



## Reflection by Greg Sunter

Today's gospel begins with a level of expectancy among the people that John the Baptist may be the Christ; the Messiah. This seemingly throw away introductory comment confirms the fact that the Jewish expectation of the Messiah was particularly heightened at the time of John and Jesus. At the time of the ministries of John and Jesus, the Romans had been the occupying force in Judaea for about 80 or 90 years. Throughout most of their lives the infamous Galilee area had been relatively peaceful and free of revolutionary activity but that changed from about 26 CE. With the anti-Roman sentiment on the rise, the ancient yearning for a Messiah resurfaced.

This Messianic expectation stretched back hundreds of years and was richly associated with the sovereign line of King David. The Davidic line ruled for more than 400 years until it was ended in the early 6th Century BCE by the Jewish people being exiled in Babylon for about 50 years.

The term, Messiah, literally means anointed one. In ancient Israel, the king was designated by being anointed with oil on his head. Following the exile in Babylon, the people longed for another great king, in the style and from the line of David. Over time, this expectation grew into an ideal that one day a perfect king would rise up again and be the anointed one; the Messiah. As the years grew into decades and centuries, this expectation took on more and more significance. When the Messiah came, the whole world would be put to right; a period of justice and peace would prevail; the oppressed would be liberated.

Whilst the people longed for the Messiah to appear, the gospels reveal that they had difficulty believing Jesus was the one for whom they hoped.

saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

## Gospel Acclamation See Lk 3:16

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
*John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*  
**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

*When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.*

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

# The Living Word

The Baptism of the Lord, Year C

13 January 2019

## First Reading Is 40:1-5. 9-11

*The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.*

'Console my people, console them' says your God.  
 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain,

and the ridges a valley, then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,

joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,

say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 103:1-2. 3-4. 24-25. 27-30. R. v.1**

**(R.) Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

1. Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe! You stretch out the heavens like a tent. (R.)

2. Above the rains you build your dwelling. You make the clouds your chariot, you walk on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers and flashing fire your servants. (R.)

3. How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches. There is the sea, vast and wide, with its moving swarms past counting, living things great and small. (R.)

4. All of these look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it, they gather it up; you open your hand, they have their fill. (R.)

5. You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)

## Second Reading Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7

*He saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit.*

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit, which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our

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**Fr Francis Otobo** Parish Priest  
 Parish Centre 5174 2060  
 Priest's Residence 5174 6765  
**Deacon Tony Aspinall** 5174 8167  
 Em: deacontony8@gmail.com  
**Priests phone:** 5174 2060

**Sr Doreen Dagee RSJ** 5174 9997

**O'Mara House**

**Mons John Allman** 5174 9674

**St Michael's Parish Office** 5174 2060  
 35 Kay Street, Traralgon

**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Bev O'Brien  
 Sacraments/Youth Mrs Jen Hanratty  
 Email: sec@smpt.org.au

**St Michael's Parish Office Hours**  
 Mondays closed  
 Tuesday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm

**Parish Pastoral Council**  
 Greg Imhagwe Chairperson, Fr Francis, Sr Doreen, Kevin Taylor, Ray Moretti, Jennifer Hanratty, Marita Kennedy, Amanda Reid, Steve Kimani, Rob Tarraran, Jodie Ware, Ros Joyner, Doug Doherty and Bev O'Brien.

**Parish Schools:**

**St Gabriel's School** 5174 5515  
 Principal: Mrs Ros Joyner

**St Michael's School** 5174 3295  
 Acting Principal: Mrs Jodie Ware

**Lavalla Catholic College** 5174 5272  
 Principal: Mr John Freeman  
 Kildare Campus 5174 8111  
 St Paul's Campus 5174 7355

**St Michael's Vision & Mission Statements**

Inspired by Jesus Christ, we are a welcoming Catholic community seeking to enrich lives. Come and join us!  
 We seek to provide opportunities for all to : \*grow in holiness; \*discover and live out a personal call to mission to live as Catholics who effectively transform society.

