



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

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2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year A. 15th January 2023

The Gospels make explicit God's Word to us, through the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Discipleship means prayer and reflection on the events of our lives that we might see God's presence and work in our lives, as well as, obedience to God and God's will.

We are disciples of Jesus!

Gospel: John 1: 29-34

'Look: there is the Lamb of God'

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, **'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.** This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, **'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him.** I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, **"The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit."** Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the **Chosen One of God.'**

Commentary



John the Baptist announces that he knows that Jesus is the **"Chosen One of God"** because **"I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him."**

In today's reading, John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and cries out, giving witness about who Jesus is. John the Baptist calls Jesus **"the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world."** By using this title, John the Baptist identifies Jesus' ultimate

purpose: to be the **"sacrificial lamb"** who will save humanity, by dying for **"the sin of the world."** John the Baptist's sense of purpose is clearly identified in this reading: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the ministry of the One who was to follow – the Messiah and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

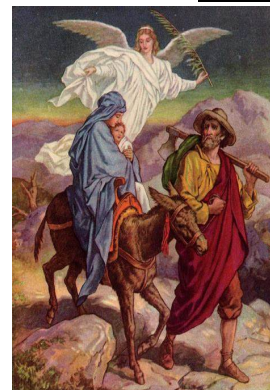
In Conclusion

As Jesus's baptism is the beginning of His public ministry, so our baptism is the birth of our discipleship. At baptism God chooses us, adopts us, and welcomes us into His family. **By our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the example of our lives.**

In Next Week's Gospel

In next week's gospel, Jesus begins to preach in Galilee and calls His first disciples (Matthew 4: 12-23). Jesus' public ministry begins after His baptism by John the Baptist and after His retreat to the desert, where He is tempted by the devil.

To Conclude Matthew's Gospel of the Visit of the Magi



The Magi were given a warning in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way. After they had left, suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, **'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt,** and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I called my son out of Egypt.

Herod was furious on realising that he had been fooled by the wise men, and in Bethlehem and its surrounding district he had all the male children killed who were two years old or less, reckoning by the date he had been careful to ask the wise men. Then were fulfilled the words spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamenting and weeping bitterly: it is Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted because they are no more. **After Herod's death, suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.'** So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the region of Galilee. **There he settled in a town called Nazareth.** In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled: **He will be called a Nazarene.**

From the Gospel of Matthew 2: 12-23

Parish Worship Schedule

A parish is a community of disciples of Jesus, who gather to celebrate the Mass and to “live the Gospel.” **We are a community of Jesus’ disciples and our church is here for our collective and individual worship and prayers.** We welcome the faithful to our Mass, or, to light a candle at our Marian chapel, or, to just pray in silence; and to grow spiritually.

Mass Times	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu & Fri	8.00 am (the Rosary after)
Mass Time	Saturday	6.00 pm
Mass Time	Sunday	9.30 am
Reconciliation	Saturday night	5.15 – 5.45 pm
Anointing of the Sick	Liaise with Fr Greg	
Baptisms, marriages and funerals	Liaise with Fr Greg	

Our Prayers of the Faithful

The Church expects that each parish community would prepare their own prayers so that all the community can join in the sacred intercessory prayer (Prayers of the Faithful) at Mass. In our parish prayers of the faithful, we pray to the Lord, to help and comfort our sick and suffering. We also pray for the souls of our recently departed, as well as, for those whose anniversaries, we remember at Mass today.

Prayers for Our Sick and Suffering

Jess Pettitt, Austin & Rick Johnston, Lorna Johnstone, Fr Francisco, Heron Sharpe, Antoinette De Silva, Tony Galvez, Jenny Cassin, Betsy De Wass, Frank De Luis, Nigel, Christina Sim, Maria Marshall, Claire Webster, Ivan Fletcher, Fabian Edmunds, Celia, Crowley family, Joe Sundaram, Thilak, Diana Scully, Bluey Thompson, Celeste Vicensoni, Carla, Annette, Joe Gibson, Georgina and Ronnie Ghosh, Gemma Altieri, Fred Kara, Reg Brown, Mary & Derrick Jansen, Marie Webster Viola, Gerry and Maisie Prendergast, James Rydqvist, Annie Magdalena Rydqvist, Anne Rydqvist, Dr Andrew Chilufya Snr, Robbie Iliffe, Donna Green, Horatio Hill, Ilean Wright, Cathy and Peter Ghouse, Jimmy Olivero, Kaye McIntyre, Jeff and Tony Francis, Sheila Vanwieringan, CD Joseph, Marina Lim, Wendy Price, Julie Pinto, Christopher Jaffer, Bonnie Sullivan, Joslyn De Sylva and Philomena Rodrigues.

Prayers for our Recently Deceased

Fr Andre and Gwen Lange.

“God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort” (Matthew 5:4).

Anniversaries of our Beloved Departed

Mary Enright (12 Jan), Giuseppina Soveri (13 Jan), Mr Kara (13 Jan), Anthony Exeter (13 Jan), Benedict De Souza (13 Jan), Merville Phillips (14 Jan), Laurel Girvin (15 Jan), John Roberts (15 Jan), Peter Randle (15 Jan), Ursula Sheridan (15 Jan), Leonardus Francesca (16 Jan) and all our departed relatives and friends.

Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus: “I am the Resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me will live even though he dies” (John 11: 25-26).

Note: Parishioners may email Cliff at: cliffordqerard@biqpond.com, for any additions (or deletions) to our lists of sick, recently deceased and anniversaries, whom you wish to be included in our “Prayers of the Faithful.”

Everyone has a name, and if we are to pray for them, we should say their name.



We Welcome “God’s Little Children” to Our Mass

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Mk 10: 13-14.

Activity sheets and colour pencils, are available at the rear of the church, to occupy the children during Mass. Parents may even pin their child’s work on the noticeboard (when space is available) for others to appreciate their efforts.

Our Next Parish St Vincent de Paul Donations is to be 04th/05th February



For parishioners who may wish to contribute to this worthy program, any non-perishable food in tins, packets or boxes will do (but no glass please). In addition to a food hamper, a \$30 Woolworths voucher is usually provided to enable the purchase of essentials like; fresh fruit and vegetables, baby food and more. **Cash donations may be deposited in our SVDP/poor donation box at the entrance of the church**, to enable the purchase of cash vouchers.

*The King will reply, **‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’** “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’” They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’” He will reply, **‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’** (Matthew 25: 40-45).*

Parishioners who may need a “helping hand,” may contact the SVDP Society for assistance, or speak with our local SVDP representatives: Penny D’Souza (mob: 0421 215 620), or, Michael Hardless (mob: 0419 421 122), at Riverton Parish. **The names of those requesting and receiving assistance is always confidential.**

It is Ironic that I write about the Lamb of God today!!

Was Cardinal Pell a “sacrificial lamb”?? The High Court of Australia unanimously (7/7) overturned his convictions and ordered that the convictions be quashed and that verdicts of acquittal be entered in their place. In a statement released from prison, **Pell said he held “no ill will” toward his accuser. “I do not want my acquittal to add to the hurt and bitterness so many feel, there is certainly hurt and bitterness enough.... The point was whether I had committed these awful crimes, and I did not,”** the statement said.

I am certain that Cardinal Pell will appreciate the final testament of Pope Benedict:

“Finally, I humbly ask: pray for me, so that the Lord, despite all my sins and shortcomings, welcomes me into the eternal abodes.”

