



THE SAVING WORD

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD / C

12 JANUARY 2025

FIRST READING

Isa 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 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.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM 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

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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus.

*He saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal
in the Holy Spirit.*

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.



OUR LADY of MT CARMEL PARISH BULLETIN

The Baptism of the Lord - 12 January 2025 - Year C

OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL PARISH HILTON

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OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 9am – 3pm
Thursday: 9am – 12.30pm

MINISTRY TEAM

Parish Secretary: Tereza Camacho
Safeguarding Officer: Brigette Liddelow 0432 908 980
Avila Retirement Village Secretary: Judy Rowlands 0448 205 283
OLMC Primary School Principal: Jayson Peacock 9269 2000
OLMC Primary School RE: Tracey Marsden
Seton Catholic College Website:
<http://www.seton.wa.edu.au/olmc-parish>

REFLECTION: The Baptism of the Lord. Christianity is not a spectator sport. We live in a world that is obsessed with sport. Every day the media reports on men and women whose whole lives have been devoted to the pursuit of excellence in their chosen sport. We are fascinated by their heroic achievements but also by the sacrifice that is made in the name of success. Yet whilst most of us enjoy speaking of their achievements we would never choose to make the same sacrifices or commit ourselves to such goals. It is much safer being a spectator and watching it all from the safety of the comfort of our lounge room, favourite club / sports person's bar or our personal games room. The same principle unfortunately applies to Christianity. We love to speak about the saints, the holy people that have gone before us. We even tell the stories of their heroic faith and sacrifices that they have made but we would never dare to follow them if the truth be known. The Catholic author Georges Bernanos once said of the Church, "You are rather like the legendary Italian soldiers waiting to attack. All of a sudden, the Colonel snatches up his sabre, jumps over the parapets and charges off beneath heavy fire all by himself crying

'Avanti, avanti,' whilst his soldiers remain crotched under cover. Electrified by such a display of valour, clapping loudly with tears in their eyes saying, 'Bravo, bravo!'" Bernanos is challenging us as a church to not just be spectators. The whole reason why these holy men and women charged off in pursuit of Christ, in the pursuit of holiness **is so that we would follow**. That we would be inspired by their example and know that the same thing is possible for us. So let us not be discouraged, let us not be passive and sit back in the comfort of our security but have the courage to stand up and truly follow Christ. The love of His heavenly Father together with the Holy Spirit accompanied Jesus in His ministry here on earth. Jesus accompanies us as we follow Him in witnessing to the Truth and living a life of service in His image. Courage, I am with you always says Jesus. Avanti, avanti!

COVID: Parishioners, please be aware that Covid Virus has struck our worshipping community. Please exercise the given precautions if you are unwell, please remain at home until you recover. We are all called to be caring of each other. Thank you. Fr Michael.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW BISHOP OF BUNBURY: Pope Francis has appointed **Fr George Kolodziej SDS** as the fifth Bishop of Bunbury. Fr George is well known to us in the Archdiocese of Perth. He is currently the Superior of the Salvadorians in Australia. He has served in a number of Parishes and ministries in our Archdiocese. We offer our congratulations to Bishop Elect George. I ask that you keep Fr George in your prayers over the coming weeks and months leading up to his ordination and installation as Bishop in March. Fr Michael.

SCHOOL CARPARK: Parishioners, please be aware that during January 2025 there will be works at the school with trucks and tradie vehicles occupying the school carpark.

FLAME MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL 35TH ANNUAL CONGRESS - 'LIBERTY': John XXIII College, Mount Claremont, Friday to Sunday 17-19 January 2025. With guest speaker Fr Joseph Laundry, Cyrus D'Sousa FMI SD and Kaye Rollings of FMI. Mass on Sunday 10am. Rallies on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7pm. Day sessions on Saturday and Sunday 9am-5pm. For more information, please contact fmi@flameministries.org.