**Statement of Commitment to the Safety of Children and Vulnerable Adults:** Central to the mission of St Michael's and St Mary's Parishes is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children, young people and vulnerable adults and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

**FR FRANCIS' RETURN:** Welcome back, Fr Francis, we hope you enjoyed your travels, we're glad you're back.

**Deacon Tony** will be away from the Parish for a week, we hope the time away proves restful and peaceful.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAMME:**

We are hoping that we might have two parishioners who would be able to assist with running the Baptism Preparation Meetings. The meetings are held monthly, and we need one or two people to run the meetings every second month, so it would be six evening meetings a year. If you feel this is something you might enjoy doing, please contact the Parish Office. It's a lovely ministry, and so important that parents of young children are made feel welcome in our parish community.

*Piety Stall Sale:* Weather permitting, the Piety Stall Sale will be held outside the Church Street church doors on Sunday January 20, following the 9:30am Mass.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** We remember those who have died recently including John Ayres and Ding Aragon and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Paul de Martin, Johanna & Franciscus Otterdijk, John Zahra, David Anderson, Patricia Kamsma, Barry Felmingham, Giovanni Condello, Tony Panozzo-Tilè, Bishop Noel Daly, Carmel Colaciello, Rudolf Mayr and Joan Cahir. **Lord, Let your perpetual light shine upon them. May the rest in peace. Amen.**

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK** including Maria Alessandrini, Lee Allman, Lulu Aragon, Fr Bernard Buckley, Ann-Maree Daly, Gary Donchi, Fr Frank Freeman, Marj Gilbert, Carolyn Gleeson, Robert Hazelman, Imogen Hillier, Marie Howard, Joan Lamont, Ann Lapuh, Joyce Martin, Ivy May, Joan Quigley, Joan Riggall, Malcolm Selzer, Fred Sullivan, Jerry Templer, Brian Vivian, Celie Smith and Fr Frank Young.

**Enjoy:**

- \* God's answers are wiser than our prayers.
- \* Prayer – the ultimate wireless connection.

**THIS WEEKS MEETINGS:**

**Weds Jan 16**

**5:30pm** Liturgy Team, Parish Centre  
**7:00pm** Baptism Preparation, Parish Centre

**NEXT WEEKS MEETINGS:**

**Tuesday Jan 22**

**7:00pm** Collectors, Bankers, Counters, Parish Centre  
**7:30pm** Finance Team, Parish Centre

**Sunday Mass Times**  
 St Michael's Traralgon Saturday 6:00pm  
 Sunday 9:30 am and 6:00 pm  
 St Columbkille's Glengarry Sunday 10:00 am

**Weekday Liturgy Times - Jan 14 to 19**  
**Monday January 14**

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion  
**Tuesday January 15** 10:45am Margery Cole Hostel  
**Wednesday January 16** 11:00am Exposition  
 12:00pm Mass  
**Thursday January 17** 9:30am Mass  
**Friday January 18** 9:30am Mass  
**Saturday January 19** 9:30am Mass

**Rosary:** Monday to Saturday, 30 minutes before Mass  
**Reconciliation:** St Michael's, Saturdays 10:15am & 5:30pm or any time by arrangement with Father.

**Rosters: January 19 & 20**

**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**6:00 pm Mass Saturday January 19**

**Lector,** S Grout; **Commentator,** B O'Brien;  
**Eucharistic Ministers,** C DiCorleto, B Power, M Giddens, D Buckland, T Dekoke, **Volunteer:** **Welcomers,** H Luque; **Music,** Jane; **Sacristan,** **Volunteer required.**

**9:30 am Mass Sunday January 20**

**Lectors,** U Imhagwe, J Dal Pra; **Commentator,** M Tainsh; **Eucharistic Ministers,** T Denny, J & W Waanders, L Panozzo-Tilè, A Symonds, **Volunteer:** **Welcomers,** R Benbow, M Blanchard; **Music,** Jane; **Sacristan,** P & L Van der Velden.

**6:00 pm Mass Sunday January 20**

**Lector,** Rob Tarraran; **Commentator,** Robyn Tarraran; **Eucharistic Ministers,** J Reid, D Lock, **Volunteers x 2: Welcomer,** D Buckland; **Music,** Jane; **Sacristan, Volunteer required**

**Altar cleaning:** January 13 J Scholtes

January 20 F Rycak

**Church cleaning:** Limbom team

**Touring Statue of Our Lady:** Jan 27 J & M Hanratty

**Counters:** Jan 13 **Armstrong Team:** Jan 20 **Morris Team**

**Mick's Kitchen** January 17 McLaughlin Team

January 24 Van Berkel Team