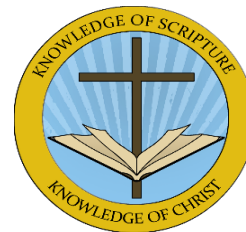


ST JEROME'S CATHOLIC PARISH

VISION: "To be an active faith community centred on Jesus Christ, which unites everyone to build a better world"



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD YrB – 10th January

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FIRST READING:

Isaiah 55:1-11

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknowns will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you. Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts. Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

The Word of the Lord. **R. Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Isa 12:2-6.r.v.6

R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. **R.**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. **R.**

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst
is the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

SECOND READING:

John 5:1-9

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God: and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – Keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith.

Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth – so that there are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and all three of them agree. We accept the testimony of human witnesses, but God's testimony is much greater, and this is God's testimony, given as evidence for his Son.

The Word of the Lord. **R. Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

cf. Jn 1:29

Alleluia, Alleluia!

John saw Jesus approaching him, and said:

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL:

Mark 1:7-11

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

Father's message

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

In the last few weeks, we contemplated the events surrounding the birth of Jesus.

The Sunday of the Baptism of the Lord suddenly ushers us to an adult Jesus, ready to start his mission - which is what we will start looking at from next Sunday onwards.

Today's readings all focus our attention on Jesus.

"I have made you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations." (Isaiah 55:4)

"Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God." (1John 5:5)

'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' (Mark 1:11)

In the Gospel we find the witness of the Spirit and the Father to Jesus, the Son.

This is the message I get: Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. Take him as your Master.

"He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." (Mark 1:8)

We were baptised. We received the Holy Spirit. We chose to follow Jesus in the midst of his Church.

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses." (Acts 1:8)

Do we believe in the power of the Spirit? Then we need to expect the unexpected.

New year 2021:

1. choose once again to follow Jesus,
2. expect the power of the Holy Spirit to use you in surprising ways!

We are baptised in the Holy Spirit and power.

Do you have a vision board for 2021? Do you expect events beyond your power and control?

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves", He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world". Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin. Customs on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

In the Ukraine the faithful gather in the front of the church where a cross of ice is placed. Since there are no rivers near churches, a tub is filled with water and is placed in front of the ice cross. During special and very unique services the water is blessed and brought home. This is taken in before breakfast is eaten. The remains are kept during the year to keep the home safe from fire, lightning and sickness.

The priest visits his parishioners to bless their homes with the holy water that the New Year may be one of cooperation with the gift of God; His Son and the participation in the Life He has come to lead us in toward Salvation. The evening meal is very much a repeat of the Holy Supper except that there are no restrictions on meat and dairy products. It starts with Kutia, which has been saved from Christmas Eve.

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-01-10>

WEEKDAY MASS:

Monday to Friday - 7am and 9am
Saturday - 9am

Religious Co-ordinator

Soly Fernandez

E: re_coordinator@stjeromesparish.org

WEEKEND MASS: Saturday - 6pm Vigil

Sunday - 8am, 10am and
6pm (Youth Mass)

Safeguarding Officers

Judy McShane & Anne Strafela

E: safeguarding@stjeromesparish.org

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 10.00 – 11.00am and
5pm -5.30pm
Or on Request at any time

Parish Pastoral Council

Secretary: Ann Taylor

E: ppcsecretary@stjeromesparish.org

Parish Office Hours:

Wednesday & Friday 9am to 2.30pm
Thursdays 9am to 12pm

POPE FRANCIS ABOUT ST. JOSEPH IN HIS LETTER "PATRIS CORDE" WITH A FATHER'S HEART:

2. A tender and loving father

Joseph saw Jesus grow daily "in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour" (Lk 2:52). As the Lord had done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus: he taught him to walk, taking him by the hand; he was for him like a father who raises an infant to his cheeks, bending down to him and feeding him (cf. Hos 11:3-4).

In Joseph, Jesus saw the tender love of God: "As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him" (Ps 103:13).

In the synagogue, during the praying of the Psalms, Joseph would surely have heard again and again that the God of Israel is a God of tender love,^[11] who is good to all, whose "compassion is over all that he has made" (Ps 145:9).

The history of salvation is worked out "in hope against hope" (Rom 4:18), through our weaknesses. All too often, we think that God works only through our better parts, yet most of his plans are realized in and despite our frailty. Thus Saint Paul could say: "To keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me: 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness'" (2 Cor 12:7-9).