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<p align="center">RICH HARVEST</p> <p>Religious Products Mon to Fri 10.30am – 6pm Sat 10.30am – 3pm 39 Hulme Court, Myaree 9329 9889 or www.rich7harvest.com.au</p>	<p align="center">ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY</p> <p>Meet every Monday, except for public holidays, between 7 and 8 pm in the first meeting room to the left of the Church. New members are always welcome. Please contact Ian (President) on 0428 121 152 for further information.</p>	<p align="center">BOWRA & O’DEA FUNERAL DIRECTORS</p> <p>Because the little things are everything. 312 South Street, Hilton 9239 7744 or www.bowraodea.com.au</p>

MASS TIMES WEEKENDS:
 Saturday Vigil 6pm, Sunday 7.30am & 9am.

MASS TIMES WEEKDAYS:
 Tuesday 9am, Wednesday 9am, Thursday 9am, Friday 9am & Saturday 9am.

RECONCILIATION - Saturday's:
 9.30-10am and 5.15-5.45pm or by appointment.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:
 Wednesday 5.30 – 6.30pm & Friday 9.30 – 10.30am.

HOLY TRINITY CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP: HTPG Prayer group is in recess until Monday 3 February 2025.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: After the Lord was baptised, 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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS: Jesus you are the Good Shepherd who is always mindful of your Church. Watch over those who are Baptised in your name and grant peace and harmony to all families. We ask you to choose from the families of our Parish many priests, deacons, sisters and brothers who will gladly spend their lives making you known and loved.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS: Christine Rhow, Maria, Consiglia Ciavatta, Irwin Beachell, Isabella Da Cunha, Norma Elliott, Rudi Tassell, Steven, Davina, Elisabetta Paddon, Edward Fortune, Beatrice Fernandez, Lisa Bubb, Romilda Marinelli, Aaron LoCicero, Jacqueline Paul, Lou Collova, Christine Schwarten Henry, Fr Joseph Angelo, Fr Anibal Da Cunha, Peter Scanlan, June McGinnity, John Brackovich, Alison, Sofia, Rebecca, Fr Francis Sundararajan, Fr Greg Carroll, Bill Watkins, Daniel DiMarco, Joshua Oorschot, Fr John Piumatti, Mila Hogan, Mara Ravlich, Fr Vittorio Ricciardi, Lloyd Smith, Tegan Colgan, Patrick O’Brien, Archbishop Emeritus Barry Hickey, Fr Jean Fernandez, Fr Benedict Quadros, Fr

John Hogan, Alessia Saraceni, Anthony Lopez, Fr Richard Rutkauskas, Fr Peter Meo, Severina Cukrov, Barbara Bessini-Henderson, Dennis Woodcock.

MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday 11 to Friday 17 January 2025
Saturday 11 January
9am Mass: Intentions of Walsh & Matthews Families
6pm Mass: Intentions of Catarina & Family
Sunday 12 January
7.30am Mass: Intentions of Fobrogo Family
9am Mass: For the People
Tuesday 14 January
9am Mass: Marin Resic (RIP)
Wednesday 15 January
8am Mass: Intention of Donor
9.30am: Funeral Mass
Thursday 16 January
9am Mass: Intentions of Walsh & Matthews Families
Friday 17 January
9am Mass: Intention of Winship Family



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.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION cf. 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.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

BELOVED OF GOD

Luke remembers the story of Jesus' baptism and shapes its theological power to speak to the Gospel's late first century Greco-Roman audience. They have been baptised in their induction into the life of their discipleship household. This story is a reminder that through their baptism they are intimately bonded to Jesus and, through him, to God.

There are three important features which Luke highlights. The first is about John the Baptist whose focus is on Jesus. He witnesses to the future coming of one "more powerful" than he. A second feature is the moment of Jesus' baptism. This occurs, unlike in the other Gospels, without the presence of John. (He is already in prison—a part of the story omitted from today's reading). In other words, Jesus' baptism is God's act. It occurs while Jesus prays. His prayer opens the sacred realm of God's abode, the heavens. The Spirit of God descends on him. Jesus continues throughout the rest of the Gospel to be God's Spirit-filled agent.

Third, as Jesus is anointed with the Spirit, we hear God's voice and declaration of Jesus: "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you". Jesus is declared beloved of God, the one in whom God delights. Luke's theology of baptism is for the Gospel's audience, for us: We are baptised, God's Spirit acts within us, our prayer opens the Heavens for us; we are God's beloved daughters and sons in whom God eternally delights. This Sunday becomes a moment to celebrate the gift of our baptism and God's high estimation of us.

Fr Michael Trainor