

**January 7th 2024 Sunday Feast of Baptism of Our Lord – Year B – Mark1:7–11**

<sup>1-7</sup>He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

➤ <b>Read and re-read</b> – out loud and slowly the Gospel.	➤ <b>Pray</b> - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition.
➤ <b>Meditate</b> - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life.	➤ <b>Action</b> – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do.

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Jesus wanted to be baptised. The river Jordan was a great river in Palestine, near Jerusalem and he decided this is where he would be baptised. It was no ordinary baptism, it was a baptism of repentance and for the forgiveness of sins. It was the moment that he joined in fellowship with those who were receiving baptism from John. In the same way he is in fellowship with us. By our baptism we are called to shape our lives as Jesus did, by practicing mercy, peace, justice and liberation to our family, friends and community. How do we do this in our lives?

**Prayer:**

**Lord thank you** for the gift of our Baptism and for the privilege of knowing that Your favour rests with us when we put our trust in You.

**Forgive us Lord** the times that we were so full of our own importance and status that we lost out on great moments of grace You gave to us.

**Help us Lord** to become more aware of the knowledge and truth that draws us closer to you when we live as Baptised people of God with the Holy Spirit as our guide .

