



CALLED AND CHOSEN

(MT 3:13-17)

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. It always comes at the end of the season of Christmas.

It represents that moment when Jesus begins his public ministry, when he leaves his old life behind and starts anew, filled with the Spirit and a burning desire to make known God's plan for the world. For him, after the events of today, nothing would ever be the same again.

Almost 60 years ago, the bishops at Vatican II published the Constitution on the Church, called *Lumen Gentium*. This document brought about a profound change in the understanding of baptism. The bishops emphasised that by virtue of the sacrament of baptism, we are all the People of God; that through baptism, we all share a fundamental equality and unity and share a common responsibility to preach the Gospel.

Baptism makes us one. It calls us into discipleship and impels us to go out into the world to make known God's saving plan. As with Jesus, so also with us – our baptism means that nothing can ever be the same for us again. ■

DO

Think about your baptism and your baptismal promises. How well are you keeping them?

SAY

Lord, help me to witness to my baptismal promises as best I can.

LEARN

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord is a celebration of every Christian's baptism and vocation.

Through baptism, we are united with Christ as his brothers and sisters and with God as our Father in heaven.

PRAY

Visit the baptismal font in your church or where you were baptised. Pray for yourself and all those baptised there.



REFLECT

When we were baptised, shortly after the water was poured over us, the priest anointed our heads with the oil of chrism. As he did so, he said, "As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life." From baptism, we receive our dignity as Christians and are drawn into unity with Jesus, sharing in his triple dignity as priest, prophet, and king.

And that's a good way to think about what our baptism means and its implications for how we should live. Through baptism, we share in the priesthood, prophetic mission and kingship of Jesus.

First, we share in the priesthood of Jesus. Each of us shares in the priesthood of Jesus through the worship we offer God, through our lives of prayer and

participation in the sacraments. Prayer was at the heart of Jesus' life. It was the fuel that kept him going. Christians are people who pray all the time. That's what sharing in the priesthood of Jesus means.

How well or often do you pray?

Second, through baptism, we share in Jesus' dignity as prophet. To be a prophet is to speak of God's kingdom with courage and conviction. It is to witness to the Gospel in what we do and say. It is to speak out against injustice, point to the truth, oppose oppression and wrongdoing, and risk everything for the sake of God's kingdom. That's what Jesus did. It's why he ended up hanging from a tree. That's what sharing in the prophecy of Jesus means.

How prophetic are you in your living and

in your words?

Third, through baptism, we share in the kingship of Jesus. To share in the kingship of Jesus is to be someone who serves others. It's a very different idea of monarchy from how the world understands it. Jesus was an upside-down ruler who washed people's feet and had nowhere to lay his head. His rule was all about service. That's what sharing in the kingship of Jesus means.

What kind of ruler are you?

When we try to imitate Jesus, when we worship, act prophetically, and rule as he did, we can be sure that God will be very proud of us, also.

What kind of priest, prophet and ruler are you? ■

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 406 50207 Emergency Tel: 079 69403762

Email: dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org Web: www.dromaradrumgooland.org

8th January 2023

Baptism of The Lord

Weekend masses

Sat 6:00pm Dechomet
7:30pm Leitrim
Sun 9:00am Gargory
11:00am Dromara

No weekday masses this week

I will be on holiday Sat 7th to Sat 14th Jan
There will be no weekday masses 9th to 13th Jan
For emergency sick calls or deaths please try
Fr Brian Brown on 074 9673 1619

Recently deceased

Ellie Morgan, formerly Rathfriland
Rosemary Kelly, Lambeg
Josephine McAlarney, Newcastle

Anniversaries

Dechomet

Sat 7th Margaret Doyle
Sat 14th John Fitzpatrick

Leitrim

Sat 7th Patrick and Aidan McAnulty
Colette McMullan
Bridie Madine

Dromara

Sun 8th Winnie and Jimmy McEvoy

NI Blood Transfusion Service

Blood donation session
Ballynahinch Baptist Church
Thurs 12th Jan
12:30pm – 4pm and 5pm – 7:30pm.
To book an appointment please call 08085 534 653

SVP

If you are struggling with food/heating bills,
etc., please contact us:
Drumgooland 078 2541 9067
Dromara 077 3883 8191

Feasts of the week

Sun 8th The Baptism of the Lord

Jesus is anointed with the Spirit and his power. He is proclaimed Messiah. He now goes about doing good, working the signs that make him known as the Servant of God.

He is the one who brings good news to the poor and tells of salvation.

Through our baptism each one of us is ordered to the life of Christ – Priest, Prophet and King – and the Father looks on us with favour.

Fri 13th St Hilary

c.315-c.367, was elected (c.353) Bishop of Poitiers and distinguished himself by his stand against Arianism.

In exile, (359-59) by order of Emperor Constantius, he used his time to write.

His major works include *De Trinitate*, a study of the Trinity

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish
Philippa Vanderburg

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish 25 th	£932	£3,480
Parish 1 st	£855	£535
Christmas	£1,287	£2,783
Priest	£485	£707

Thank you for your generous contributions.

Dromara Parish Council Meeting

Mon 16th Jan 8pm in St Michael's Hall

Safeguarding contact: P Carville 077 8991 7741