



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, YEAR C

SUNDAY 12 JANUARY 2025

**REFLECTION By Sr Veronica Lawson rsm**

The liturgy of the Christmas season invited us to reflect on and to experience the various comings of Christ in our world. It invited us to open ourselves to the action of God's grace at work in our encounters with the living Christ. The readings from Luke's gospel led us from the story of the birth of Jesus to the story of his personal decision at age twelve to remain in God's house, the Jerusalem Temple, listening to the teachers of the Law and astonishing them with his answers to their questions.

Today's celebration of the baptism of Jesus marks the end of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. Now, as an adult and along with "all the people", Jesus receives John's water baptism. The crowds are wondering if John the Baptist might be the Christ/Messiah, God's anointed one. John points the people away from himself and towards Jesus who "will baptise ...with the Holy Spirit and fire". Did Jesus also engage in a ministry of baptising the people "for the forgiveness of sins" or is John's reference to Jesus' activity of baptising with the Holy Spirit and fire a metaphor for the distinctive features of his future gospel ministry? It could well be both. As already noted in the reflection for the third Sunday of Advent, the three instruments of God's saving and purifying action for the Essene community at Qumran were the earth elements of fire and water imbued with "a holy Spirit". In Luke's second volume, the Acts of the Apostles, the presence of the Holy Spirit is marked by tongues of fire. Fire is a powerful symbol that functions as a threat on the one hand and as a source of energy and light on the other. Our warming planetary home witnesses to our widespread failure to hear the wisdom of first peoples on how to live with fire, not as threat, but as source of energy and light.

The gospel reading names Jesus as God's Chosen One, the Beloved, on whom God's Spirit rests. In light of the first reading from Isaiah 42, the voice of God in the baptism scene commissions Jesus to bring forth justice, sensitively and without fanfare; to be a source of light to the peoples; to open the eyes of the blind and to set the captives free. Those baptised into Christ through the ages are baptised "with the Holy Spirit and fire" and are called to the same mission as Jesus and the same sensitive approach to that mission. The fire in our hearts sometimes flickers in the face of life's challenges. We can be guilty of crushing "the bruised reed" or extinguishing the flickering flame of hope. As we move into Ordinary Time with its demands, we might think about stirring the embers and fanning the flame of God's love so that justice might prevail in our world and for our planet-justice without violence, if not without pain.

**Entrance Hymn:**

**CWB II 282**

**When Jesus comes to be baptised**

When Jesus comes to be baptised,  
he leaves the hidden years behind,  
the years of safety and of peace,  
to bear the sins of all humankind.

The Spirit of the Lord comes down,  
anoints the Christ to suffering,  
to preach the word, to free the bound,  
and to the mourner, comfort bring.

He will not quench the dying flame  
and what is bruised he will not break,  
but heal the wound injustice dealt,  
and out of death his triumph make.

Our everlasting Father praise,  
with Christ, the well-beloved Son,  
who with the Spirit reigns serene,  
untroubled Trinity in One.

Text: © 1974, 1995 Stanbrook Abbey, Waas.  
Tune: WINCHESTER NEW 88.88, melody adapt. William Henry Havergal, 1793  
-1870 from a chorale in Musikalisches Handbuch, Hamburg, 1690

**Communion Hymn:**

**CWB II 283**

**When Jesus to the Jordan came**

When Jesus to the Jordan came,  
the sinless one, to know our shame,  
the waters of the earth were giv'n  
the pow'r to cleanse our hearts for heav'n.

A voice like thunder then was heard,  
the Father witnessed to the Word.  
the Spirit like a dove came down  
and glory settled on the Son.

A voice said, "This is my dear Son  
O hear his words for he has come  
to save the world, to do my will;  
in him all things will be fulfilled."

O praise the Father of the Word!  
O praise our Saviour, Christ the Lord!  
The Spirit, living in our hearts,  
will make our praise a joyful task.

Text: Ralph Wright, OSB, b.1938 © 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.  
Tune: JESU DULCIS MEMORIA 88.88; Chant Mode I.

