



## You are My Beloved Sons & Daughters

**T**he Lord's Baptism proclaims the truth that we become sons and daughters of God in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus baptises with the Holy Spirit, and with the same Spirit, the Christian believer is reborn, initiated, consecrated and empowered in the Lord. Through Baptism we are:

**Reborn in the Spirit** to be different persons, members of the family of God. Jesus tells Nicodemus, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit." (Jn 3:5) By natural birth we are born, but we will die. By being born in the Spirit, we are given the seed of eternal life.

**Initiated.** Baptism is the first sacrament of initiation: the basis of Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door to the other sacraments. When one is baptised at infancy, one grows in faith and maturity until one can confirm: "This is my faith and the faith of my family and my community."

**Consecrated.** God consecrates and blesses us. The initiative comes from God, who freely gives all blessings from heaven. We are incorporated and configured into Christ. Baptism seals us with the indelible spiritual mark (character), the seal of belonging to Christ.

**Empowered.** We are given the Holy Spirit who gives us the power to recognise with Jesus that God is our Father. As Paul tells the Romans, "Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ." (Rom 8:14-17)

As sons and daughters of God in Jesus Christ, we are challenged to grow in the faith and grace that comes with such a privilege. In the face of every baptised person we see Christ.



### Bible Café is back!

Join us for  
*Letter & Spirit* with  
Dr Scott Hahn  
Wednesdays  
10:30-11:30am and  
7-8pm in the  
Muldoon Room.

### Parish Morning Tea



The Ambrosian  
Family Group  
is hosting our  
Parish Morning Tea  
next Sunday  
20 January after  
9:30am Mass.  
Come along to the  
canteen for a cuppa  
and a chat.



### Shop Locally!

Please support the  
shops in the  
Carnival Hall  
building in the  
shopping centre.  
These shops  
support our Parish.

### “Quote” for the Week

Our Lady asked for  
penance. She said  
"Penance is nothing  
more than accepting  
all your crosses  
daily willingly.  
No matter how  
small, accept them  
with love."

## The Call to Holiness

**N**o one is exempt from the call to holiness. Men, women and children have climbed the ladder of life and reached high degrees of sanctity. These holy Christians have come from every conceivable state and vocation.

There was 9 year old Tarcisus, who defended the Eucharist with his life. Maria Goretti, age eleven, defended her virginity as she was stabbed by her assailant. Her sanctity shone brightly when she forgave her murderer and prayed for his conversion.

Mary of Egypt was a prostitute at sixteen. She joined a group of pilgrims to the Holy Land in an effort to ply her trade. When she reached the Church, an invisible force kept her from entering. Frightened by the experience, she gazed at a statue of Mary and realised the enormity of her sins. She determined to change her life and never again offend God. Forty years later, she died, a woman renowned for her holiness of life.

Matt Talbot was a hopeless alcoholic for most of his life. The disdain of his friends as he stood before them trembling for a drink, awakened his soul to its plight. He changed his life and directed his energies toward being like Jesus and looking toward eternal life.

The saints of the past were human beings with human frailties. St. Jerome had a violent temper and fought against that weakness his entire life. Dismas was a thief, who ended his life with one act of love and repentance and was privileged to have Jesus promise him Paradise. Both Charles de Foucauld and Francis of Assisi were playboys, who finally surrendered to the Hound of Heaven.

Every saint struggled and fought against his weaknesses all his life and as he acquired habits of virtue, he never lost sight of the dying embers of his weaknesses. He conquered by continual vigilance, always aware of what he was and what he could become. This uneasiness as to his own evil capabilities threw him into the arms of God. He depended on Him for everything and gave Him the credit for the least act of virtue in his life.

Men are not born saints with special gifts and privileges. They fight against the world, the flesh and the devil and as they conquer, the Spirit of Jesus begins to shine through with more clarity. We sometimes confuse the particular mission of the saints with their holiness. If compassion were to radiate through one, then healing would be given to that individual to manifest the power of God. But the charism is not part of holiness, it is merely an off-shoot—a gift to be given to others. It was God's gift to the saint for the benefit of the people of God. It is possible to possess charisma and not be holy. We see this clearly in the life of Judas. He spent three years with Jesus and possessed the power to heal, preach and deliver, but he himself did not grow in holiness. His weaknesses were aggravated by the power Jesus gave him for he saw it as a gift that bore his own person and pocket little profit.

We cannot hide under the cosy excuse of not being chosen - or not possessing special qualities. If we are Christians we have been chosen. If we have been chosen, then those qualities peculiar to the degree of the holiness God calls us to will blossom out as we grow.

A little acorn has no resemblance to the mighty oak it will one day become, but none-the-less, all the material necessary in that giant tree is compressed into a small seed. Time, rain, sunshine, cold and storm are all necessary to bring out the hidden beauty, great height, and strong trunk that will give shade and delight to the heart of man.

Jesus has compared each of us to a seed sown in the soil of His grace. In parable form He described how some of us respond to the Sower's efforts to make us grow. He also described what obstacles prevent us from growing.

*Pursuing Holiness* Mother Angelica EWTN.com

## Plenary Council Reflection

What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time? By now this is likely to be a familiar question. It is the question that is being asked of us as we prepare for the Plenary Council in 2020. Perhaps you really haven't thought about it too much; or perhaps you may have pondered it considerably.

As I started to reflect on it myself, my question became more direct: "God, what is it that are you asking of us?" After all, it's not what I want, it's what God wants that counts. The asking was easy, but hearing the response was a little more difficult.

However, discerning as best I could, the image that came to mind was of people pouring out of a Church, a whole stream of people just gushing out and dispersing. In some ways, it is as if they are travelling in the wrong direction. Shouldn't God want people to come into the Church, to worship and to give thanks? Yes, of course I imagine that God does! But I believe that God also wants those in the Church to go out with purpose and intent.

