

January 8th 2023 Sunday Feast of Baptism of the Lord– Year A – Matthew 3:13 – 17

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

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| <p>➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</p> <p>➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</p> | <p>➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</p> <p>➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do</p> |
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In this week’s gospel we read about the Baptism of Jesus by John. John tried to dissuade him because he felt unqualified and unworthy of such a task because Jesus was greater than him. After some persuasion from Jesus, John gave in to him. Jesus told him “there is an important work of salvation going on at this time and I cannot stand aloof but must be part of it.” He says that he must not lead ‘from above’ but by ‘being with’.

When were the times in our lives when we felt we were being asked to carry out an important task but feelings of being unqualified or unworthy got in our way?

Prayer:

Thank you Lord for the times when we felt overwhelmed with troubles and it was as if we were drowning. We felt your love descending on us like a dove and we were able to stay afloat. We realised that you loved us and your favour rested on us.

Forgive us Lord for the times we did not follow the example of Jesus to lead by ‘being with’ and not ‘from above’. This is why he invited John to baptise him because he did not want to be aloof but to be part of the renewal movement.

Lord help us as your baptised people who you call to minister to others to be humble before you because we are your Beloved and your favour rests on us.