### Recessional Hymn:

CWBII 587 v1 & 4

### Praise to you, O Christ our Saviour

Refrain: *Praise to you,  
O Christ our Saviour,  
Word of the Father,  
calling us to life. Son of God  
who leads us to freedom;  
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

You are the Word who calls us  
out of darkness you are the Word  
who leads us into light;  
you are the Word who brings us  
through the desert: glory to you,  
Lord Jesus Christ! Refrain

You are the Word who binds us  
and unites us, you are the Word  
who calls us to be one; you are the  
Word who teaches us forgiveness:  
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ! Refrain

Text & Music: Bernadette Farrell b. 1957©1986  
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### INTERCESSORY PRAYER

**We pray for the sick, especially  
Frederick Osborn and for all who  
have asked for our prayers.**

**We pray for all those who have  
died recently, especially  
Jennifer Wharton and those whose  
anniversaries we remember at  
this time, especially Williame &  
Sevanaia Waka, Maria Sompis,  
Paolo Kateratanamalee,  
John Sae-Koh and Vijaya Bernard.**

### CATHEDRAL MASS TIMES

Monday to Friday: 7.00am and 1.00pm  
(1.00pm live streamed - Link:

[www.youtube.com/user/archmelb](http://www.youtube.com/user/archmelb)  
Saturday 8.00am and 6.00pm. (Vigil)

Sunday 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am and  
6.00pm. (11.00am televised on C31.  
and live streamed on CAM) Link:  
[www.youtube.com/user/archmelb](http://www.youtube.com/user/archmelb)

Reconciliation will be held Tuesday to  
Friday at 12pm and on Saturday  
mornings at 8.30am.

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Each Friday at the conclusion of the  
1.00pm Mass,  
in the Sacred Heart Chapel.  
Exposition until 2.15pm.

### Mass Setting

**Saturday evening:** *Mass of St Francis* –  
Paul Taylor (CWB II 22a,b,c,f,g,h)

**Sunday morning:** *Mass of Our Lady, Help of  
Christians* (CWB II 23a,b,c,d,e,f)

**Sunday evening:** *Mass of St Benedict* –  
Paul Taylor

### Psalm

Ps 103:1-4,24-25,27-30 – ‘Bless the Lord,  
my soul, O bless the Lord, my soul’  
(arr. Percy Jones)

### 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 Acclamation

**Saturday and Sunday evenings:** Memorial  
Acclamation No.3 – ‘Save us, Saviour of the  
world’

**Sunday morning:** Memorial Acclamation No.1  
– ‘We proclaim your Death, O Lord’

### Organ Postlude

**Sunday morning:** *Cloches* (‘Bells’) –  
Jean François Dandrieu (1684–1740)

### Musicians

#### Cantors

Brianna Chesser (Saturday), Larissa Cairns  
(Sunday morning), Leighton Triplow  
(Sunday evening)

#### Organists

Christopher Cook (Saturday and Sunday  
evenings), David Agg (Sunday morning)

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### Dean of

### St Patrick’s Cathedral

Monsignor Stuart Hall

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Rev. Michael Buck

### Cathedral Master of Ceremonies/ Assistant Priest

Rev. Jaycee Napoles

### Priest in Residence

Rev. Philip Mathew

*Chaplain: St Vincent’s Hospital*

### Director of Music

Dr. Philip Matthias

### Cathedral Organist

Dion Henman

### St Patrick’s Cathedral Choir

*in partnership with*

### St Kevin’s College, Toorak

### Cathedral Singers

Christopher Mason

*Director*

Thomas Grubb

*Organist*

### Cathedral Parish

### Office Coordinator

Julie Allan

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### Cathedral Administration

### Assistant

Huong Nguyen

### SAFEGUARDING.

### Child Protection Officer:

### Rev Jaycee Napoles

Please refer to the two new posters  
‘Rights and Responsibilities’ and  
‘Feel safe and be Safe at Our Church’  
at the entrances of the Cathedral  
[https://  
melbournecatholic.org/  
safeguarding.](https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding)

### St Patrick’s Cathedral Young Adult Ministry (SPCYAM) (age 18 to 40 yrs old)

Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at  
Cathedral Room, CKC Centre,  
383 Albert St, East Melbourne

Last Saturday of each month;  
6pm mass, followed by meal.

Contact Fr. Jaycee Napoles  
([Jaycee.Napoles@cam.org.au](mailto:Jaycee.Napoles@cam.org.au))  
or [info.spcyam@gmail.com](mailto:info.spcyam@gmail.com)