

# THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

R.I.P.

Mass Mon to Friday 10am

Confirmation Clonmellon Thur March 7th First Communion Sun May 19th

KILLALLON Sun 10am Ann – Patrick, Kathleen & Noel O'Reilly

CLONMELLON Sun 11.30am Ann – Bridgid & Thomas Smith Ann – Mary & P.J. Lehane

Sat – St Hilary

KILLALLON Sun 10am Ann – Oliver Gerard & Jim Burke

CLONMELLON Sun 11.30am M.M. – Mrs Anne Farrelly

Adoration Monday 2.30pm – 8pm. Baptisms 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month 11.00am

M.Fund Draw. €65 John Smith €35 Helena Carrigy Carmel Harris. Christmas Offering List will be acknowledged on next Sunday

7th January 2024

## Points to Ponder

The baptism of Jesus immerses him in the life of the people. He joined the queue of people for John's baptism, wanting to share the joys and sorrows of his people. In the depths of the water he entered into the depths of his own humanity and the depths of his people. We could say that Jesus has entered into that part of all of us which laughs and sings, dances and cries, feels for the sick and the suffering, desires the best for self and others; nothing human is foreign to him as he was baptised into the life of his people and the God of his ancestors.

To untie someone's sandal was a slave's task, but John feels unworthy even to do that for Jesus, because he is so important. Next the Father reveals the identity of this seemingly ordinary man Jesus from Nazareth by declaring him to be his beloved Son in whom he is well pleased. Next the Spirit descends on him like a dove. Lastly the heavens are rent open to indicate that Jesus belongs in the divine realm. Certainly, Mark does his best to help us as disciples to keep in mind the divine reality of Jesus: we will need this help as the story moves on.

Jesus' baptism gives us a window into a powerful religious moment. Jesus knows his identity. The imprint of the Spirit has sealed his life.

*Lord, remind me that I too bear your seal of approval. I am marked by your Spirit, called to participate in your mission as your beloved son or daughter.*

Silent night, holy night;  
All is calm; all is bright,  
Round yon virgin-mother and child;  
Holy infant so tender and mild;  
Sleep in heavenly peace. (2)

Silent night; holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia:  
Christ, the Saviour is born. (2)

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light,  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace:  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. (2)

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

At his baptism Jesus was revealed as the Son of God and began his work of bringing the vision of God, his justice and his liberation to people. At our baptism each of us is given a share in this mission, so we become children of God.



### PRAYER

Open the heavens almighty Father, and pour out your Spirit upon your people. Renew the power of our baptismal cleansing and fill us with zeal for good deeds. Let us hear your voice once again, that we may recognise in your beloved Son our hope in inheriting eternal life. Grant this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendour of eternal light, God forever and ever. Amen.

1. O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the king of angels:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, (3)  
Christ the Lord.

2. Born of the Father,  
Light from light eternal,  
Son of the gentle maid,  
our flesh and blood.  
Honour and praise him  
with the hosts of angels. (R)
3. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God  
in the highest: (R)

1. Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echo still their joyous strains. (R)

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your rapturous strain prolong?  
Say, what may your tidings be,  
Which inspire your heavenly song. (

1. Away in a manger,  
no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus  
laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky  
looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus  
asleep on the hay.

1. The baptism of Jesus was an extraordinary religious experience for him. Something happened that was a major step forward for Jesus in coming to know that he was the beloved Son of God. We all have events in our lives that are milestones along the road of discovering who we are. What have been these milestones for you?

2. 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' Bring to mind experiences in which you knew you were the beloved (of God or of another person) and that the one who loved you was well pleased. Remember these experiences with gratitude, knowing that the only proper response to love received is thankfulness. Perhaps you have also given that experience to another.

3. It is easy to lament the growing secularisation in the world today, but the Spirit of God who spoke loudly to the world in the Christ-event is active today. How can we be open to the new things the Spirit is saying to the church today?

4. John gives an example of humility as a person confident in his own role but not seeking to claim to be more than he is. He acknowledges that Jesus is greater. There is a freedom in being able to acknowledge the gifts of others without losing a sense of one's own giftedness. Recall times when you were able to do this.

2. The cattle are lowing,  
the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus  
no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus!  
Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side  
until morning is nigh.