

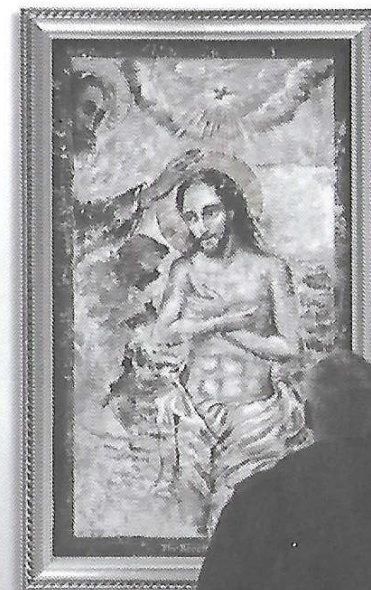
Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH **The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

SENT WITH JOY TO HEAL

MONTHLY THEME:
OPEN OUR HEARTS AND EYES

God Walks Ahead of Us



Why did Jesus ask to be baptized by John, especially when it is in the context of repentance? Theologians have given plausible reasons but we may never understand the logic of it all.

We are each of us like a small mirror in which God searches for His reflection.

- St. John Vianney

However, let us start our reflection with this, 'For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son and whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.' (Jn 3:16)

Out of sheer love, God sends his Sinless son to identify with us, and in doing so, he identifies with our sins. By taking on human flesh in a world, according to Pope Francis, 'marked by so many things, good and bad, marked by divisions, wickedness, poverty, arrogance and wars,' Jesus wants to bring God's mercy to the world.

Jesus' baptism earns the Father's praise when the voice from heaven says, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.' This scene is a manifestation of the Blessed Trinity, with the Holy Spirit hovering over Jesus. It also confirms the Son-ship of Jesus. The tone is set for Jesus to begin his public ministry!

In walking ahead of us, hundreds of years before the coming of Christ, God speaks through Isaiah (42:1-6). The Messiah will come as a servant, to serve and to suffer, to bring justice, mercy and healing. In Luke 4:18, Jesus identifies himself as the anointed one who has been sent to proclaim the good news to the poor, recovery of sight to the blind and to set the captives free.

How do we connect the Baptism of Jesus to our own?

The Catechism tells us that 'through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons and daughters of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission' (CCC #1213).

This is our permanent mark. Ineradicable! God identifies us as His beloved children. We have this lifelong process of conversion and nurturing as we strive to live out our baptismal promises. With God's Spirit hovering over us, **we know we are not alone.** God sent His Son to draw the whole world to Him, and we are sharers of this mission. We are the Baptised – Sent Out with Joy as we bring Christ's healing grace to all. ✝



Scripture of the Day:

Is 42: 1-4, 6-7

Ps 29: 1-4, 9-10

Act 10: 34-38

Mt 3: 13-17

Weekly
WORD

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we are not
alone