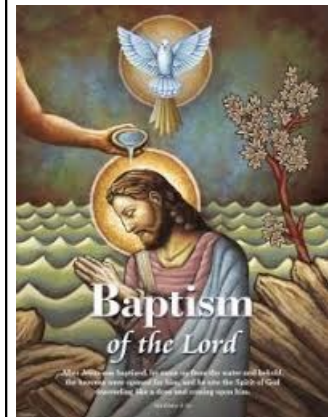




The Parish of St Matthew's North Fawkner
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The Baptism of the Lord – January 10, 2021 Year B

Today's Feast marks the conclusion of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. It's a feast of transition from Jesus' hidden life to that of His public ministry. It also echoes the theme of the Epiphany in that the Baptism of the Lord is another manifestation announcing Jesus' divinity to all of His first followers and to the disciples of John the Baptist.

First of all, it needs to be pointed out that Jesus did not need the baptism of John. John was baptizing as a call to and sign of interior repentance. Jesus had no need to repent. But, nonetheless, He comes to John. John resists at first but Jesus insists. Why did He receive baptism?

First, by accepting the baptism of John, Jesus affirms all that John has said and done and affirms his sacred role of preparing the way for Jesus and for a new era of grace. Therefore, the Baptism of Jesus acts as a bridge between the Old Testament prophets (of which John was the last) and the New Testament era of grace and truth.

Second, it has been said that when Jesus entered the waters of baptism, He was not baptized by the waters, rather, His Baptism was one in which all the created waters of this world were, in a sense, "baptized" by Him. By entering into the waters, Jesus sanctified water and poured forth His grace making all water the future source of salvation.

Third, the Baptism of Jesus was an epiphany. It was a moment of manifestation. As He emerged from the waters, "Heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from Heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." This manifestation of the sonship and divinity of Jesus took place in a physical, audible and visible form so that all present would know, without question, that Jesus was the Son of the Father. Thus, His baptism is a way in which the Father introduced His Son and His Son's mission to the world. (*My Catholic Life*)

Joke of the week

Before performing a Baptism, the priest approached the young father and said solemnly, "Baptism is a serious step. Are you prepared for it?" "I think so," the man replied. "My wife has made appetizers and we have a caterer coming to provide plenty of cookies and cakes for all of our guests." "I don't mean that," the priest responded. "I mean, are you prepared spiritually?" "Oh, sure," came the reply. "I've got a keg of beer and a case of whiskey."

Quote of the day

"Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." — Albert Einstein

The sick in our parish: Teresa & Con Lamonaca, Nola, John Markis, Judiel Teodoro, Kathy Romanow, Wladyslaw Stopa, Rosa Latanzio, Leanne Branchflower, Carmela Bovezza, Giovanna Gamberale, Elda Taranto, Maurizio Pierazzi, Vanessa Borg, Carmela Renda, Eddie.

Recently deceased: Vincenzo Giansiracusa, Mark Devine, Frank Cichello, Peppino Amoroso, Doris Sorrentino.

We pray for all those whose Anniversaries occur at this time: Santo Fileccia, Angelina Markis, Nabih & Frangia Challita, Antoinette Cassar, Ellen Flood, Willie Robinson, Theresa Edwards, Joanne Farrugia.

We especially pray for all the deceased whose names are on the Church pews & the Resurrection Chapel.

Confessions

Confessions are now available by appointment at the Parish on Saturday nights—before the Vigil Mass (5.30 pm). Please contact the Parish Centre on 93592369

Mass times

Weekday mass: Tuesday-Friday: 9.30 am
 Novena mass: Wednesday: 7.00 pm
 Weekend masses:
 Saturday Vigil mass: 6.30 pm
 Sunday: 9.30 ; 10.30 (Italian)

Prayers for intentions

Parishioners wishing to have prayers for loved ones at Sunday masses should leave an envelope with the details of your intentions (recently deceased, sick, or, anniversaries). The envelopes should be placed in the letterbox outside the presbytery by Thursday afternoon.

2021 Thanksgiving envelopes

Thanksgiving envelopes are now ready to be picked up in the church foyer. Envelopes are arranged in street order. Please feel free to pick up a neighbours' box of envelopes if you notice that they haven't been picked up.

Volunteers needed

- Bus (Van) drivers: to pick up elderly parishioners for the Saturday (Vigil) 6.00 pm and the Sunday mass (Italian) 10.30 am. Once every 3 weeks.
- ALTAR & Sanctuary: Flower arrangement & general cleaning (training will be provided). Once per month.
- Church cleaning: Vacuuming, mopping the entrance & cleaning the entrance doors. Once per month
- Gardening: Tidying & weeding.
- Lectors: Reading and Special ministers. (training will be provided). Once per month.