In *Gaudete et Exsultate* (Rejoice and Be Glad), Pope Francis says this: "True enough, we need to open the door of our hearts to Jesus, who stands and knocks (cf. Rev 3:20). Sometimes I wonder, though, if perhaps Jesus is already inside us and knocking on the door for us to let him escape from our stale self-centredness. In the Gospel, we see how Jesus "went through the cities and villages, preaching and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God (Lk 8:1)." (GE, 136)

As we celebrate the incarnation of our God in Jesus, we can't forget that today, Jesus is present in a real way in the Church, and it is up to us, those Baptised in his name, to bring him to the world.

Again, Pope Francis says: "You too need to see the entirety of your life as a mission. Try to do so by listening to God in prayer and recognising the signs that he gives you. Always ask the Spirit what Jesus expects from you at every moment of your life and in every decision you must make, so as to discern its place in the mission you have received. Allow the Spirit to forge in you the personal mystery that can reflect Jesus Christ in today's world. May you come to realise what that word is, the message of Jesus that God wants to speak to the world by your life." (GE 23, 24)

This is our mission: to reflect Jesus Christ in today's world. Perhaps we may be called to speak in words, to share our faith verbally and communicate the reason for the joy that we experience at Christmas, and beyond. Let's not be afraid to do this, and indeed, be open to opportunities for this.

Alternatively, every time we show self-sacrificing love to another person, we bring something of Christ to them. Every time we show patience and perseverance with the faults of others, we bring Christ. Every time we act humbly instead of selfishly, or forgive instead of taking revenge, we show Christ to the world.

We look forward to picking up our conversation with you in the near future.

Pina Bernard

with The Catholic Life & Faith Formation Team, Cristina Gomez and Tania Rimac

## Plenary Council Update

All parishes have received Plenary Council Christmas postcards and a deposit box. These cards are available on the information tables at the Church doors. The reverse side of the postcard invites you to share your experience of faith and Church toward the Plenary Council. We invite visitors also to respond, and thank you all for enriching the Church through your varied perspectives. (The deposit box is on the table in front of the Confessionals.)



Programmes on Holidays Bible Study is on holidays until 4 February. Men's Group will also resume in February.



### Visitors!

A very warm welcome to anyone visiting our parish this weekend. It is good to have you with us. If you have any queries please ask Fr Bill or phone 4332 2216.



### Secular

### Franciscans

We meet on the third Thursday of the month (17 January) at 1pm in the Muldoon Room. All welcome! Enq: Rove Varman 0411 988 394.

CHURCH NEWS



### Subscribe to our E-Newsletter

Visit our webpage at [www.ourladyoftherosary.org.au](http://www.ourladyoftherosary.org.au) and click on the newsletter tab to subscribe. You will receive the bulletin in colour each week.

# THE ENTRANCE PARISH DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY

*Serving the Catholic Community of The Entrance and extending the Kingdom of God*

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## Mass & Devotions in Ordinary Time

**Sunday Masses** Saturday Vigil 6:00pm Sunday 8:00am & 9:30am

**Weekday Masses** Monday - Thursday 9:00am Friday 11:45am Saturday 9:00am

**Reconciliations** Saturdays 9:30-10am & 5-5:30pm

**Liturgy of the Hours** Saturday 8:40am **Rosary** Monday-Thursday 8:35am Friday 11:20am Saturday 9:30am

**Cenacle** Wednesday 9:30am **Christian Meditation Group** Friday 10:30am-11:30am Muldoon Room. Come & join us!

## Feast of the Baptism of the Lord **Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 Luke:3:15-16, 21-22**

**Entrance Antiphon:** After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

**Gospel Acclamation:** 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!

**Communion Antiphon:** Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

## Keep Us In Your Prayers *There is no gift more precious than prayer - Fr Benedict Groeschel*

**Recently Deceased:** Pam Guest, Margaret Ward, Patricia Mutton, Luke Hyde, Jeanette Leonidas, Joseph Borg.

**Funerals:** The funerals of Patricia Mutton and Margaret Ward were held during the week. Please pray for Patricia, Margaret and their families.

**Anniversaries:** Barbara Malone, Norman Tate.

**Remembrances:** Bruce Parry, Vincent & Dorothy Cribb, Noelene Corrigan, Maurice Cramsie, Maisie Gormley, Kathy Lowe-Scafidi, Tyrone & Gillian Matthews and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

**Families:** Bouchet, Cole, Attard.

**Sick:** Murdoch 'Doc' Paterson-Barrie, Val Rayner, Margaret Mack, Colleen Dunn, Genevieve Shedden, Maria De Sousa, Cathy Casperson, Patricia Muscat, Lisa Hennessey, Patty O'Leary, Ann Minogue, Antoinette Grech, Peter Connolly, Linda Read, Kelly Will and all those suffering with cancer and long-term illnesses.

**Welcome Newly Baptised:** Ellie, Joshua & Anika Cheers, Everlee Francica.

Pearly  
Gates



**MEEK  
AIN'T  
WEAK!**



**Our Lady of the Rosary**

**GIFT  
CENTRE**

*For all your devotional needs...*

Welcome everyone to our Gift Centre. All visitors to the parish are invited to come in for a browse. We have lots of lovely gift ideas and goods to aid your prayer life and devotions, as well as gifts for the Sacraments, including Baptisms, Confirmations and Weddings.

**Opening Hours:**

**Sunday 9am-9:30am & 10:30-11am**

**Tuesday & Friday 9:30am-1:30pm**

**Phone/Fax 4332 5997**