

Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Psalm

I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;

I will take you by the hand and keep you.

First Reading

'This is my beloved Son, listen to him.'

Gospel Acclamation

Father in heaven, you revealed Christ as your Son
by the voice that spoke over the water of the Jordan.

May all who share in the kinship of Christ
follow in his path of service to humankind,
and reflect the glory of his kingdom even to the ends of the earth,
for he is Lord for ever and ever.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you'd like to reflect further:

Isaiah 42: 1–4.6–7; Ps.28 (29); Acts 10: 34–38; Matthew 3: 13–17

Alan Davis, Baptism window (2003-4), St Mary's RC church, Holyhead



'Behold
my servant,
whom I uphold,
my chosen,
in whom
my soul delights;
I have put my
Spirit upon him.'

Isaiah 42: 1

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

PREGO LEAFLET



The Baptism of the Lord
Year A, 11th January 2026

'I have called you....'

Today's feast day invites us to respond to the calling of our baptism. God delights in us. We are one with the risen Christ and his Spirit is upon us. In union with Christ we are called to act with compassion, justice and integrity in order to reveal God's kingdom to the 'nations'. **(First Reading)** Fittingly, the **Psalm** for today's feast overflows with the imagery of water. Water is a symbol of cleansing and new life. The Holy Spirit breathed her wisdom across the primordial waters in the creation story.

Then in **the Gospel**, the Spirit descends upon Jesus when John baptises him in the River Jordan. This is another new beginning blessed by the Spirit. Jesus is anointed by God and begins his ministry to live out the good news that was proclaimed by Isaiah.

In the **Second Reading**, Peter proclaims Jesus Christ (the 'Anointed One') as Lord of all.

For we who call ourselves Christian, we are united with Christ through our baptism, we share in his priesthood and are tasked with transforming the world through living out his Gospel values of love, compassion and justice. Let us pray that throughout the whole Church, there will be a spirit of renewal, enlivened and enriched by the gifts of the Spirit.



Opening Prayer

Almighty ever-living God,
who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan
and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,
grant that your children by adoption,
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,
may always be well pleasing to you.

First Reading Isaiah 42: 1–4.6–7

Thus says the Lord:
Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.
‘I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.’

After taking my time to become still before the Lord, I ask for the grace and wisdom of the Holy Spirit to flow within me as I come to this time of prayer.

I slowly read these words of the prophet several times. I notice the phrases or imagery to which my heart is being drawn. I ponder why this is.

These timeless words prophetically describe the values, attitudes, intentions and actions of Jesus.

Which of these eternal qualities is important to me as a follower of Jesus?

Which of them do I desire to express more fully in my life?

Perhaps I use my imagination to hear these same words being spoken to me by our loving Creator.

‘Behold [*my name*], whom I uphold, my chosen in whom my soul delights.’

‘I have called you, [*my name*], ... I will take you by the hand and keep you ...’

Hearing these words spoken to me, how do I feel? What is my response?

I share with Jesus whatever I wish to treasure from this time of prayer, and together with him say, ‘*Our Father ...*’

Gospel Matthew 3: 13–17

At that time: Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptised, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’

I take a couple of long, deep, stilling breaths and allow myself a few moments to settle and become present before the Lord.

I read the Gospel account of Jesus’s baptism slowly, a few times.

Perhaps I imagine being among the crowd of people drawn to John to be baptised. What do I see, hear and smell as I imagine standing on the banks of the River Jordan?

John was challenging people to repent – to have a complete change of heart and mind solely focused on God.

As I enter the waters to be baptised, what do I need to let go of to be able to emerge as a new creation?

Then I notice Jesus approaching John to be baptised. I look at how these cousins relate to each other. I listen to their interaction.

What do I notice about this?

John initially resists Jesus’s request, but then trusts in Jesus’s guidance.

Do I ever do this? In what ways am I asked to trust Jesus?

I watch Jesus being plunged into the water by John, then emerging to be bathed in light and the Spirit— I am witnessing his anointing, his becoming the Christ (‘the Anointed One’). I hear God delighting in him.

I then allow myself to hear God saying to me, ‘You are my beloved in whom I delight’.

I imagine sitting with Jesus on the banks of the river and talking with him about all that I have just seen and heard. He listens to me ... I listen to him.

I close my prayer by thanking him for his love.