**Note: Please leave this on the ambo, thanks.**

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YEAR C**

**Introduction**

Good morning / evening we welcome our parishioners and visitors to Mary Immaculate Quakers Hill/Schofields Parish.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Lord’s Baptism. Although sinless, Jesus humbly went down with sinners into the waters of the Jordan to receive John’s baptism of repentance. He takes unto himself our sinfulness. Jesus reveals himself not as a glorious figure but one who is obedient to the Father and close to the poor and sinners.

The Feast of the Lord’s Baptism also reminds us of our own baptism, which is dying to our own sinful ways to rise up as beloved children of the Father in heaven.

Our Mass will be celebrated today by:

Please stand and join in singing the Entrance Hymn.

OVERVIEW

The Baptism of the Lord Year C

Entrance Antiphon

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened,

and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,

and the voice of the Father thundered:

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

First Reading

Is 42:1-4. 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.

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.

or

Ad libitum for Year C

Is 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.

‘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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11

(R.) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

1. 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.)

2. 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.)

3. 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.)

or

Ps 103:1-2. 3-4. 24-25. 27-30. R. v.1

(R.) Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

1. Lord God, how great you are,

clothed in majesty and glory,

wrapped in light as in a robe!

You stretch out the heavens like a tent. (R.)

2. 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.)

3. 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.)

4. 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.)

5. 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.)

Second Reading

Acts 10:34-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.

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.’

or

Ad libitum for Year C

Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

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.

Gospel Acclamation

See Mk 9:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father’s voice was heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

or

Ad libitum for Year C

See Lk 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!

Gospel

Lk 3:15-16. 21-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.

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.’

Communion Antiphon

Jn 1:32,34

Behold the One of whom John said:

I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

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**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD- YEAR C**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** My sisters and brothers, as we leave behind today our joyful Christmas Time we celebrate the revelation of the Holy Trinity at the baptism of Jesus.

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the Father, who affirmed Jesus as his beloved Son, will continue to bless us to whom he has shown compassion in our baptism.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, will be honoured by us as our Lord and Saviour, and Friend and Companion.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the Holy Spirit, who anointed Jesus at his baptism, and guided him in his ministry, will guide every Christian to follow Jesus and serve their neighbour.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those who long for a faith, or appear to have lost their faith,

Will find Jesus Christ, so that they can live good and religious lives.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That all who are in need – the victims of war, those persecuted for their faith, those suffering from natural disasters, all living in fear and loneliness – will experienced the mercy of God and the concern of our prayers.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For those who have died. In particular those mention in our parish bulletin. May God’s merciful love shine on them and their loved ones left behind.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** **Together we now pray to Our Lady, to implore her protection,**

 **health of the sick, during the Covid-19 pandemic.**

**All:** O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

 We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

 At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus’ pain, with steadfast faith.

 You, Salvation of the People, know what we need.

 We are certain that you will provide, so that joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

 Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father’s will and to do what Jesus tell us:

 He who took our sufferings upon Himself, bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross and to the joy of the Resurrection.

 We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

 Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test-and deliver us from

 every danger; O glorious and blessed Virgin, Pray for us.

**Priest:** Heavenly Father, anoint us in your Holy Spirit so that we can walk in the light of Christ, living his commandment of love for one another, for he is Lord, for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.