Since this is part of the entire economy of salvation, we must learn to look upon our weaknesses with tender mercy.^[12]

The evil one makes us see and condemn our frailty, whereas the Spirit brings it to light with tender love. Tenderness is the best way to touch the frailty within us. Pointing fingers and judging others are frequently signs of an inability to accept our own weaknesses, our own frailty. Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser (cf. Rev 12:10). That is why it is so important to encounter God's mercy, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where we experience his truth and tenderness. Paradoxically, the evil one can also speak the truth to us, yet he does so only to condemn us. We know that God's truth does not condemn, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us. That truth always presents itself to us like the merciful father in Jesus' parable (cf. Lk 15:11-32). It comes out to meet us, restores our dignity, sets us back on our feet and rejoices for us, for, as the father says: "This my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found" (v. 24).

Even through Joseph's fears, God's will, his history and his plan were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture.

GRACE TRIUMPHANT ANNUAL FLAME CONGRESS

The Congress will be held on 15, 16 and 17 January 2021 at John XXIII College, Mount Claremont. Free event. Please see the notice board or take a flier. Contact Kaye 0421 605 502 or Cyrus 0403 414 621.

EVERY CHILD COUNTS

In the lead up to the 2021 State election, Catholic Education of Western Australia would like to make everyone aware of the contribution made by the Catholic Church in this area. They produced a publication - Contributing to stronger WA communities - an independently assessed document outlining CEWA's significant social and economic contribution. This publication, and more, is available on the website everychildcounts.net.au

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:

Benji Kentwell, Matilda De Santos, Sister Renee Quadros, Salvatore Lazzara, Alessio De Souza, John Alvarez, Marina & Rita Papalia, Sid Gaspar, Lucia Merenda, Madeleine Lombardo, Maria Fernandez.

(Please advise the parish office if any of these names need to be removed.)

In an Emergency only (anointing of the sick), when the Parish phone is unattended please call the parish emergency number of 0478 456 079 or send a text to this number. Thank you



REQUIREMENT TO KEEP RECORDS OF CHURCH ATTENDANCE FROM 5 DECEMBER 2020

To support contact tracing in case of an outbreak of covid-19, records are required by the WA government. The easiest way will be that all who can download an app - SafeWA. The app will easily record attendance by scanning a QR code. Using the app would make it so much easier for us to manage the requirement. We humbly request all who can to do so. All who cannot use the app will be required to write down their details on the sheets provided. We thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 09/01/21	6pm	Soul of Ken Orr	Mon 11/01/21	7am	Soul of Ivica Borak (recently deceased)
		Soul of Laretta Yon			Soul of Reginald Seal
		Souls of Carmela & Francesco Favazzo			9am Soul of Manuel De Freitas Gontarde
		Soul of Carolina Scarvaci			Soul of Eliza De Freitas Gontarde
		Soul of Jose Pereira Branco			Soul of Abel A Oliveira
		Soul of Annie Breen Kenmare (recently deceased)			Soul of Julia De Freitas
		Souls of Angela Francisco, Irene Pereira & Dorothy Correia			
		Int. of all Maria Basilio family			
Sun 10/01/21	8am	Souls of Luca & Dominico Gatti	Tues 12/01/21	7am	Soul of Pamela Seal
		Soul of Antonio Ferrinda			9am Soul of Leoncia Padillo
		Soul of Petar Gavranic	Wed 13/01/21	7am	
		Soul of Gabriel Abreu			9am Int. for holy souls in purgatory
		Soul of Marija Baskovich			Int. of Freitas & Yukos families
	Soul of Angela Spinola				
	Soul of Jerry Abreu & Matilda Abreu				
	10am	Soul of Pasquale & Antonietta Spadanuda	Thurs 14/01/21	7am	Int. Felicity Mercer
		Soul of Nicola Cianfagna			9am B'Day Int for Angela Catanzaro
		Soul of Maria Rosa Piccoli			
		Soul of Angelo Mirco (2 nd anni)	Fri 15/01/21	7am	
		Souls of Antonio & Rosina Mirco			9am
6pm	Soul of Maria Mollica				
	B'Day Int. Joe Ascenso	Sat 16/01/21	9am	Special Int. for Suneeth Fernandez	

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