

The Baptism of the Lord (Year C)

Luke 3:15–16, 21–22

'When Jesus had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened.'

At that time:

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people were baptised by John the Baptist and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'

Reflection

As people gathered around John the Baptist, they were filled with excitement, wondering whether he was the Messiah. However, John humbly reminded them that he was just preparing the way for someone much greater—Jesus.

John's humility teaches us an important lesson: true greatness isn't about seeking attention for ourselves but helping others find hope in Jesus. As we reflect on this scripture passage, let's think about how we can be humble like John, and point others to Jesus. We should also be open to the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, allowing God's love and grace to transform us, and help us to share that love with others.

Materials needed

- Strips of coloured paper
- Pens
- Stapler or tape



Activity

- Read the scripture together.
- Explain that in Catholic teaching, Baptism is a sacrament, a sacred sign of God's grace, marking the beginning of a journey and belonging to God's family.
- Invite the group to consider:
 - What does it mean to feel like you belong?
 - When do they feel like they belong? What helps them to feel that way?
- Have a time of discussion sharing ideas and understanding around the word Belonging.

Call to Action

- Could you think about a group in the community (this could be school, parish or wider) who might not feel like they belong?
- What ideas can you come up with to help this group feel like they belong more?