

The Baptism of the Lord

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The feast of the Baptism of the Lord is acknowledged by many as the beginning of the public life of Jesus. Up until this time he had lived in the heart of his family, 'increasing in wisdom, in stature and in favour with God'.

John's baptism was offered to the people as a sign that they wanted to repent of their sins and turn back to God. Jesus had no need of this baptism, but wanted to align himself with the people, showing his humanity.



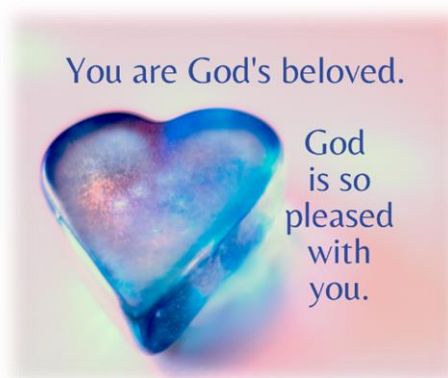
Yet, what is described in Luke's account that we hear today shows Jesus' divinity.

"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'."

What a beautiful Trinity moment, showing, once more, the community of love between God the Creator, Jesus the Incarnate God and the Holy Spirit of love.

We too are Beloved in God's eyes. God says to each one of us:

'You are my Daughter, my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you'.



Spend a few moments reflecting that you are beloved in God's eyes....

So we are acknowledged as God's daughters and sons. Like Jesus, we are sent into the world with a clear mission to spread the Good News. How will we do this? The Gospels show us the way of being servant to others as Jesus was. Pope Francis tells us that that we are not to seek what the world seeks, but to seek humility, service and love.



This servant leadership to which we are called is reflected in a hymn we sing at Christmas in the parish:

*Who would think that what was needed to transform and save the earth
Might not be a plan or army, proud in purpose, proved in worth?
Who would think, despite derision, that a child should lead the way?
God surprises earth with heaven coming here on Christmas Day.*

*Shepherds watch and wise men wonder, monarchs scorn and angels sing;
Such a place as none would reckon, hosts a holy helpless thing;
Stable beasts and by-passed strangers, watch a baby laid in hay.
God surprises earth with heaven coming here on Christmas Day.*

*Centuries of skill and science, span the past from which we move,
Yet experience questions whether, with such progress, we improve.
While the human lot we ponder, lest our hopes and humour fray.
God surprises earth with heaven coming here on Christmas Day.*

John L Bell & Graham Maule

May we, in the Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead, know that we are Beloved in the eyes of the community of love which we call the Trinity. May we show that God's favour rests on us by accepting the call to servant leadership and to love.