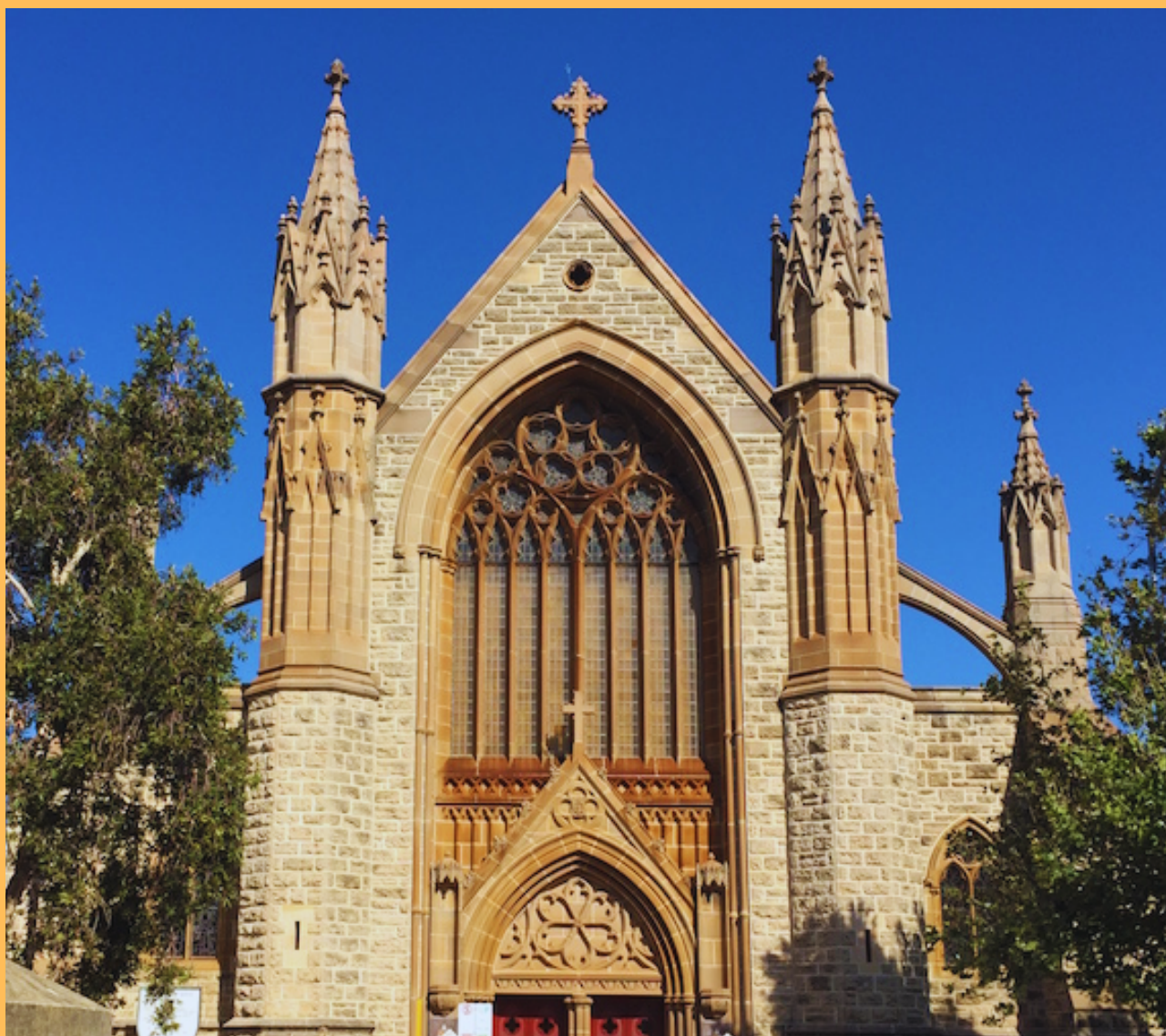


The Basilica of St. Patrick  
Roman Catholic Parish of Fremantle



Mass Booklet for  
The Baptism of the Lord, Year C  
Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th January, 2022

## WELCOME

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI dedicated 2012 as the “Year of Faith.” During that year, he invited every baptised member of the church to profess, to celebrate, and to witness their faith. The feast of the Baptism of the Lord is a reminder to all of us about the call we have received from the Lord; to be his disciples and his witnesses in the world.

