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**January 12<sup>th</sup> 2022 Sunday Feast Baptism of the Lord– Year C – Luke 3:15-16,21-22**

<sup>3-15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

➤ **Read and re-read** – out loud and slowly the Gospel.

➤ **Meditate** - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life.

➤ **Pray** - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition.

➤ **Action** – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do).

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Today we read about the humility of John when he declares before all that he is not the Christ. He said that Christ is more powerful than he is and he would not be worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. Christ will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Then Jesus came forward "when all the people had been baptised" inviting us to see him entering into solidarity with those who John had baptised. While Jesus was at prayer he had a very personal experience when a voice said from heaven "you are my son, the beloved, my favour rests with you".

Are there times in our lives when we have experienced the very close presence of Jesus encouraging us to a new commitment to him in our lives?

**Prayer:**

**Lord thank you** for the gift of our baptism and confirmation in which we become children of God and receive the special graces to realise that he knows and loves us, and wants us to be close to him.

**Forgive us Lord** for the times we tend to judge others with an air of superiority because we feel we are better than they are because they do not think or act like us.

**Help us Lord** to see you in whatever culture creed or social class we encounter. Let us stand before them with compassion and respect until the Holy Spirit descends on them gently like a dove.