



# NEWSLETTER

8 JAN. THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD.

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

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The Community of St. Camillus 044 9374115.

## ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>, 11.30am. Brendan, Kathleen, Niall, Michael & Adrain Ennis.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>, 11.30am. Paddy Loran.

## ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>, 10am. Michael & Margaret Lynam.

**Weekday Masses;** Thurs Raharney 9am. Wed & Fri Rathwire 9am.

Adoration  
of the  
Blessed Sacrament



In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm.

& St. Brigid's Wed. 5pm-10pm:

*Special Diocesan intention of prayer  
for vocations and the family.*

**Take one Hour with the Lord**

MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €  
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €

Quotes from Pope Benedict XVI.

"My dear young friends, I want to invite you to 'dare to love.' Do not desire anything less for your life than a love that is strong and beautiful and that is capable of making the whole of your existence a joyful undertaking of giving yourselves as a gift to God and your brothers and sisters, in imitation of the One who vanquished hatred and death forever through love." — World Youth Day, 2007

"Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary." — Homily, St. Peter's Square, April 24, 2005

"If we allow the love of Christ to change our heart, then we can change the world. This is the secret of authentic happiness." — Guanajuato, Mexico, Mach 24, 2012

"Love is the light — and in the end, the only light — that can always illuminate a world grown dim and give us the courage needed to keep living and working. Love is possible, and we are able to practice it because we are created in the image of God." — Deus Caritas Est

## Perfected Revelation

The "epiphany" of Jesus, his revelation to the world, was accompanied by the offering of three gifts, each of which symbolized a different aspect of the divine/human saviour.

**Frankincense** is offered to Jesus, the Son of God, the eternal Word of the Father who is worshiped with the Father and the Spirit.

**Gold** is offered to Jesus the King of the human race, the summit of creation.

**Myrrh** is offered to the divine/human saviour of the world who suffered and died for the salvation of all.

Jesus is revealed in our own day also. He is revealed as the Word of God speaking to us in the marvellous workings of nature, in the achievements of the human spirit, and in the dialogue between Church and world.

He is revealed to us as King in every victory over ignorance, alienation and powerlessness. He is revealed to us as Suffering Messiah in the heart and face of every poor person, every stranger, every wanderer living in a back alley or under a bridge, every person victimized by others.

"His glory has shone among us." We have only to recognize him and to do what the magi did in his presence: "They prostrated themselves and did him homage."

Jesus perfected revelation by fulfilling and manifesting himself: through his words and deeds, his signs and wonders, but especially through his death and glorious resurrection from the dead and final sending of the Spirit of truth.

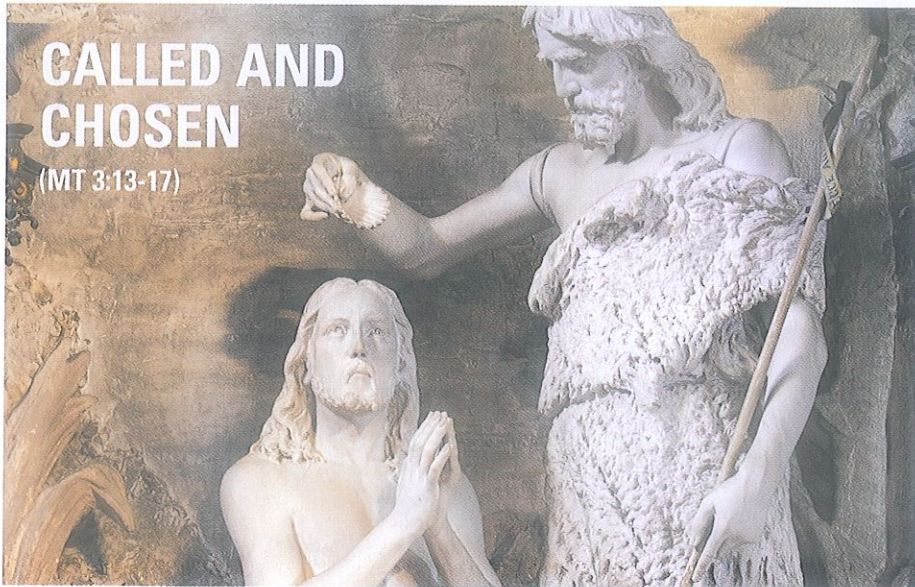
Vatican II, [\*Constitution on Divine Revelation\*](#),

# Sunday Message

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

THE WORD

Year A • 8 January 2023 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 3



## CALLED AND CHOSEN

(MT 3:13-17)

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. It always comes at the end of the season of Christmas.

It represents that moment when Jesus begins his public ministry, when he leaves his old life behind and starts anew, filled with the Spirit and a burning desire to make known God's plan for the world. For him, after the events of today, nothing would ever be the same again.

Almost 60 years ago, the bishops at Vatican II published the Constitution on the Church, called *Lumen Gentium*. This document brought about a profound change in the understanding of baptism. The bishops emphasised that by virtue of the sacrament of baptism, we are all the People of God; that through baptism, we all share a fundamental equality and unity and share a common responsibility to preach the Gospel.

Baptism makes us one. It calls us into discipleship and impels us to go out into the world to make known God's saving plan. As with Jesus, so also with us – our baptism means that nothing can ever be the same for us again. ■

### DO

Think about your baptism and your baptismal promises. How well are you keeping them?

### SAY

Lord, help me to witness to my baptismal promises as best I can.

### LEARN

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord is a celebration of every Christian's baptism and vocation.

Through baptism, we are united with Christ as his brothers and sisters and with God as our Father in heaven.

### PRAY

Visit the baptismal font in your church or where you were baptised. Pray for yourself and all those baptised there.



## REFLECT

When we were baptised, shortly after the water was poured over us, the priest anointed our heads with the oil of chrism. As he did so, he said, "As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life." From baptism, we receive our dignity as Christians and are drawn into unity with Jesus, sharing in his triple dignity as priest, prophet, and king.

And that's a good way to think about what our baptism means and its implications for how we should live. Through baptism, we share in the priesthood, prophetic mission and kingship of Jesus.

First, we share in the priesthood of Jesus. Each of us shares in the priesthood of Jesus through the worship we offer God, through our lives of prayer and

participation in the sacraments. Prayer was at the heart of Jesus' life. It was the fuel that kept him going. Christians are people who pray all the time. That's what sharing in the priesthood of Jesus means.

How well or often do you pray?

Second, through baptism, we share in Jesus' dignity as prophet. To be a prophet is to speak of God's kingdom with courage and conviction. It is to witness to the Gospel in what we do and say. It is to speak out against injustice, point to the truth, oppose oppression and wrongdoing, and risk everything for the sake of God's kingdom. That's what Jesus did. It's why he ended up hanging from a tree. That's what sharing in the prophecy of Jesus means.

How prophetic are you in your living and

in your words?

Third, through baptism, we share in the kingship of Jesus. To share in the kingship of Jesus is to be someone who serves others. It's a very different idea of monarchy from how the world understands it. Jesus was an upside-down ruler who washed people's feet and had nowhere to lay his head. His rule was all about service. That's what sharing in the kingship of Jesus means.

What kind of ruler are you?

When we try to imitate Jesus, when we worship, act prophetically, and rule as he did, we can be sure that God will be very proud of us, also.

What kind of priest, prophet and ruler are you? ■