It is sad to see at times that the baptism ceremony has become one of the social events we go to, but it is not. It has a deep connection to the person of Jesus Christ who received his baptism at the hands of John the Baptist. There are many symbols used in the baptismal ceremony; the sign of the cross on the forehead of the child, water, sacred oils, white cloth, baptism candle, prayer over the mouth and ears and so forth; they all point to one reality that we all should become Christlike in our lives.

How to be a Christlike person? Once a group of missionaries around the world gathered for a conference, to discuss the methods that each one used in their evangelisation. Most of the missionaries in their presentation said how effectively they have utilised the modern media and their talents in their evangelisation and how effective they are. One of the missionaries, who was last to present said, “If I see something lacking in my mission, I take the family who live their Gospel values, “to be there with the people” and guide the people how each one can be a marvellous person we are created to be. He finished by saying that it really works, and the conference concluded.

Pope Paul VI, “Evangelii Nuntiandi” no. 41 says, “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.” The baptism of Jesus is a powerful reminder about our own baptism. Every baptised member of the church should lead a witnessing life.

Every baptism ceremony will conclude saying, “Dear brothers and sisters, he/she has been reborn in baptism. They are now called children of God, for so indeed they are.” Yes, through our baptism we all have become God’s adopted children.

How can I courageously identify myself with Jesus and his baptism and be a witness to his love and compassion in the present world?

Franco John Sebastian OMI  
*Rector and Parish Priest*

# Entrance Antiphon

After the Lord was baptized, 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.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### THE FIRST READING

**A reading from the book of Prophet Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11**

**The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind 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.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks Be to God**

# THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Response: O, bless the Lord, my soul.**

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.

**Response: O, bless the Lord, my soul.**

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 servant.

**Response: O, bless the Lord, my soul.**

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.

**Response: O, bless the Lord, my soul.**

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.

**Response: O, bless the Lord, my soul.**

You hide your face, they are dismayed;  
you take back your spirit, they die.  
You send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the earth.

**Response: O, bless the Lord, my soul.**

## THE SECOND READING

### A reading from the letter of St. Paul to Titus

2:11-14,3:4-7

***He saved us by means of the cleansing water of rebirth***

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.

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

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

# 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!**

## Gospel Reading

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke 3:15-16, 21-22.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

## Gospel

***'Someone is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire'***

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.'

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

# THE CREED

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
At the words that follow, up to and including 'the Virgin  
Mary', all bow.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father  
almighty;

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

# Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: The psalmist cries out 'bless the Lord, my soul' because we celebrate a wonderful Baptism that inspires us, through the Spirit, to offer our needs to God.

Reader: We pray for the leaders of our Church that they will base their ministry always on the ministry of Jesus and recognise the priesthood of all the faithful who have been baptised. (Pause) Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for the leaders of the nations that surround the Jordan River where Jesus was baptised. May they learn to lead their people in peace. (Pause) Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for those who are suffering from oppression and injustice. May the ministry of Jesus become evident through the loving hands of those who reach out to help, particularly those who work for international service groups helping those who are still struggling with the pandemic. (Pause) Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for our own community that we will, through the way we live, show to those around us that Jesus matters. (Pause) Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for all those who are currently on holidays celebrating the return to safe travel during these difficult times. May they return home safe and well. (Pause) Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for those who build churches and places of baptism that they will, through their art, lift us in the Spirit to live our beliefs. (Pause) Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Loving Father, we know that you sent your Son to be our guide to eternal life and so in his name and in the power of the Spirit we confidently offer you our needs.

All: Amen.

## Communion Antiphon

Behold the One of whom John said:

I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.