Jesus "went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil". After forty days in the desert, where the devil tempted him to abandon his mission, Jesus began to create the Church (not so much in those days an institution as a movement), "the way" they used to call it: his followers, like him, were committed to "[going] about doing good". Over the centuries since, religious communities were formed in the Church to go about doing good in extraordinarily selfless ways. All over the world, in the poorest and most desperate places, the followers of Jesus are still to be found, caring, teaching and loving. Nearer home there are, for example, street pastors, and Christians running food banks, hostels and soup kitchens for those who are homeless, caring for people who are sick or elderly, and for children with emotional physical difficulties.

Yet our baptism is not so much a sign of our commitment to God and to "doing good", but of God's commitment to us. The Father's voice told Jesus, "This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him." At our baptism God says the same to us. We become God's beloved sons and daughters, and God's favour rests on us. When Peter baptised the Roman centurion, Cornelius, he explained that "anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him". And our Catholic churches are full of people of many nationalities.

Mother Teresa—St Teresa of Calcutta—remarked that it is often through caring for others that people discover the real meaning of life, and that faith itself can be discovered or strengthened. It is not necessarily an easy life, but one that involves hard choices sometimes and a commitment to keep going, however hard it gets: a commitment sustained by God's grace-filled promise, "This is my... Beloved." This is sensed by all those who, in Isaiah's words, "serve the cause of right". Living only for oneself or for pleasure alone is shallow by comparison. Our baptism asks us not to run away from our Christian calling to do good, however hard its demands, and however wearing it may be. Having said that, rest, respite and a willingness to accept help are vital, and are a sign of humility. Sometimes, for example, an elderly dependant needs care that only a care home can give, and this is not to abandon them. But if anyone really does run away from their God-given responsibilities they can find that life suddenly loses its meaning; it becomes empty and without purpose.

During the third century, Cyprian of Carthage wrote to his friend Donatus: "It's a bad world, Donatus, in which we live. But right in the middle of it I have discovered a quiet and holy group of people. They are people who have found happiness that is a thousand times more joyful than all the pleasure of our sinful lives. These people are despised and persecuted, but it doesn't matter to them. They are Christians, Donatus, and I am one of them." As we remember Jesus' baptism in the Jordan, let us remember also Cyprian's words, and that through our Christian baptism we too are part of that "holy group of people".

*The Living Word*